



Q1 • Declaration of Independence • Elementary ALL School

Stories of the Declaration of Independence

Activity Overview

This All School activity introduces elementary students to the Declaration of Independence as a shared historical moment and an invitation to think about what independence means. Through a collective experience, students encounter the language, people, and ideas connected to the Declaration while beginning to understand that independence can be experienced differently by different people.

This activity is designed to be age-appropriate, participatory, and reflective, offering a common experience that can be explored further in individual classrooms.

Activity Options

Option A: Reading the Preamble Together

Students participate in a shared reading of the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence. Each student is assigned a word and number, and together the group physically assembles the Preamble in order and reads it aloud. This option emphasizes collaboration, listening, and collective meaning-making.

Option B: Film Viewing and Reflection

Students watch a selected film connected to the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence. This option allows students to engage visually with historical characters and events and reflect on ideas of independence through story.

Before the Activity

Educators select an activity option and prepare materials or technology as outlined in the Checklist. Teachers may preview key vocabulary or ideas with students in advance.



During the Activity

Students gather for a shared All School experience.

Option A: Students actively participate by locating their assigned word and contributing to the group reading.

Option B: Students watch the selected film together with a brief introduction.

After the Activity

Classroom discussions allow students to reflect on what they experienced.

Educators may guide conversations using questions such as how the activity felt, what students noticed, who was involved, and what independence might mean to them.

Educator Notes

This activity is intentionally flexible and can be adapted for a wide range of elementary ages within a shared space.

Follow-up discussions may be brief or extended depending on classroom needs.

Additional background, film guidance, and classroom resources are available in the Educator Resources document.

The goal is exposure and curiosity, not mastery of historical detail.

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.