

# Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence

## Lesson Answer Key

### Thomas Jefferson

Page 1

#### Reading text only

Thomas Jefferson was an important leader in U.S. history.

He was born in Virginia in 1743.

Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.

He was the third president of the United States.

He was president from 1801 to 1809.

He was president when the United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803.

Jefferson started the University of Virginia in 1819.

Thomas Jefferson died on July 4, 1826.

### Declaration of Independence

Page 2

#### Reading text only

The Declaration of Independence is an important document for Americans.

In the 1700s, the colonists were angry with Great Britain. They said Great Britain did not respect the colonists' rights.

The colonists wanted to be free from Great Britain.

The colonists wanted to declare their independence.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.

The Declaration of Independence says that "all men are created equal."  
There are three rights in the Declaration of Independence:

- life
- liberty
- pursuit of happiness

The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776.

Americans celebrate Independence Day on July 4th.

### War of Independence

Page 3

#### Reading text only

Why did the colonists fight the British?

- because of high taxes
- because the British army stayed in the colonists' houses
- because the colonists did not have self-government

The War of Independence started in 1775.

The colonists declared their independence in 1776.

George Washington was a general during the war.

The colonists won the war in 1783.

After that, the colonies formed the original 13 states.

### The 13 Original States

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There were 13 original states.

Look at this map of these states.

Write the name of each state.

1. New Hampshire
2. Massachusetts
3. Rhode Island
4. Connecticut
5. New York
6. New Jersey
7. Pennsylvania
8. Delaware
9. Maryland
10. Virginia
11. North Carolina
12. South Carolina
13. Georgia

## U.S. Symbols—Stars and Stripes

Page 5—top

Look at the first American flag.

This flag had **13** stripes. This flag had **13** stars.

Why? The first flag had **13** stripes and **13** stars to represent **13** colonies.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Look at the flag today.

Today the flag has **13** stripes.  
Each stripe represents **1** colony.

Today the flag has **50** stars.  
Each star represents **1** state.

The U.S. flag has three colors:  
**red, white, and blue.**

## Word Search

Page 5—bottom

Find these words in the puzzle.

The words are down (↓) or across (→).

Circle the words.

### Word Bank

FLAG STARS STRIPES  
RED WHITE BLUE  
LIFE LIBERTY HAPPINESS  
JULY JEFFERSON

O	R	E	D	L	B	W	C	H
F	J	Q	Y	I	G	H	V	A
L	U	U	M	F	W	I	U	P
A	L	I	B	E	R	T	Y	P
G	Y	T	S	P	N	E	Z	I
J	E	F	F	E	R	S	O	N
M	B	Z	P	A	C	M	P	E
P	L	A	Z	L	P	V	B	S
O	U	N	Y	S	T	A	R	S
M	E	S	T	R	I	P	E	S

## Listen, Repeat, Circle

Page 6—top

Listen to your teacher. Repeat the question. Listen again and repeat again. Circle the correct answer.

**Note to Teachers:** Have the students repeat the question 2-3 times before having them find and circle the correct answer from the possible choices. Check the answers after each item as a listening exercise, or do all 8 items as a quiz and then go back to check the answers together.

- 1. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?**  
George Washington      **Thomas Jefferson**      Abraham Lincoln
- 2. What did the Declaration of Independence do?**  
free the slaves      vote in an election      **declare independence**
- 3. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?**  
**1776**      1787      1803
- 4. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?**  
religion and speech      voting and taxes      **life and liberty**
- 5. Why did the colonists fight the British?**  
**because of taxes**      because of the flag      because of Jefferson
- 6. Why does the flag have 50 stars?**  
to represent 50 colonies      to represent 50 presidents      **to represent 50 states**
- 7. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?**  
Pennsylvania      **Louisiana**      Puerto Rico
- 8. When do we celebrate Independence Day?**  
June 4      January 1      **July 4**

## Dictation

Page 6—bottom

Listen to your teacher. Repeat the words. Write the words.

**Note to Teachers:** Model these words twice. Have the students repeat after you. Then have them write the words. Go over the spellings together on the board.

- Independence Day**
- red, white, blue**
- July 4, 1776**

## Independence Day

Page 7

Copy these words.  
**Independence Day**

**Independence**  
**Day**

Copy this sentence.

We celebrate **Independence Day on July 4th.**