



GEORGE ROSS • JOHN PENN • JOHN ADAMS • SAMUEL ADAMS • JOSIAH BARTLETT • CARTER BRAXTON •



The Declaration of Independence

ON A HOT JUNE DAY IN 1776, A 33-YEAR OLD VIRGINIAN NAMED THOMAS JEFFERSON SAT IN A DAMP, UN-AIRCONDITIONED ROOM OF A RENTHOUSE ON MARKET STREET IN PHILADELPHIA, PA. HE WAS WRITING A DOCUMENT THAT WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD FOREVER... THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE! AS MENTIONED IN ITS NAME, THIS DECLARATION WAS WRITTEN TO FORGE FREEDOM FROM THE EMPIRE OF GREAT BRITAIN. IT WAS ALSO A WAY TO SHOW THE WORLD WHAT AMERICA WOULD STAND FOR.

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33



The Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen States of America

SAMUEL CHASE • ABRAHAM CLARK • GEORGE CLYMER •

• JULY 4TH 1776 •

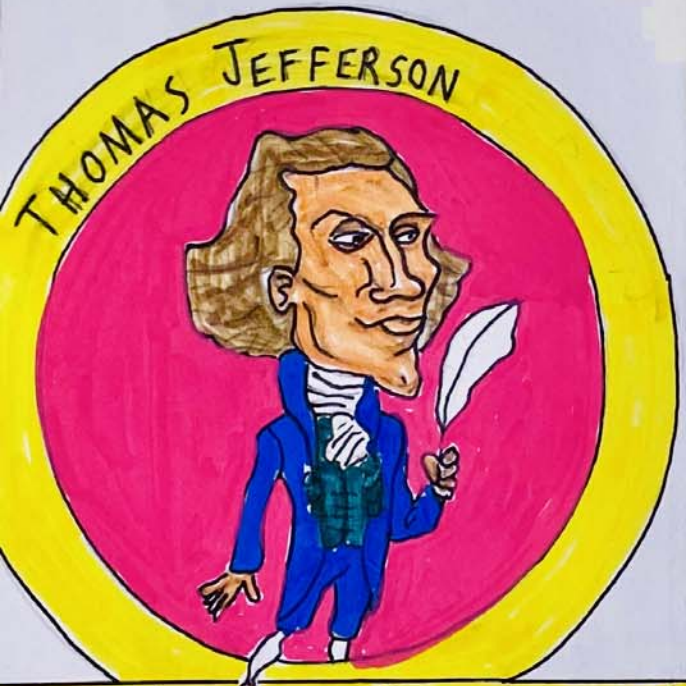


WILLIAM ELLERY • BENJAMIN FRANKLIN • ELBRIDGE GERRY • BUTTON GWINNETT • LYMAN HALL • WILLIAM

IN CONGRESS...

• JULY 4, 1776 •

EXPLAINING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



• THE DECLARATION STATES
 "ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL AND ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR TO CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS, THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS," WHICH SO CLEARLY SHOWS THE TRUE AMERICAN WAY. THIS QUOTE AND MANY MORE SET UP THE WAY WE LIVE TODAY

• AMONG THE 56 SIGNERS, THEY KNEW THE DANGERS OF THESE ACTIONS WERE CONSIDERED TREASONOUS... AND THE PUNISHMENT FOR TREASON WAS DEATH. AS BEN FRANKLIN SO DIRECTLY PUT IT, "WE MUST ALL HANG TOGETHER OR WE MOST ASSUREDLY WILL HANG SEPARATELY..." AS HE INSERTED HIS SIGNATURE.

• FOR SO LONG, THESE MEN HAD WAITED FOR SUCH A DAY, A DAY OF FREEDOM. AND AFTER SUCH AN OPPRESSION, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THE COLONISTS WOULDN'T TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF INDEPENDENCE. I WOULD HAVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SIGNED MY NAME IN INK AND BLOOD AMONG ALL OTHER PATRIOTS ON THAT JULY DAY IN 1776. THOSE SAME PRINCIPLES COME TO MY MIND EVEN NOW.

• THE LESSONS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ARE SIMPLE, YET OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE. DENIED RIGHTS WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO REBELLION, AND VOICES UNITED CAN MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE.

• THIS DOCUMENT WAS THE VERY STEPPING STONE OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE. OUR DECLARATION INSPIRED THE FRENCH AND SPANISH SUPPORT FOR OUR REVOLUTIONARY WAR EFFORTS. IT ALSO LIT THE FLAME FOR SO MANY DEMOCRACIES TO COME.



JOHN HANCOCK • BENJAMIN HARRISON • THOMAS JEFFERSON • WILLIAM HOOPER • FRANCIS LEWIS