



The Declaration of Independence

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How and when:

- + The Continental Congress met and decided to write a declaration
- + Americans were seeking independence
- + A committee was created to draft the Declaration
- + Thomas Jefferson was the main author but John Adams and Benjamin Franklin helped

What happened?

- + The Revolutionary War had already begun with the battles of Lexington and Concord
- + The Congress voted for independence from England on July 2, 1776
- + The Declaration of Independence was passed and signed on July 4, 1776
- + President of the Continental Congress: John Hancock

The Declaration

1. Preamble=Introduction
2. Right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness
3. List of grievances
4. Signed by 55 Delegates
5. Sent to England

After the Declaration was passed

- + The Declaration was sent to King George III and British Parliament
- + George Washington read it to his army in New York City
- + Americans reacted by tearing down statues of King George III and celebrating
- + Most notable signatures: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin