

Declaration of Independence

- Written at the 2nd Continental Congress
- Written by Thomas Jefferson and a committee chosen by him
- He based it on historical information
- Delegates from every state signed the declaration. This was a courageous thing to do because it was treason if Britain won.

Part 1

- reason for the declaration
- ideas about government
- 2nd paragraph "We hold these truths to be self-evident..."
 - ↳ unalienable = rights that cannot be taken away b/c the are God given
 - ↳ pursuit of happiness = the right to own land/property

Part 2

- "He" = King George
- grievances (complaints) against the King & Parliament

John Hancock - The first signer of the Declaration

- ★ Written in 17 days, by 5 men, including Thomas Jefferson, John Adams & Benjamin Franklin

Part 3

- ★ Actual declaring of independence & freedom
- ★ official separation from Britain... war is now official

★ GA Signers

- Button Gwinnett
- Lyman Hall
- George Walton

56 people total