

Name: _____ Period: _____

The Declaration of Independence

From *Common Sense* to a Common Cause

(Text: Ch. 6/Sec. 4 | pp. 178-183)

1. Who wrote *Common Sense* in 1776 and what was it about?

Thomas Paine wrote the pamphlet to urge the colonists to declare independence from Britain.

2. What are **radicals** and what were they beginning to think?

Radicals are people who want to make drastic changes in society, and they began thinking of creating their own nation separate from Britain.

3. By 1776, many colonists had come to **believe** what?

They believed that Parliament did not have the right to make laws for the 13 colonies.

4. Paine set out to change the colonists' **attitudes** toward **Britain** and the **king**.

What did the colonists **owe** to these two entities?

Nothing—no loyalty to George III nor anything to Britain.

5. How do you think Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* influenced colonial **opinion**?

It most likely gained more support for war against Britain.

6. Please write Richard Henry Lee's **entire resolution** in favor of independence (see p. 174):

“Resolved, That these United Colonies are and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.”

7. Now, what is Richard Henry Lee asking for? (Try to summarize it with **one word**...)

Freedom / Independence

8. What could happen to the delegates once they declared **independence**?

They could be hanged as traitors.

9. Who was on the **committee** to draw up a formal declaration of independence?

The committee included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman.

10. Who actually **wrote** the document?

Thomas Jefferson wrote it.

11. On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted that the **13 colonies** were...

“free and independent States”

12. What was adopted by the Continental Congress on **July 4, 1776**?

The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

13. Who signed the Declaration **first**?

John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, was the first to sign the document.