

The Declaration of Independence

The Continental Congress was a group of leaders from the thirteen colonies who chose five men to write a Declaration of Independence. This document was to tell King George III that the colonies wanted to be free from his rule. The question was who would be the main writer of this document? Thomas Jefferson was chosen since he was a great writer and from the oldest and biggest colony of Virginia. Jefferson hid away in a room to write.

July was a very important month for this document. On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress agreed to break away from Britain and the King. Some edits were made, and all colonies had to vote to approve the Declaration of Independence. This happened on July 9, 1776. Today, in America, we celebrate the 4th of July as Independence Day. The Continental Congress signed the document on August 2, 1776. Signing it was dangerous. Each person who signed it could be killed if Britain won the Revolutionary War.

There were four parts to the Declaration of Independence. These parts include: the introduction, basic beliefs, a list of complaints, and a formal statement of independence.

The introduction is called the preamble. This tells the purpose of the document. The “basic beliefs” includes the statements “all men are created equal” and has the right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” The complaints are against the king. There are 27 complaints. They all start with “He has.” Some of the complaints include: “He has waged war against us” and “He has imposed taxes on us without our consent.” The final statement tells that the colonies are now “free and independent” and have the same powers as any other free state in the world.

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