

Name : _____ Date : _____

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents in American history. It was adopted on July 4, 1776, by the thirteen American colonies. The document announced that the colonies wanted to be free from British rule.

Before the Declaration was written, the colonies were controlled by Great Britain and King George III. Many colonists believed the king treated them unfairly. They were upset about high taxes, strict laws, and the lack of representation in the British government.

A committee was chosen to write the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson was the main writer. In the document, the colonists explained their reasons for wanting freedom. They stated that all people have natural rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Declaration also listed complaints against King George III. The colonists believed the king abused his power and ignored their rights. Because of these problems, the colonies decided to separate from Great Britain and become independent states.

The Declaration of Independence became a symbol of freedom and democracy. Today, it is remembered every year on Independence Day in the United States.

True or False?

- 1.) **The Declaration of Independence was written in 1776.** _____
- 2.) **King George III supported the colonies completely.** _____
- 3.) **Thomas Jefferson helped write the Declaration.** _____
- 4.) **The colonies wanted independence from Great Britain.** _____
- 5.) **The Declaration of Independence is still important today.** _____