



ACTIVITY CHECKLIST



Q1 • Declaration of Independence • Elementary Lower

Stories of the Declaration of Independence

Before the Activity

- ☐ Review the Activity Overview for this activity.
- ☐ Select one age-appropriate picture book or story excerpt about the Declaration of Independence (e.g., *Mumbet's Declaration of Independence*, *Thomas Jefferson: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Everything*).
- ☐ Gather materials: chart paper or whiteboard, crayons, colored pencils/markers, journals or writing paper.
- ☐ Preview the story and identify 2–3 key ideas to highlight (fairness, freedom, working together).
- ☐ (Optional) Prepare a short introductory media clip:
[Schoolhouse Rock — “Fireworks”](#)
- ☐ Set up the classroom space for whole-group reading and discussion.

During the Activity

1. Introduction

- ☐ Explain that students will explore independence through stories and discussion.
- ☐ (Optional) Show the Schoolhouse Rock clip to build background knowledge.
- ☐ Ask a simple question to spark curiosity: “What does independence mean?”

2. Read the Story Together

- ☐ Read the selected book aloud or with the class.
- ☐ Pause occasionally to highlight important moments about courage, fairness, or helping others.
- ☐ Introduce age-appropriate vocabulary (independence, fairness, freedom).



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3. Guided Discussion

Use questions aligned with the Activity Overview:

- ☐ What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
- ☐ How did people in the story help each other?
- ☐ What does independence mean?
- ☐ What values help a community stay fair and free?

4. Personal Connection

- ☐ Invite students to share times they made a choice, stood up for what was right, or helped someone.
- ☐ Ask: “How can we show independence in our classroom or family?”

5. Creative Reflection

- ☐ Have students complete their worksheet: writing or drawing what independence looks like to them.
- ☐ Encourage them to connect the story to their own experiences.

After the Activity

- ☐ Display student drawings or writing on a classroom wall or use them for Constitution Day celebrations.
- ☐ Reinforce the big ideas: independence, fairness, courage, cooperation.
- ☐ (Optional) Coordinate with your school’s All-School Q1 Activity if participating.
- ☐ (Optional) Share student reflections during an assembly or with families.