

Social Studies
Chapter 8, Lesson 5
Declaring Independence
Notes

Name: _____ #: _____ Date: _____

❖ Moving Towards Independence

- _____: wrote *Common Sense*
- he wrote that the colonists should _____ themselves

➤ Congress Debates Independence

- Second Continental Congress started to debate about declaring independence
- _____ argued strongly for independence
- _____--told other delegates that the 13 colonies no longer owed loyalty to the king
- he called for a _____ for independence

➤ A Declaration is Written

- Congress debated Lee's resolution
- chose a committee to write a _____ (official statement) about independence to be sent to the king
- _____ was asked to write the first draft
- he wrote and rewrote for 17 days until he had written the _____

❖ The Declaration of Independence

- the _____ (first part), Jefferson told why the Declaration was needed
- explained why the colonies had the right to break away from Britain and form a new nation

➤ Rights and Grievances

- describes the colonists main ideas about government
- people have certain rights that the government can't take away: _____
- longest part of Declaration lists the grievances (complaints) against King George III and Parliament
- listed the ways the colonists had tried to settle their differences with Britain
- last part of the Declaration, Jefferson stated that the colonies were free and independent _____

❖ Congress Approves the Declaration

- June 28th---Jefferson's Declaration was read aloud to Congress
- discussed for several days and made edits
- July 2nd---Richard Henry Lee's resolution to cut ties with Britain was approved

➤ A Public Reading

- _____---Congress voted to accept the Declaration of Independence's final wording
- read aloud to large crowds outside Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall)
- news of Declaration spread quickly
- supporters of independence tore down _____ and _____ of _____
- sang _____, rang _____, and _____ cannons in celebration
- _____ said that Independence Day should be celebrated "by succeeding generations...from this time forward."

➤ A Dangerous Decision

- August _____, a copy of the Declaration was ready to be signed by members of the Second Continental Congress

- _____--first signer who signed his name large enough for the king to read without his glasses
 - signing was dangerous because if we lost the war, the signers would be tried for _____, which was punishable by _____
- The Declaration's Importance
- when approved in 1776, only white men who owned property could vote
 - _____ told her husband to remember the ladies as she felt women should also have rights
 - would take many years for women, African Americans, Native Americans, and other groups to share in the promise of the Declaration of Independence
 - inspired people around the world to work for _____ and _____ rights

❖ Forming a New Government

- Second Continental Congress formed another committee to plan how to unite the 13 states
 - _____ headed the committee
 - decided that each state would govern itself, but all would work together on national issues
- Article of Confederation
- approved by Congress in 1777 and later by each state
 - each state elected representatives to serve in the national legislature called _____
 - each state (no matter the size) had _____ vote
 - until 1789, Confederation Congress made laws for the new nation
 - helped to keep the states together during the American Revolution

➤ Weaknesses of the Articles

- since the Americans were fighting a war to win independence they feared a strong _____, or central, government
- the Articles left most of the power with the states
- _____ out of _____ states had to approve laws before they would pass
- representatives rarely agreed since no state wanted to be under the control of another state
- when a law was passed, Congress did not have the power to enforce the law
- limited the powers of Congress in other ways:
 - ◆ could declare war, make treaties, and borrow money
 - ◆ could _____ control trade or collect _____
 - ◆ Congress could only ask states for money to cover expenses such as debts from war
 - ◆ could not force the states to pay
 - ◆ made Congress depend on states for the nation's defense (could ask for an army but states had to provide the soldiers)