



**NEW MEXICO
SPIRIT**
1776 + 2026

STUDENT WORKSHEET



Q1 • Declaration of Independence • High School

Researching Global Perspectives: The Declaration in a World of Empires

Name: _____ Date: _____

In this activity, you will explore the Declaration of Independence within a global context. You'll examine how ideas of liberty, justice, and independence were understood not only in the thirteen colonies but also in New Mexico and across other empires during the 1700s.

Understanding Context

1. What was happening in both the thirteen colonies and New Mexico around 1776?

2. Why do you think the ideas of liberty and justice looked different in each place?

Exploring the Documents

3. Read sections from the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, or Bill of Rights. What main ideas do you notice about freedom or equality?



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4. Compare one idea from these U.S. documents to life under the Spanish Empire in New Mexico.

Critical Thinking & Research

Choose one of the following to explore in more detail:

- New Mexico criminal trials in the 1700s
- The Spanish Patriotic Contribution
- Another topic about justice, taxation, or independence

Summarize what you learned from your research:

6. What similarities or differences do you see between the colonies' Declaration of Independence and events happening in Spanish New Mexico?



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Reflection & Connection

7. How does studying both the British and Spanish Empires change the way you think about independence?

8. What does liberty mean to you personally in today's world?

9. Why is it important to understand independence movements from multiple perspectives around the world?

Closing Reflection

Optional: Write one quote from the Declaration of Independence that still inspires you today, and explain why you chose it.
