

Declaration of Independence Lesson Plan

Recreate the Declaration of Independence lesson Plan

Timing: The lesson is created for 2-3 Class Periods.

Standards: 6-8a: Students will examine historical materials relating to a particular region, society, or theme; analyze change over time, and make logical inferences concerning cause and effect.

6-8b: Students will understand the principles and content of major American state papers such as the Declaration of Independence; United States Constitution (including the Bill of Rights); and the Federalist Papers.

Content Area: Social Studies

Grade Level: Grade 6

Lesson Resources:

- [Declaration of Independence Lesson Plan GO.docx](#) (GRAPHIC ORGANIZER)
- [Declaration of Independence Read Aloud YouTube Video \(2:39\)](#) (VIDEO)
- [Declaration of Independence](#) (AUDIO)
- [Declaration of Independence lesson plan PPTX.pptx](#) (POWERPOINT)
 - o All prompts, and resources are provided on the PowerPoint for classroom view.

Context to know before this lesson:

Students will watch a reading of the Declaration of Independence and answer the following question.

What does it mean by “Life, Liberty, and pursuit of happiness?”

[Declaration of Independence Read Aloud YouTube Video \(2:39\)](#) (VIDEO)

[Declaration of Independence](#) (AUDIO)

Pre-Teach:

The Declaration of Independence involves the following vocabulary words. It would be ideal to teach these vocabulary words to better the students’ knowledge on the Declaration of Independence.

This lesson involves the following vocabulary words:

Declaration of Independence
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• independence• patriot• inalienable• abdicate• standing armies• trial by jury• consent• plundered• ravaged• depriving• representative houses• quartering• trade

Lesson:

Warm Up:

- 1) Create groups of 4-5 students, unless classroom is already in a group set up.
- 2) Depending on number of groups and students, give each group a complaint listed below.
 - a. The students can get the complaints individually cut out.
 - b. The instructor can also display the complaints on a white board or slide show.
- 3) Complete the warmup part of the Graphic Organizer

Prompt: Analyze a complaint that a colonist had. What is the objective of this complaint? How do you think the complaint was solved? How do you think it affected the colonist lives?

Complaints:

- 1) He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.
- 2) For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury
- 3) He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.
- 4) He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging war against us.
- 5) He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.
- 6) He has made judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

Activity Part A:

Going back to the Warm-up about the complaints that the colonist had. What are some complaints that you as a student have about a school policy?

Give the students the G/O Activity Part A page.

Prompt: Create a list of 2-3 complaints you have about your school rules or policies. What would you want the rule/policy to be changed to? And why?

- 1) Give the students the Activity Part A of the graphic organizer.
 - a. Students will create a list of 2-3 complaints about school policies.
 - b. After completing the list of 2-3 complaints, the students will answer the questions:
 - i. Reasoning behind the complaint
 - ii. What can the school do to fix the complaint?
- 2) After completing the Activity there will be a transition to the research activity.

Research Activity

You as a student just came up with some policies that you do not agree with. The colonist did the same thing about some things that the government was doing to them. Now it is time for you to do some research about a national issue going on in the United States.

Resource: Research Activity

Prompt: What are some main issues in the United States? How could those issues be fixed?

Start: If the students aren't already in the same groups they were in the previous activity, put them back into the same groups for the research activity.

Part A

- 1) Start by giving the list of problems to the students.
 - a. Inflation
 - b. Affordable healthcare
 - c. The ability of Democrats and Republicans to work together
 - d. Drug addiction
 - e. Gun violence
 - f. Violent crime
 - g. The federal budget deficit
 - h. The state of moral values
 - i. The quality of public k-12 schools
 - j. Illegal immigration
 - k. Climate change
 - l. Racism

Declaration of Independence Lesson Plan

- m. Domestic terrorism
 - n. Conditions of roads, bridges, and other infrastructures
 - o. International terrorism
 - p. Unemployment
- 2) Students will pick 5 problems they see as most important individually.
- 3) After choosing the most important 5 issues, allow individual work time to research the 5 problems that they choose. Use the internet to conduct the research.
 - a. Students will answer the following questions:
 - i. Why is the complaint you choose important?
 - ii. How can the complaint be solved?

Part B:

- 4) After the students complete their individual research, students will transition to group discussion.
 - a. Each group will decide on what the 4 most important national issues there are.
- 5) After each group has agreed on the 4 most important national issues each group will create a group Declaration of Independence with a piece of poster paper
 - a. Each student in the group will sign the bottom of the Declaration of Independence

Final Product:

- 6) The class will come to an agreement on what the 5 most important national issues there are.
 - a. Each group will have decided on the 4 most important issues on which they will create a argument on why the 4 chosen are the most important.
- 7) Write the 5 national issues on a piece of construction paper or poster board for classroom display.