

Introduction

The Declaration of Independence was known as the "document that started it all". The document, adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, stated that the thirteen American colonies were no longer part of the British Empire, but that they were free and independent states.

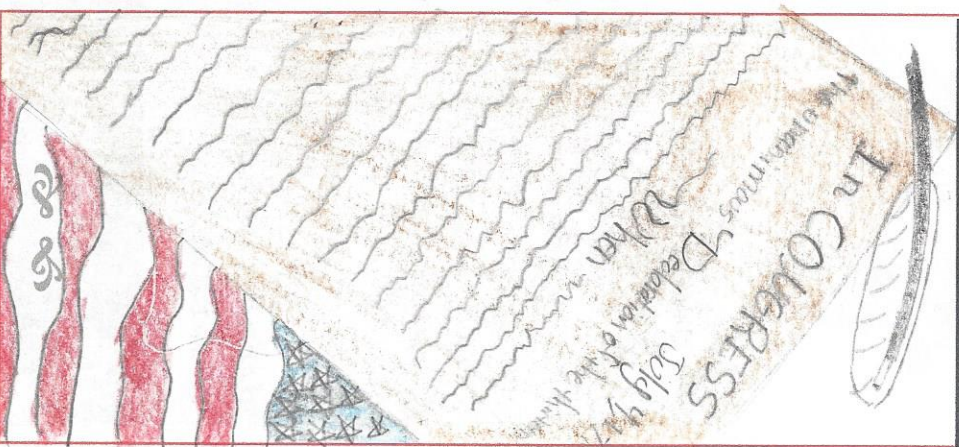
This declaration would change the course of American history and help define our country, as we know it today.



G



The Declaration of Independence





Thomas Jefferson was known as the writer of the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson was a founding father, and he was also the third president of the United States. Jefferson was a true patriot; he served his country for over five decades with pride, honor, and humility.

Thomas Jefferson

Birth of a Nation

The state motto of New Hampshire is "Live Free or Die". This philosophy was handed down to us from our founding fathers. After many years of taxation without representation and protested rules imposed upon the colonies by the British motherland, the colonies had reached a boiling point. On July 4, 1776, The Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.

"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."

This statement from the Declaration shows that the founding fathers believed that equality and freedom were indeed worth fighting for. These men knew that this document would lead to war, and all of the sacrifices that inevitably come with war. The battles of the American

Revolution would commence a short time later.

The Declaration of Independence forced the countries of the world to recognize the colonies of the United States as a sovereign entity. This new status as an independent and separate nation allowed the United States to begin to make alliances with other friendly countries. One such key alliance was with France. This alliance would prove extremely valuable during the American Revolution, as France was an instrumental supporter of the United States during this conflict with Britain. Without France, there is a great likelihood that the US would not have been able to successfully break free from Britain.

These brave men were willing to sacrifice all for the chance to become a free nation. Their bravery resulted in the freedoms we enjoy today.

