

**Text:** TCI History Alive Chap. 6 – The Declaration of Independence

# *The Declaration of Independence*

*What principles of government are expressed in the Declaration of Independence?*

## Background leading up to Declaration:

Beginning in 1763, the British government imposed a series of taxes and proclamations on their American colonies. The American colonists rebelled against these taxes through a series of boycotts, claiming that, as Englishmen, they were entitled to representation in England prior to any colonial taxation. In response to the British government's taxes and its declaration that the colonies were in open revolt, on June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia offered a formal resolution to the Second Continental Congress calling for independence of the American colonies from Great Britain.

Thomas Jefferson was tasked in writing the Declaration of Independence. On July 2, 1776, Congress approved Lee's resolution for America's independence from Great Britain by a 12-0 vote (New York abstained). With independence adopted, Congress spent the next two days editing Jefferson's draft of the Declaration. On July 4, 1776, Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence and sent it to the printer for duplication and distribution.

- 1) Look at a copy of the Declaration of Independence on p. 592-595. Write down any phrases or sentences that you are familiar with. In your own words, explain what these each of these phrases or sentences mean.

Phrase/sentence from Declaration	Possible Meaning:

Read p. 107-109 in TCI History Alive and answer the following:

- 1) Who did John Adams propose should be commander in chief of the Continental army? What was the main reason he suggested this person?
- 2) What does the quote, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes" mean? Who said this

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3) Create a flowchart showing four important details about the Battle of Bunker Hill (Breed's Hill).

Vocabulary: Define

Independence	
Petition	
Common Sense	
Declaration of Independence	
Natural rights	
Debate	
Impose	
Policy	
Fundamental	

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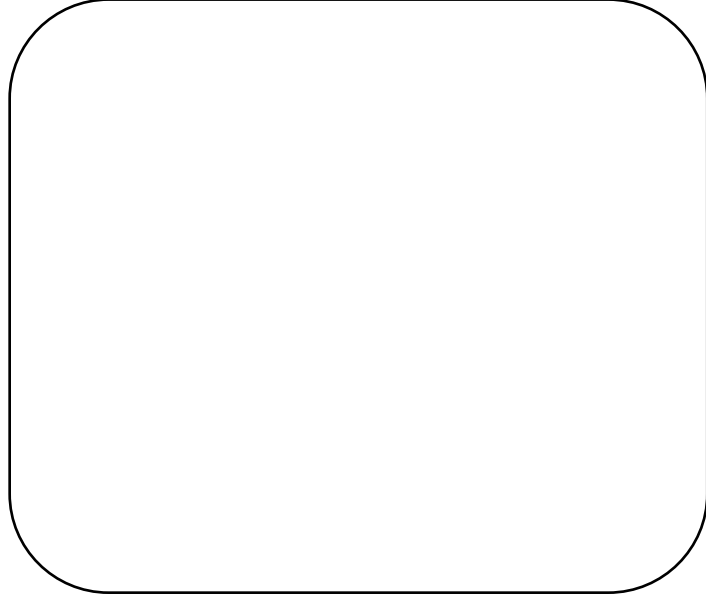
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**Section 6.2 (continued)**

4. What did General George Washington want from Fort Ticonderoga? Why? How did he accomplish this task?

5. Sketch the important event that took place in each location. Write a caption for each sketch that explains the importance of the event.

**TICONDEROGA (Winter 1775-1776)**



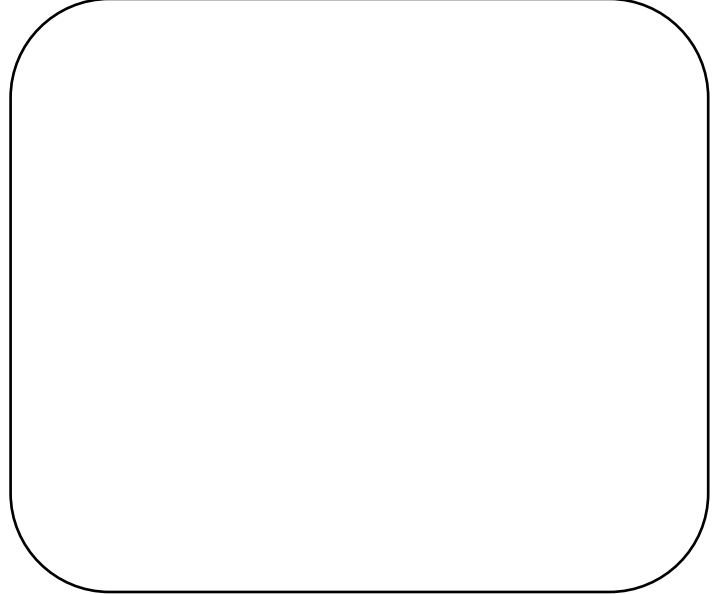
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**BOSTON (March 4, 1776)**



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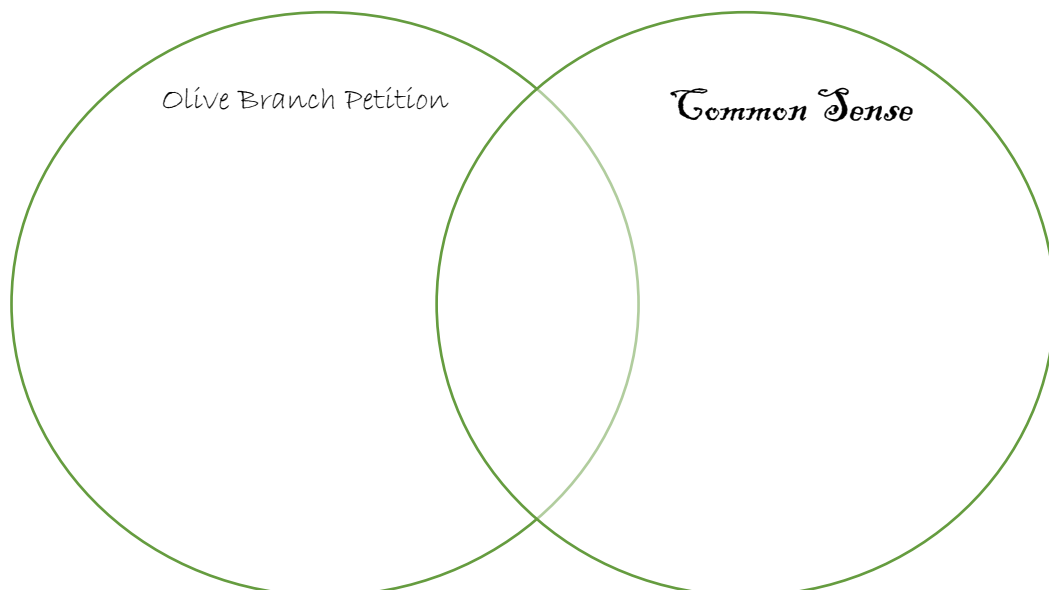
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6. Why did the British leave Boston? What might this have symbolized for the colonies?

**Section 6.3 – On the Eve of Independence**

1. What was the Olive Branch petition? Why did John Adams choose the words “Olive Branch?”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Who was Thomas Paine, and what was important about his Pamphlet “Common Sense?”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why were publications like Common Sense and Poor Richards Almanac so powerful in the Colonies?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In the Venn diagram (below), write at least ONE similarity, and THREE differences between the Olive Branch Petition and Common Sense.



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**Section 6.4 – The Declaration of Independence**

1. Who drafted the Declaration of Independence? What was his main job in writing this document?

With a partner, review the provided documents and respond to the following:

2. Name, identify, and describe the sections of the Declaration of Independence:


3. Choose three important ideas in the Declaration of Independence. Discuss with your partner, then write the two you feel are most important in the chart below. Explain why you think each idea was important.

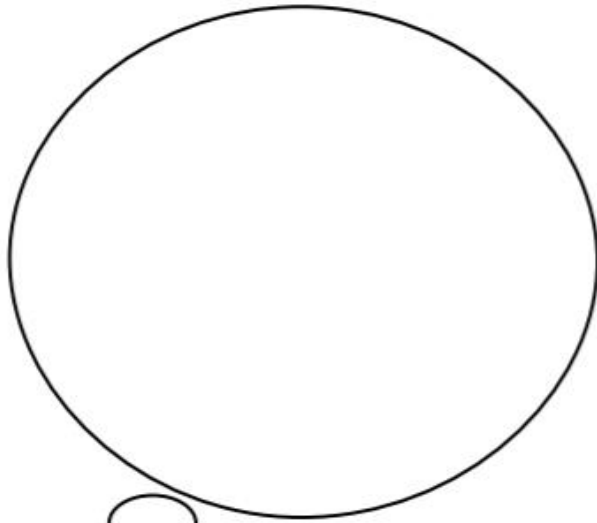
<b>Ideas in the Declaration</b>	<b>Why This Idea is Important</b>
1.	
2.	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

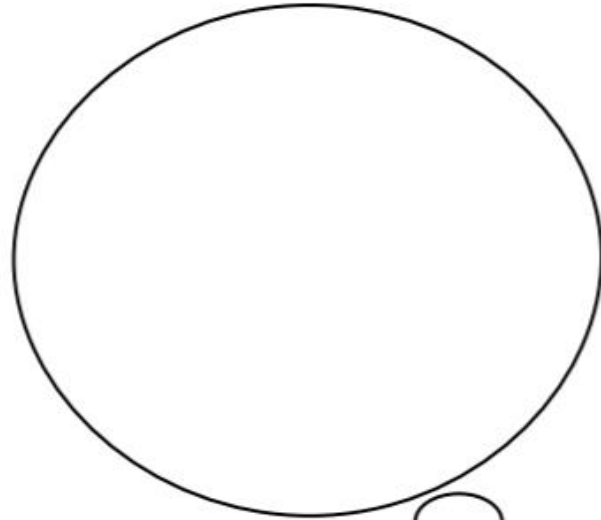
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### **Section 6.5 – The Final Break**

1. Fill in the thought bubbles. Have each delegate to the Second Continental Congress explain why he opposed Jefferson's passage on slavery.

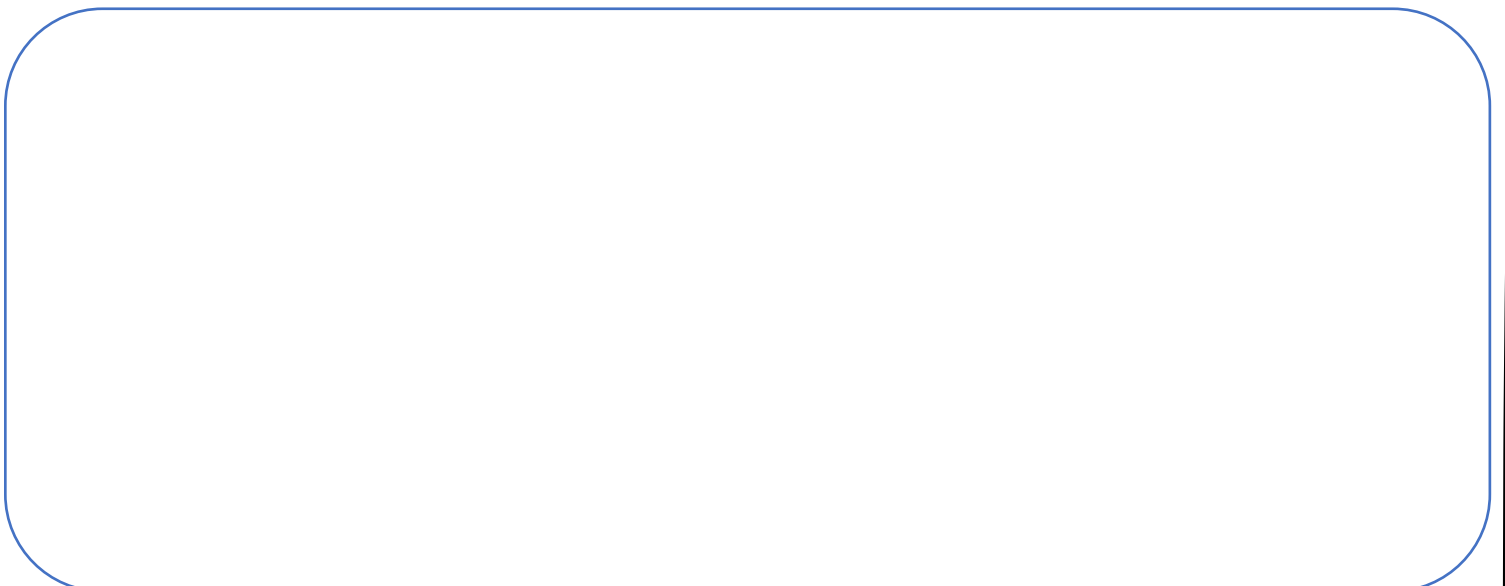


**Northern Delegate**



**Southern Delegate**

2. Sketch and label a diagram of "Triangular Trade and the Enslavement of Africans" showing how people and goods were traded – thus supplying the colonies with money as well as enslaved labor.



\*\*\*This highlighted the problem that Thomas Jefferson had with saying, "god-given rights" because in colonial times not ALL men "were created equal" in some colonis'ts eyes. Even if a delegate was against slavery, the Plantation economy of the South depended on enslaved labor to exist.