



Declaration of Independence

- Written by Thomas Jefferson
- Adopted, or accepted by vote, on **July 4, 1776** in Philadelphia, PA during 2nd Continental Congress
- It has four main sections which discuss all the issues between the 13 Colonies and Great Britain.

Part 1: Preamble (Introduction)

- The document begins by saying that when one groups separates from another, an explanation should be given.
- WRITING down the colonies intentions of separating from England will give them a good place to start new.

Part 2: Principles and Beliefs

- All men are created equal
- All people have certain rights that no one can take away:
 - These rights come from God
 - These rights are: "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness"
- Government is created by people to protect these rights and that government gets its power from the people it governs
- If a government doesn't protect these rights then the people have the right to change that government.
- Principles reflected in the Declaration:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Part 3: Grievances of the Colonies

- King George III and Parliament had violated the unalienable rights of the colonists.
- The Declaration lists the GRIEVANCES or complaints, of the colonists against King George III and Parliament:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Part 4: Declaring Independence

- Colonists had tried to work with King George and Parliament through negotiating, petitioning, and sending people to speak before them.
- Since King George III and Parliament did not listen, then colonists felt they had the right to declare independence and become their own nation.
- The Colonies are now STATES and can do all things free countries can do.
