



One of the most important writings in US history is the Declaration of Independence. It was written in 1776. Before this document, there was no U.S.A. There were only 13 colonies that Britain controlled and the people were British citizens.



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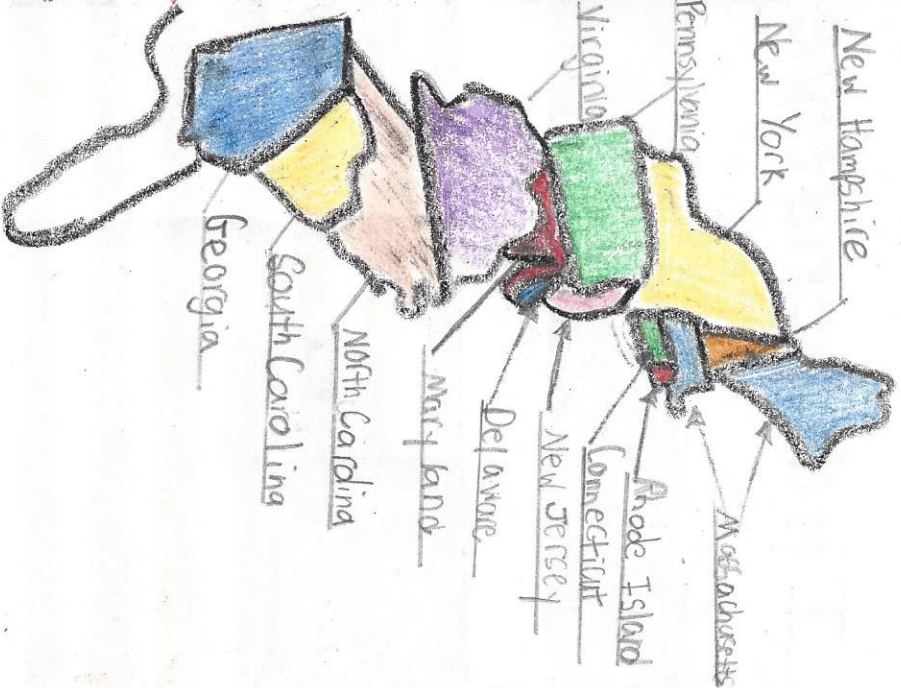
Declaration

of

Independence



The Original 13 Colonies



* Colonists wanted independence because the king had been unfair and they believed that a government should protect people's rights and listen to the people.

Thomas Jefferson was chosen to write the Declaration. It took him 17 days. This document is the first time the words "United States of America" was used.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal."

* America became independent when the Declaration was approved on July 4th. Die to the efforts of the brave men that met and wrote it, we are still free today. They made difficult sacrifices that I hope I'd be willing to make in order to make changes for the better.

Life, Liberty, + Pursuit of Happiness