



Q1 • Declaration of Independence • Middle School • ALL School

Stories of the Declaration of Independence

Activity Overview

This All School activity introduces middle school students to the Declaration of Independence as a shared historical moment and an opportunity to examine how ideas of independence, resistance, and leadership shaped the American Revolution. Through collaborative and interactive experiences, students explore grievances, historical figures, and representations of the Revolution while considering how independence has been understood and interpreted over time.

This activity is designed to be engaging, participatory, and reflective, offering a common schoolwide experience that can be extended through classroom discussion or written reflection.

Activity Options

Option A: The Grievances of the Declaration Skits

Students explore specific grievances listed in the Declaration of Independence and work collaboratively to create short skits that explain the historical context and meaning of those grievances. Classes present their skits during an all-school assembly.

Option B: Identify the Signers Bingo Competition

Students participate in an interactive bingo-style activity by identifying staff members portraying Signers of the Declaration of Independence. This option encourages inquiry, questioning, and familiarity with historical figures through movement and engagement across the school.

Option C: American Revolution Film or Mini-Series

Students view a selected film or mini-series related to the American Revolution. This option allows students to explore how historical events and ideas of independence are portrayed through media and storytelling.



Before the Activity

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

During the Activity

Students gather for a shared All School experience.

Option A: Classes present their grievance skits during the assembly.

Option B: Students participate in the Signers Bingo activity as explained in class.

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

After the Activity

Classroom discussions or written reflections allow students to process what they experienced. Educators may guide conversations using suggested post-activity questions provided in the Educator Resources.

Educator Notes

This activity is intentionally flexible and can be adapted to fit different schedules, spaces, and student needs.

Follow-up discussions or reflections may be brief or extended.

Additional background information, discussion questions, and resources are available in the Educator Resources document.

The goal is exploration and perspective, not exhaustive coverage of historical detail.

Connection to Statewide Theme

The Stories of the Declaration of Independence activity supports students in examining how independence was defined, challenged, and expressed during the nation's founding. Educators may choose to highlight student skits, reflections, or creative work during assemblies, Constitution Day events, or classroom showcases.