

# Declaring Independence

On July 4, 1776, church bells rang in the city of Philadelphia. The Declaration of Independence had been accepted by the Continental Congress. The United States said it was no longer ruled by Great Britain.

Thomas Jefferson had less than three weeks to write the Declaration of Independence. When he gave the document to the Continental Congress, Jefferson was asked to



make some changes. He had to change 47 words or phrases and add 3 new paragraphs. Congress then made 39 more changes to the document! Jefferson wasn't happy about these changes, but he did what the men asked.

The Declaration said that "all men are created equal" and everyone had the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." No one could take these rights away, not even a king. The Declaration listed all the unfair things the British king had done. Finally, it said the colonies were a free nation.

It took more than words for Americans to win their freedom. The Americans fought the British until 1783. Then a peace treaty was signed in Paris to end the war. Seven years after Thomas Jefferson declared the country's independence, the United States was truly free.

# Show <sup>What</sup> You Know!

Answer each question.

1 How much time did Jefferson have to write the Declaration?

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2 How many changes and additions did Congress ask Jefferson to make?

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3 How did Jefferson feel when Congress changed what he had written?  
Why do you think he felt this way?

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4 What rights does the Declaration say everyone has?

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5 When did the United States finally win its fight for freedom?

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# Independence Kriss-Kross

Fit the following words from the story into the grid below.  
We've put in the first word to get you started.

4-Letter Words

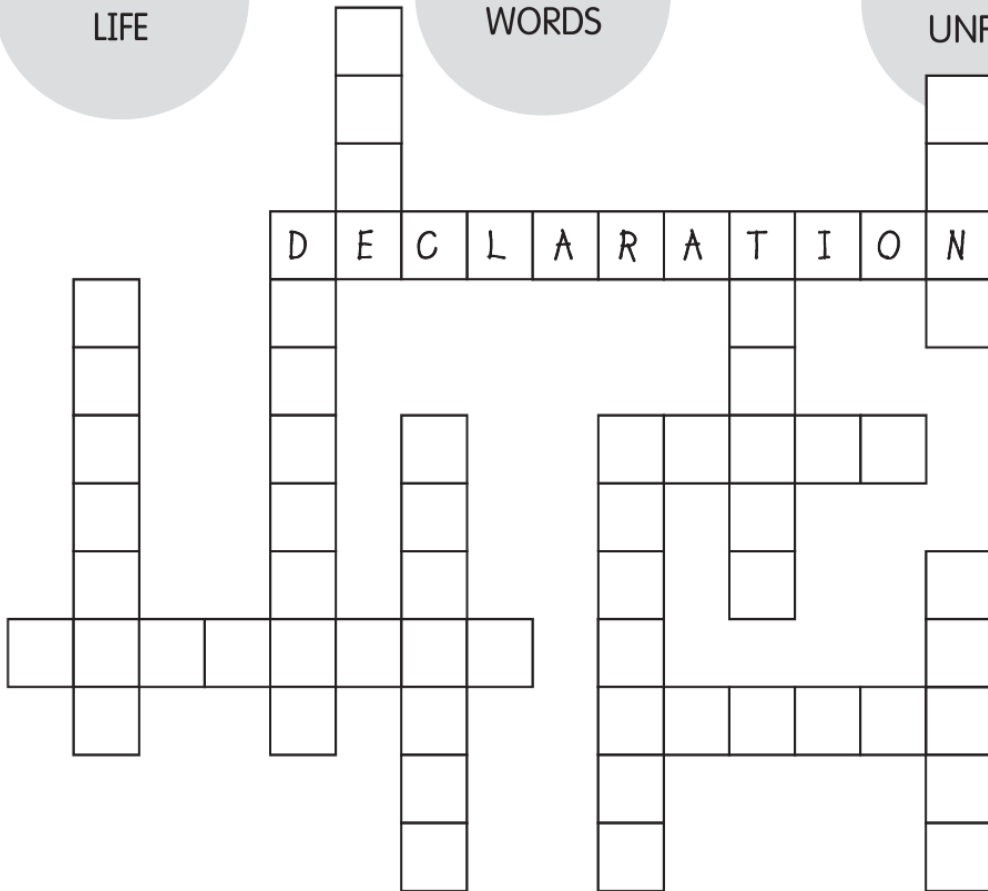
KING  
LIFE

5-Letter Words

PEACE  
WORDS

6-Letter Words

TREATY  
UNFAIR



7-Letter Words

FREEDOM  
LIBERTY  
PURSUIT

8-Letter Words

COLONIES  
DOCUMENT

11-Letter Word

DECLARATION

# Hidden Quills



Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence with a quill pen. A quill pen is made from a bird's feather, or quill. The tip is dipped into ink in order to write.

Find and color seven quill pens hidden in the picture below.



### Show What You Know!

Complete the crossword puzzle using words from the story.

**Across**

- Robert Helt designed a new flag for the **h i s t o r y** class.
- Today's flag has **f i f t y** stars.
- In 1788, the American flag had **f o r t y e i g h t** stars.
- The last two states admitted to the U.S. were **A l a s k a** and **H a w a i i**.

**Down**

- Robert Helt's **t e a c h e r** gave him a poor grade at first.
- The **s t a r s** on the flag represent the states.
- Helt's design was approved by the U.S. **C o n g r e s s**.

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### STARRY CODE

Use the numbered code below to figure out the name of a famous song about the U.S. flag.

12 x 12 = **144** = A    13 x 13 = **169** = I    16 x 16 = **256** = S  
 78 ÷ 94 = **132** = O    92 - 27 = **65** = N    201 - 128 = **8** = T  
 51 - 36 = **15** = E    108 - 84 = **45** = D    94 x 3 = **162** = Y  
 14 x 3 = **42** = F    25 + 24 = **49** = P  
 62 ÷ 81 = **131** = H    249 + 47 = **316** = R

**T H E S T A R S A N D S T R I P E S F O R E V E R**

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### The First U.S. FLAG

On June 14, 1777, Congress announced that the United States flag would have 13 red and white stripes and 13 white stars on a blue background. Today, we celebrate June 14 as Flag Day. Congress did not say how the stars should be arranged, so different flag designs with different designs. As new states joined the nation, each one demanded its own star. Can you find each of the original 13 states in the word search? The name of each state is listed below. After you find each state, color the star next to its name. Be sure to look in all directions!

CONNECTICUT     DELAWARE     GEORGIA     VIRGINIA  
 MARYLAND     MASSACHUSETTS     NEW HAMPSHIRE  
 NEW JERSEY     NEW YORK     NORTH CAROLINA  
 PENNSYLVANIA     RHODE ISLAND     SOUTH CAROLINA

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### Show What You Know!

Answer each question.

- How much time did Jefferson have to write the Declaration?  
**less than three weeks**
- How many changes and additions did Congress ask Jefferson to make?  
**89**
- How did Jefferson feel when Congress changed what he had written? Why do you think he felt this way?  
**unhappy - Answers will vary.**
- What rights does the Declaration say you have?  
**life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness**
- When did the United States finally win its fight for freedom?  
**1783**

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### Independence Kriss-Kross

Fill the following words from the story into the grid below. Write the first word to get you started.

Leather Words: KING LIFE, PEACE WORDS, TREATY UNFAIR  
 Leather Words: FREEDOM LIBERTY PURSUIT, COLONIES DOCUMENT, LEATHER WORDS: DECLARATION

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### Hidden Quills

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence with a quill pen. A quill pen is made from a bird's feather, or quill. The tip is dipped into ink in order to write. Find and color seven quill pens hidden in the picture below.

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### Show What You Know!

Fill in the blanks with words from the story to complete each sentence below. Then put the numbered letters in order to spell the name of another food George Washington Carver found many uses for.

- Cotton was the most popular crop in the **s o u t h e r n** United States.
- Carver was a **t e a c h e r** of Tuskegee Institute.
- The Tuskegee Institute was in **A l a b a m a**.
- Originally, peanuts were only used to **f e e d** animals.
- Carver found more than 300 **w a y s** to use peanuts.
- Carver once made a whole meal out of **p e a n u t s**.
- Peanuts soon became an important **c r o p**.

**s w e e t p o t a t o**  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

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### Spelling Bee

Use letters from George Washington Carver's name to spell the answers to the questions below. Each letter will be used only once, and all letters will be used.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER**

- Something to put flowers in: **v a s e**
- Opposite of dry: **n i g h t**
- Large black bird: **c r o w**
- Something a hen lays: **e g g**
- Opposite of far: **n e a r**
- Abbreviation of Oregon: **O R**

**M O R E S P E L L I N G F U N !**

How many words with four or more letters can you make using the letters in the answer on page 19?  
**Answers will vary.**

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### PEANUT MATCH-UP

Can you find the two jars of peanut butter that are the same? Circle them.

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