

Name: _____ Period: _____

The Declaration of Independence (pp. 175-180)

1. The Declaration of Independence consists of a preamble and three main parts:

1. Natural Rights
2. British Wrongs
3. Independence

Natural Rights

2. What are natural rights?

Rights that belong to all people from birth.

3. Thomas Jefferson said it best... please complete his thoughts:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

4. According to the Declaration of Independence, why do people form governments?

In order to protect their natural rights & liberties.

5. How can governments exist?

Only if they have the "consent of the governed."

6. What if government fails to protect the rights of its citizens?

It is the people's "right [and] duty to throw off such government."

British Wrongs

7. Why did Jefferson condemn King George III?

For disbanding colonial legislatures and for sending troops to the colonies in peacetime.

8. What two additional complaints did Jefferson have?

Limits on trade and taxes without representation.

9. How did the colonies try to correct these injustices?

They had petitioned the king.

10. What was Jefferson's bold conclusion about King George III?

He was a tyrant and not fit to rule.

Independence

11. The last part of the Declaration of Independence announces what?

That the colonies are the United States of America.

12. What has happened to all of our political ties with Britain?

All political ties with Britain have been cut.

13. As a free and independent nation, the United States has the full power to do four activities:

1. levy war
2. conclude peace
3. contract alliances
4. establish commerce

14. The signers closed with this solemn pledge:

"...we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."