

# U.S. Founding Documents

*LHA U.S. History*

## Uniqueness

The United States is a very \_\_\_\_\_ compared to many other nations in the world

- The design of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the founding \_\_\_\_\_ contribute to the uniqueness
- Many countries since the founding of the USA have been moving toward the same \_\_\_\_\_, showing the \_\_\_\_\_ the U.S. has on the world

## Leading to America

\_\_\_\_\_ Over Colonies

- \_\_\_\_\_ ruled the American colonies and continued to enforce taxes on anything and everything
- American colonists had enough and started to revolt against the British government
- \_\_\_\_\_ → British soldiers \_\_\_\_\_ on a mob of colonists, leading to the American Revolution for independence

## Declaration of Independence

\_\_\_\_\_ → **Continental Congress Established**

- Represented by delegates from all colonies, except \_\_\_\_\_
- Called for colonists to \_\_\_\_\_ all British goods

**1775-1776** → **Call for** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ delivered his famous speech, "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"
- Battles of Lexington and Concord sparked the beginning of the \_\_\_\_\_
- Second Continental Congress convened to form armies and strategize
  - Functioned as a \_\_\_\_\_

## Declaration of Independence

1776 → \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ published his pamphlet Common Sense
  - Encouraged colonists to strive for \_\_\_\_\_ from Great Britain
  - Credited for paving the way for the Declaration of Independence and \_\_\_\_\_ many colonists to support independence

**July 2, 1776** → **Lee Resolution**

- Second Continental Congress adopted the \_\_\_\_\_
  - Voted for \_\_\_\_\_ from Great Britain

## Declaration of Independence

\_\_\_\_\_ → **Declaration of Independence**

- \_\_\_\_\_ adopted the Declaration of Independence
  - First drafted by Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Ben Franklin
  - Edited to the final version by Congress

**Ending of** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_, a founding father, later led the United States to victory, ending the war
- \_\_\_\_\_ → Britain officially recognized the independence of the United States

## Copied and Dispatched

**July 5** → **Copied and Dispatched**

- Copies printed by \_\_\_\_\_ were dispatched by members of Congress to various committees, assemblies, and commanders of the \_\_\_\_\_

**July 9, 1776** → Declaration of Independence officially approved by the \_\_\_\_\_

**July 19, 1776** → Congress ordered the Declaration of Independence be printed on parchment and signed by every member of Congress

## IT'S OFFICIAL!

**August 2, 1776** → **Declaration** \_\_\_\_\_

- Declaration of Independence \_\_\_\_\_ to get \_\_\_\_\_ by members of Congress
  - Other members signed on \_\_\_\_\_ 27, September 4, \_\_\_\_\_ 19, and in \_\_\_\_\_
- The Declaration of Independence was now official!

# Declaration of Independence

## Five Main Parts

### Part 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Includes strongest statement of Social Contract Theory  
*(people live together in society with agreement of moral and political rules of behavior)*

- Argues that people have the right to \_\_\_\_\_ against governments that no longer represent their \_\_\_\_\_
- This political approach justifies the decision the colonists made to declare \_\_\_\_\_ from Great Britain

### Part 2: \_\_\_\_\_

*“We hold that these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,”*

- Established the idea that colonists felt that Great Britain directly \_\_\_\_\_ what they saw as their \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Included a long list of specific ways that King George was seen as not \_\_\_\_\_

- Outlined the kinds of actions that would not be \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_
- Many of the actions by King George were later prohibited in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 4:** \_\_\_\_\_

Concluded that King George's offenses were so severe that a \_\_\_\_\_ was necessary

- Clear statement that the U.S. people desired to be ruled by a \_\_\_\_\_, not an \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (*King/Queen ruling from a different area of the world*)

**Part 5:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Declaration of Independence finished with a concluding statement:

- Stated that the colonies are now \_\_\_\_\_ that together form the \_\_\_\_\_

**REFLECTION**

1. Who is the Declaration of Independence addressed to?
2. ELA Reflection → What are the purposes?
  - To express, inform, or persuade? How do you know?
3. How does the Declaration of Independence make you feel, personally?

**Articles of Confederation**

\_\_\_\_\_ (1781)

- Developed shortly after the Declaration of Independence (1776)
- Declared sovereignty to be "The United States of America"
  - \_\_\_\_\_ → retains sovereignty, freedom, and independence
- \_\_\_\_\_ would convene to decide on actions needed

## Shay's Rebellion

Colonies had significant \_\_\_\_\_ after war (other countries, European traders/lenders)

- US merchants put pressure on \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ to get money to pay off the debts (gold/silver)
- Thousands of upset farmers (led by Daniel Shays) \_\_\_\_\_ in Springfield, MA (1787)
  - Brought awareness of struggles of being separate sovereignties

## Constitutional Convention

After Shays' Rebellion, many fear that same scenario would happen in many other \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. This was the final push many needed to rethink the Articles of Confederation

- Delegates from colonies met at the \_\_\_\_\_ in 1787
  - Many attended with hopes to create a strong central government, like a Federalist system (states have their rights, but with a central government and a strong leader)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ was ratified and became effective on March 4, 1789

## Federalist Papers

Written by \_\_\_\_\_, James Madison, and John Jay

- Series of 85 essays urging citizens to \_\_\_\_\_ the new United States Constitution
  - The authors analyzed the Constitution in detail to put the citizens' fears at ease

## Principles of the U.S. Constitution

The seven principles of the US Constitution include the following:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Federalism
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Separation of Powers
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Limited Government
7. \_\_\_\_\_

*You'll more about these in the U.S. Government course*

## REFLECTION

1. Do people in the government still crave power? What are examples in today's world on how they try to gain more power?
2. Should Congress or bureaucrats make the laws? Why or why not?
3. Should there be any limits on what government can and cannot do? Why or why not?

## Bill of Rights

- First \_\_\_\_\_ Amendments to the \_\_\_\_\_
- Spells out \_\_\_\_\_ in relation to their government
- Guarantees civil rights and liberties to the \_\_\_\_\_
- Sets rules for due process of law and reserves all powers not delegated to the Federal Government to the people or the States.

## Amendment I

*Freedom of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, press,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and petition*

**What does this mean?**

## Amendment II

*Right to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in order to  
maintain a well-regulated militia*

**What does this mean?**

### **Amendment III**

*Citizens aren't obligated to house \_\_\_\_\_*

**What does this mean?**

### **Amendment IV**

*Freedom from unreasonable \_\_\_\_\_ &*

*\_\_\_\_\_*

**What does this mean?**

### **Amendment V**

*Protects people from being forced to reveal to the \_\_\_\_\_, a  
\_\_\_\_\_, or any other government agents any information  
that might subject them to criminal prosecution  
(\_\_\_\_\_)*

**What does this mean?**

### **Amendment VI**

*Rights of the accused persons; right to a \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ jury, and a public and fast trial*

**What does this mean?**

### **Amendment VII**

*Protects the right for citizens to have a jury trial in federal courts with civil cases where the claim exceeds a certain*

\_\_\_\_\_

**What does this mean?**

### **Amendment VIII**

*Forbids government from using \_\_\_\_\_, as well as \_\_\_\_\_ fines and bail to \_\_\_\_\_ people who have broken the law*

**What does this mean?**

### **Amendment IX**

*People have \_\_\_\_\_ that are not listed in the Constitution*

**What does this mean?**

### **Amendment X**

*Any power or right not specifically listed in the Constitution belongs to \_\_\_\_\_ or the American people themselves*

**What does this mean?**



**REFLECTION**

**Which amendment(s) do YOU believe are the most important? Why?**

**What other questions do you have about the Bill of Rights?**