THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
STUDENT WORKSHEET

For use with the Britannica Elementary Encyclopedia and Compton’s Encyclopedia by Britannica articles
“Declaration of Independence.”

PART ONE

Match up the following figures, groups, and places related to the Declaration of
Independence with the best definition.

(For use with both the Britannica Elementary and Compton’s articles.)

1. _____ Richard Henry Lee                      A. One of the first colonies to establish an
   independent government

2. _____ Thomas Jefferson                       B. Location of the Declaration today

3. _____ John Adams                             C. Wrote Common Sense pamphlet
   criticizing the British king

4. _____ Thomas Paine                           D. Passed an act stopping trade with the
   colonies

5. _____ George III                            E. Adopted the Declaration on July 4, 1776

6. _____ Second Continental Congress            F. Wrote the first draft of the Declaration

7. _____ New York                              G. Massachusetts representative who was
   on the Declaration committee

8. _____ Independence Hall (State House)       H. Virginia representative who proposed the
   independence resolution to Congress

9. _____ New Hampshire                         I. Site where the Declaration was signed

10. _____ British Parliament                   J. British king who declared the colonists

11. _____ National Archives                    K. The last colony to accept the Declaration
Write the date for each of the events in the blanks below and place the letter above the appropriate place for each event on the time line.

A. ____________ Congress adopts the resolution of independence

B. ____________ *Common Sense* is published

C. ____________ The British king declares the colonists to be rebels

D. ____________ The Declaration is adopted by Congress

E. ____________ Congress recommends that the rest of the colonies set up independent governments

F. ____________ The official Declaration document is signed

G. ____________ The British burn the town of Portland, Maine

H. ____________ Virginia’s representative introduces to Congress a resolution on independence

I. ____________ The final draft of the Declaration is presented to Congress

J. ____________ The people of Philadelphia gather to hear the Declaration read
PART TWO
(For use with the Compton's article.)

Mark the following either true (T) or false (F).

1. ______ When war broke out between Britain and the colonies in April 1775, most Americans were fighting for independence.

2. ______ The Common Sense pamphlet argued that the colonists should separate from Great Britain.

3. ______ The resolution for independence was introduced to Congress by Thomas Jefferson.

4. ______ Jefferson succeeded in getting language attacking slavery included in the final draft of the Declaration.

5. ______ The Liberty Bell did not crack while announcing the reading of the Declaration.

6. ______ The Declaration of Independence did not establish the independence of the American colonies.

Fill in the blanks below in this passage from the Declaration of Independence. In the lines below the passage, use a dictionary to find the definition of each word and write it out in your own words.

(For use with the Compton's article.)

WHEN in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to (1) ______________ the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God (2) ______________ them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which (3) ________________ them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be (4) ______________, that all men are created equal, that they are (5) ________________ by their Creator with certain (6) _______________ Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these rights, Governments are (7) ______________ among Men, (8) ________________ their just powers from the (9) ________________ of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to (10) ________________, and to institute new Government, laying
its foundation on such (11) ______________ and organizing its powers in such form, as to
them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

1. ________________________________

2. ________________________________

3. ________________________________

4. ________________________________

5. ________________________________

6. ________________________________

7. ________________________________

8. ________________________________

9. ________________________________

10. ________________________________

11. ________________________________
PART THREE
(For use with the Compton's article.)

For each of the people below, note what they had to do with the Declaration of Independence and why they were important to its creation. Feel free to use each individual’s biography in Compton’s as a research resource for adding more information to the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Importance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Jefferson</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Richard Henry Lee</td>
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<td>Thomas Paine</td>
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<td>Benjamin Franklin</td>
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