



**NEW MEXICO
SPIRIT**
1776 + 2026

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.