

#39

Student Activity Sheet: Investigating the Declaration of Independence

Part I - Preamble:

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the ^{IT BECOMES TIME} ~~Course of human events~~, it becomes necessary for one people to ^{BREAK AWAY} dissolve the ~~political bands~~ which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

Questions:

1. According to this paragraph what is the goal of the writers?

TO BREAK AWAY FROM GREAT BRITAIN

2. Why are they writing this document?

TO TELL THE WORLD WHY THE COLONISTS WANT TO SEPARATE FROM BRITAIN

3. Make a prediction of what will come next in the document based on what you have read in the "Preamble."

AN EXPLANATION OF OUR REASONS THE COLONISTS ARE REBELLING. POSSIBLY A LIST OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT BRITISH RULE TO USE AS EXAMPLES TO PROVE THE COLONISTS' CASE

Directions:

1. Read the complaints assigned to your group.
2. Discuss each complaint with your group, and then answer the questions below.
3. Select recorder, readers (2-3), and a presenter.

A recorder writes up the notes from the group discussion and hands them to the presenter. (Group should discuss notes before being presented.)

The readers read the original complaints aloud to the class.

The presenter will read the groups responses to the class.

All members of the group will participate and give their ideas as the group discusses the complaints.

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Part II – Beliefs:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. --That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. ...The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.

Questions:

1. What rights are the writers claiming that they have?

LIFE LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

2. According to this paragraph, what is the purpose of the government?

TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS RIGHTS.

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To Prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.

HE HAS REFUSED TO MAKE NEEDED LAWS,
MADE IT DIFFICULT TO MEET W/ COLONIAL
GOV'TS AND CLOSED COLONIAL GOVERNMENTS
AGAINST THE WILL OF THE COLONISTS

2. Who is "He" that the colonists refer to in the grievances?

KING GEORGE III

3. Who are the colonists blaming for their grievances? Why do you think they are blaming him?

THE KING - HE HAS THE JOB
OF ENFORCING BRITISH LAW

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He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.

HE DOES NOT ALLOW JUDGES TO MAKE FAIR DECISIONS, KEPT ARMIES WITH US W/OUT OUR PERMISSION! AND ALLOWED THE MILITARY TO OPERATE W/OUT CONSULTING OUR GOVT'S

2. Who is "He" that the colonists refer to in the grievances?

KING

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HE HAS POWER TO CONTROL PARLIAMENT
HE ENFORCES PARLIAMENTS DECISIONS

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To Prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our consent:

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.

- HOUSE LARGE # OF TROOPS IN COLONIES
CUT OFF TRADE
TAXED W/ OUT CONSENT

2. Who is "He" that the colonists refer to in the grievances?

KING GEORGE III

3. Who are the colonists blaming for their grievances? Why do you think they are blaming him?

KING - HE HAS THE JOB OF
ENFORCING BRITISH LAW

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To Prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has combined with others to subject us...to their Acts of pretended legislation:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.

HE HAS PASSED UNFAIR LAWS, NOT
ALLOWED TRIAL BY JURY & MADE UP
FALSE CHARGES

2. Who is "He" that the colonists refer to in the grievances?

KING GEORGE III

3. Who are the colonists blaming for their grievances? Why do you think they are blaming him?

KING ENFORCES LAWS

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To Prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He has excited domestic insurrection amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.

HE HAS CLOSED ~~DOWN~~ COLONIAL
GOV'TS, WAGED WAR AGAINST US,
TAKEN RESOURCES FROM US,
BURNT OUR TOWNS AND ENCOURAGED
INDIAN UPRESINGS

2. Who is "He" that the colonists refer to in the grievances?

KING GEORGE III

3. Who are the colonists blaming for their grievances? Why do you think they are blaming him?

KING BECAUSE HE HAS ABILITY
TO ENFORCE LAW

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Part IV – Attempts to Address Grievances

In every stage of these Oppressions, We have petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

Questions:

How did the colonists try to address these grievances earlier?

① WRITING PETITIONS FOR CHANGE
~~AND~~ ② ASKING OFFICIALS TO CHANGE
POLICIES
~~BUT REQUESTS WERE IGNORED
BY PARLIAMENT~~

Why did they feel it was necessary to state this in the Declaration?

- PARLIAMENT HAS IGNORED
COLONIAL REQUESTS FOR CHANGE
- BRIT. IS TREATING THE
COLONIES AS ENEMIES IN WAR

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Part V – Declaring Independence

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Questions:

What words from this paragraph actually declare the colonists' independence?

"THE UNITED COLONIES ARE AND OF RIGHT OUGHT TO BE FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES"

What rights and powers do they state that they now have?

- LEVY WAR
- CONCLUDE PEACE
- CONTRACT ALLIANCES
- ESTABLISH TRADE
- DO ALL THINGS THAT INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES DO



The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for the smooth operation of any business and for the protection of its assets.

The second part of the document outlines the various methods used to collect and analyze data. It describes how different types of information are gathered and how they are processed to provide meaningful insights into the company's performance.

The third part of the document focuses on the implementation of these methods. It provides a detailed description of the procedures and protocols that must be followed to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data.

The fourth part of the document discusses the results of the data analysis. It presents a clear and concise summary of the findings, highlighting the key trends and patterns that have emerged from the data.

The fifth part of the document concludes with a series of recommendations and suggestions for future action. It offers practical advice on how to improve the data collection and analysis process and how to use the results to make better business decisions.

In conclusion, the document highlights the critical role of data in modern business operations. It stresses the need for a systematic and disciplined approach to data management and analysis to ensure that the organization is always equipped with the most up-to-date and accurate information available.