

## TERMS AND PEOPLE

- **resolution** – formal statement of opinion
- **preamble** – introduction
- **grievance** – formal complaint
- Pick up tablet when finished

## TERMS AND PEOPLE

- **Thomas Paine** – American colonist and author of *Common Sense*
- **Richard Henry Lee** – delegate who introduced a resolution calling for independence to the Second Continental Congress
- Pick up tablet when finished

# THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



## OBJECTIVES

- Find out how Thomas Paine stirred support for independence.
- Understand the meaning and structure of the Declaration of Independence.
- Learn how Congress finally agreed to separate from Britain.



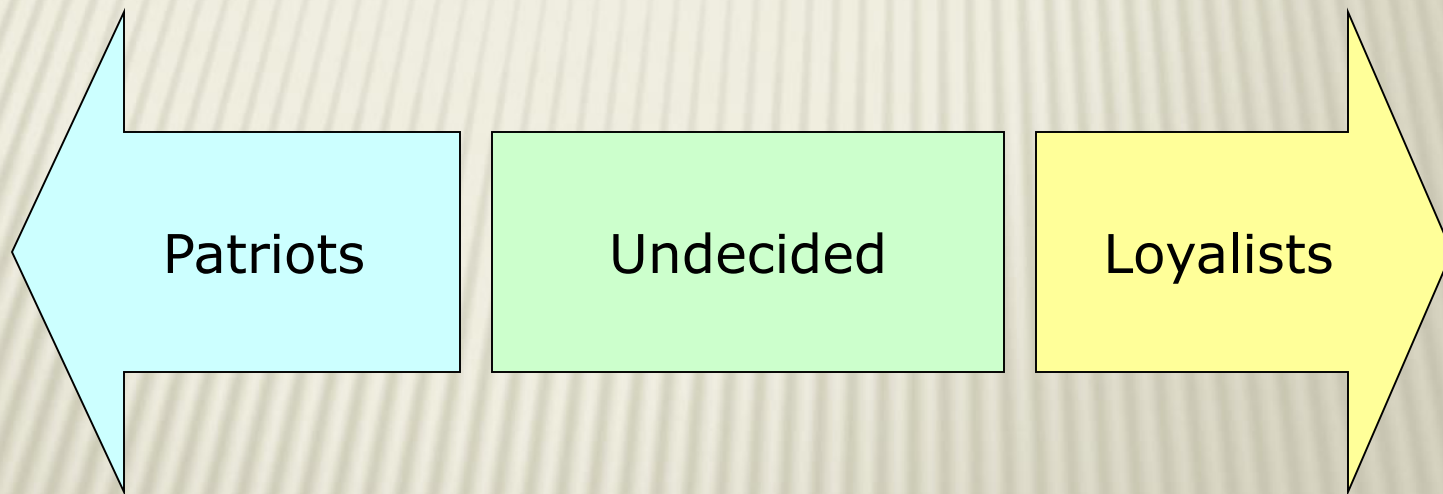
## **Why did many colonists favor declaring independence?**

By 1776, tension filled the colonies. The king had declared the colonists to be in open rebellion. The casualties from battles were high.



Still, the path ahead was unclear. Despite a bloody beginning, many colonists still hoped for peace.

As 1776 began, most colonists were neither Patriots nor Loyalists. They were in the middle, torn about what to do.



That soon began to change. In January 1776, a colonist named **Thomas Paine** wrote a pamphlet that received wide attention.



In *Common Sense*, Paine made powerful arguments in favor of independence. It gave a voice to what many colonists had long felt but had not expressed openly.

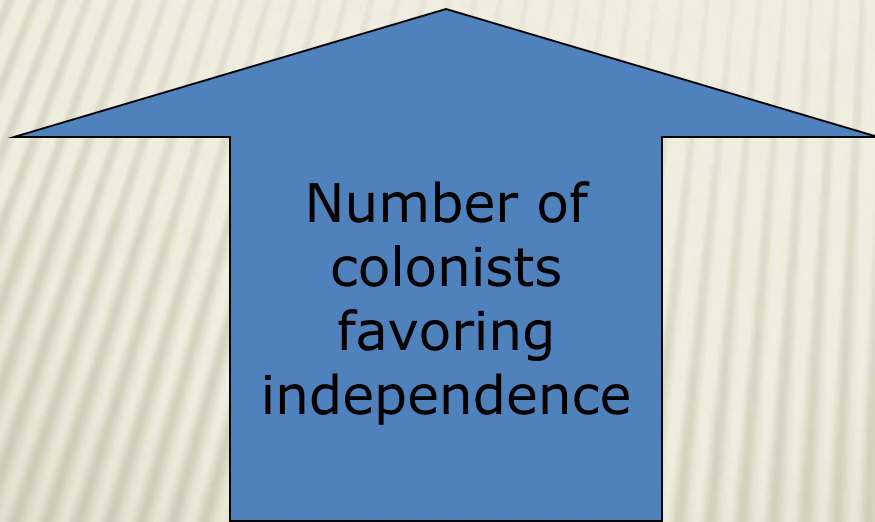
The king  
is a  
“royal  
brute.”

Kings  
should not  
rule over  
people.

Americans  
should  
govern  
themselves.



***Common Sense* sold more than 500,000 copies. Public opinion began to shift.**



As support for independence grew among colonists, it also increased among representatives in Congress.

**In May of 1776, Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a resolution to Congress declaring that the colonies should be free and independent states.**



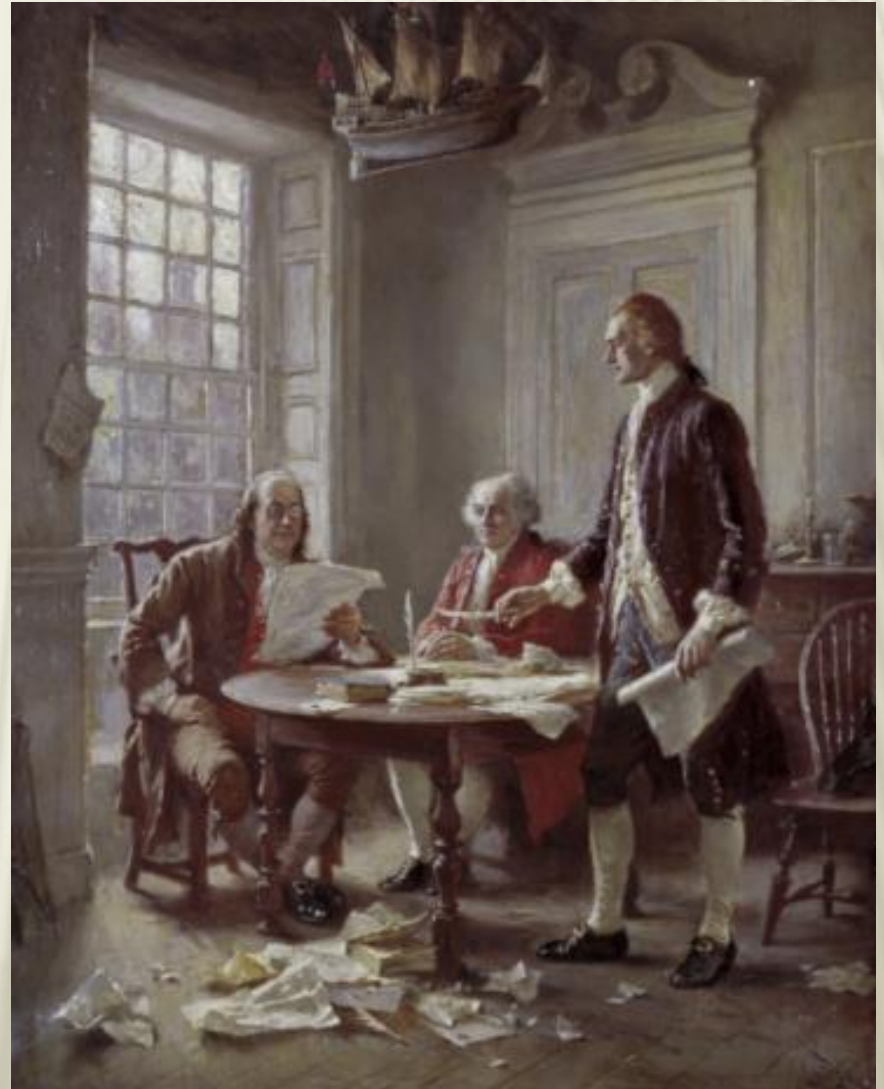
Congress formed a committee to write a statement explaining the reasons for independence.



The statement was to be presented to Congress, and the question of independence was to be put to a vote.

Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson to the committee.

**Jefferson wrote most of the document, which became the Declaration of Independence.**



The Declaration of Independence has four parts, beginning with a **Preamble**.

Preamble
Declaration of Natural Rights
List of Grievances
Resolution of Independence



The Preamble states the reason for writing the document—to explain why the colonists were breaking ties with Britain.

Jefferson then describes certain Natural Rights that all people have.

Preamble
Declaration of Natural Rights
List of Grievances
Resolution of Independence

- All men are created equal.
- People are given Unalienable Rights (can't be taken away).
- The government's job is to protect these rights.
- If it fails, the people can change the government and create a new one.

Jefferson claimed that the British government had violated the colonists' rights.



Preamble
Declaration of Natural Rights
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To prove this, he presented a long List of **Grievances**, including that the colonists were

- denied trial by jury
- taxed without their consent

Since King George III ignored all appeals from the colonists, **Jefferson concluded that the king was “unfit to be the ruler of a free people.”**

Preamble
Declaration of Natural Rights
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The Declaration confirmed that, in the eyes of the colonists, all ties between the colonies and the British government were dissolved.

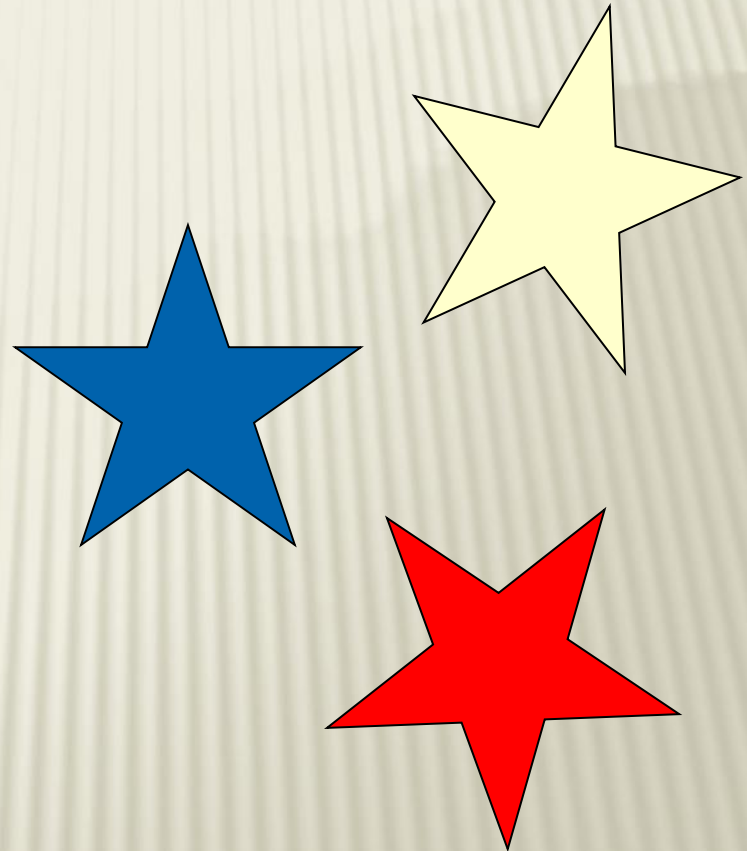
# **Congress approved the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.**





Americans still celebrate  
July 4 as Independence  
Day.

Today, the Declaration  
of Independence  
remains a source of  
inspiration for  
Americans and for  
people around the  
world.



For Americans in 1776, however, declaring independence was a serious and frightening step.



This declaration challenged one of the most powerful nations in the world—and risked the lives of the colonists.



**The way ahead was dangerous, but there was no turning back. Americans fought to create their own nation.**

# Quiz

1. Ridiculed the idea of rule by kings

2. Virginia delegate who Introduced the idea of independence to congress

3. A formal complaint

4. Introduction

- a. Richard Henry Lee
- b. preamble
- c. Divine Providence
- d. John Adams
- e. grievance
- f. Thomas Paine

5. Paine's Common Sense increased support for \_\_\_\_\_ in the colonies.

6. The Declaration of Independence is based on the idea of natural\_\_\_\_\_.

7. In 1776 the colonists could be divided into three categories loyalists, patriots and the \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Committee members John Adams and \_\_\_\_\_ suggested only minor changes to Jefferson's writing in the Declaration of Independence.

9. How did the Declaration of Independence change the nature of the American Revolution?

Tablet:

-10 facts about the Declaration of Independence

-5 facts about Thomas Paine

-1 paragraph (5 sentences)- Thomas Paine wrote the pamphlet called "Common Sense." What exactly was it and what was its purpose?