



STUDENT WORKSHEET



Q1 • Declaration of Independence • Middle School Contextualizing the Declaration of Independence

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents in American history. In this activity, you'll explore what it meant to the people who wrote it — and what its ideas about liberty and happiness mean to you today.

Understanding the Declaration

1. What was the purpose of the Declaration of Independence?

2. Who wrote it, and when was it signed?

3. Why did the colonists want independence from King George III?



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Exploring Vocabulary

4. Choose one of these words and define it in your own words:
liberty grievance equality independence

Making Connections

5. What does liberty mean to you?

6. What are some examples of 'grievances' students might have at school (things that feel unfair)?



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Creative Reflection

7. Write one or two sentences for your own 'Declaration of Independence.'

8. Optional: Draw a symbol or image that represents freedom, equality, or fairness.

Extension – Thinking Deeper

9. What do you think the phrase 'the pursuit of happiness' means today?

10. Why is it important to keep studying the Declaration of Independence 250 years later?
