

Declaration of Independence Background

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

Find and circle the solutions in red found in the grid.

Throughout the 1760s and 1770s, relations between **GREAT BRITAIN** and **THIRTEEN** of her North American colonies had become increasingly **STRAINED**. Fighting broke out in 1775 at **LEXINGTON** and **CONCORD** marking the beginning of the American Revolutionary War. Although there was little initial sentiment for outright independence, the pamphlet **COMMON SENSE** by **THOMAS PAINE** was able to promote the belief that total independence was the only possible route for the colonies.

Independence was adopted on July 2, 1776 pursuant to the "**LEE RESOLUTION**" presented to the **CONTINENTAL CONGRESS** by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia on June 7, 1776, which read (in part): "Resolved: That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the **BRITISH CROWN**, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

On June 11, 1776, a committee consisting of **JOHN ADAMS** of Massachusetts, **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN** of Pennsylvania, **THOMAS JEFFERSON** of Virginia, **ROBERT R LIVINGSTON** of New York, and **ROGER SHERMAN** of Connecticut, was formed to draft a suitable declaration to frame this resolution. **JEFFERSON** did most of the writing, with input from the committee. His original draft included a denunciation of the **SLAVE TRADE**, which was later edited out. His draft was presented to the Continental Congress on July 1, 1776. The Declaration was rewritten somewhat in general session prior to its adoption by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, at the **PENNSYLVANIA** State House. The adopted copy was then sent a few blocks away to the printing shop of **JOHN DUNLAP**. Through the night between 150 and 200 copies were made, now known as "**DUNLAP BROADSIDES**". The original has never been found. The 25 Dunlap broadsides still known to exist are the oldest surviving copies of the document.

Declaration of Independence Background

