



**NEW MEXICO
SPIRIT**
1776 + 2026

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW



Q1 • Declaration of Independence • Elementary Lower

Stories of the Declaration of Independence

Theme: Histories of Independence

Time Required: 45–60 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Copies of age-appropriate picture books or story excerpts about the Declaration of Independence
- Chart paper or whiteboard
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Writing paper or student journals

Activity Overview

In this activity, students explore the Declaration of Independence through storytelling. By listening to and discussing simplified stories about the people and ideas behind this historic document, students connect the concept of independence to their own lives. The activity emphasizes curiosity, pride of place, and shared values that shaped the founding of the United States.

This activity aligns with New Mexico's statewide recognition of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. As part of The American Revolution: 250 Years since the Declaration of Independence initiative, schools are encouraged to connect classroom learning with Constitution Day and Citizenship Day on or near September 17. These celebrations honor the founding ideals of freedom and fairness that began with the Declaration and continued through the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Learning Objectives

- Understand that the Declaration of Independence was created to express the American colonies' desire for freedom and fairness.
- Identify key ideas of independence and equality in age-appropriate language.
- Recognize that people in history worked together to make important changes.
- Express what independence means to them through discussion and creative reflection.



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Essential Questions

- What does independence mean?
- Why did the American colonies want independence?
- How can we show independence in our own lives?
- What values are important for a community to stay free and fair?

Inspired Conversation Topics

- Talk about times when students made a decision for themselves — what did that feel like?
- Discuss what it means to “stand up for what is right.”
- Explore how independence can look different for families, communities, and countries.
- Reflect on how cooperation and courage helped people in history achieve freedom.

Connection to Statewide Theme

The Stories of the Declaration of Independence activity helps young learners explore the values of independence, courage, and community that shaped our nation’s founding. educators may choose to share student reflections, art, or class projects during all-school assemblies or Constitution Day events.