



THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FREEDOM ANSWER KEY

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR FREEDOMS?

1. Why do Americans celebrate the Fourth of July?

- a) It was the day the Revolutionary War ended**
- b) It was the day the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence**
- c) It was the day George Washington became the country's first president**

ANSWER: B.

2. Who wrote the original draft of the Declaration of Independence?

- a) Thomas Jefferson**
- b) Benjamin Franklin**
- c) John Hancock**

ANSWER: A.

3. How long did it take Thomas Jefferson to write the Declaration of Independence?

- a) A few days**
- b) A few months**
- c) About 2 1/2 weeks**

ANSWER: C. Jefferson was part of a committee chosen to write the Declaration. It was called the Committee of Five, but the other



four members appointed Jefferson to write the document while they offered changes and suggestions.

4. Who was on the committee chosen to write the Declaration of Independence with Thomas Jefferson?

- a) Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman.
- b) Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, John Hancock, and Paul Revere
- c) Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, John Hancock, and James Madison

ANSWER: A. Robert Livingston represented New York and Roger Sherman represented Connecticut in the Second Continental Congress.

5. One of the two delegates from New York and Connecticut never signed the Declaration of Independence. Which one?

- a) Robert Livingston
- b) Roger Sherman

ANSWER: A. Robert Livingston was called back to New York before the official signing.

6. When was the signing of the official Declaration of Independence completed?

- a) July 4, 1776
- b) July 5, 1776
- c) August 2, 1776.



ANSWER: C. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 3, 1776, but the signing was not completed until almost a month later.

- 7. Which dollar bill depicts the signing of the Declaration of Independence?**
- a) The \$50 bill**
 - b) The \$100 bill**
 - c) The \$2 bill**

ANSWER: C.

- 8. Who was president of the Second Continental Congress at the time the Declaration of Independence was adopted?**
- a) John Hancock**
 - b) John Adams**
 - c) Benjamin Franklin**

ANSWER: A. He was also the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence, and he did so in a large, flamboyant style so there would be no mistaking his name.

- 9. What two signers of the Declaration of Independence died within hours of each other?**
- a) John Adams and Thomas Jefferson**
 - b) John Adams and Roger Sherman**
 - c) Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock**

ANSWER: A. Both died on July 4, 1826.



10. What year was the Fourth of July declared a legal holiday?

- a) 1941
- b) 1935
- c) 1910

ANSWER: A.

11. What are the charters of freedom?

- a) The Declaration of Independence
- b) The United States Constitution
- c) The Bill of Rights
- d) All of the above

ANSWER: D. The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are the founding documents of our current political system. Some people consider them the documents that made America.

12. Which of the following is not included in the Declaration of Independence?

- a) A Declaration of Rights
- b) A list of previous petitions for redress
- c) A Bill of Indictment (Charges)
- d) Articles of Confederation

ANSWER: D. The Declaration begins with a preamble that identifies the “unalienable” rights of mankind. It then lists all of the charges, or complaints, against the King of Britain. It continues by identifying the multiple attempts by the colonies to raise their concerns and complaints against the King. It concludes with a statement declaring the



independence of the colonies. On the other hand, the Articles of Confederation is considered the first constitution of the thirteen United States of America.

13. In the preamble to the Declaration, what “self-evident truths,” or natural rights, were identified?

- a) All men are created equal**
- b) All men are endowed with certain unalienable rights**
- c) All men have a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness**
- d) All of the above**

ANSWER: D. The Declaration of Independence identified four specific rights that form the foundation of our political system. All Americans are created equal and have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

14. How are the rights identified in the Declaration “secured” or protected?

- a) Through militias**
- b) Through governments**
- c) Through churches**
- d) Through taxes**

ANSWER: B. The Declaration states that “to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” This means that the function of the government is to protect the unalienable rights of its people, and that the government’s power to do so flows from the consent of the people.

15. What documents identify the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?



- a) **The Fourteenth Amendment**
- b) **The Fifth Amendment**
- c) **The Declaration of Independence**
- d) **All of the above.**

ANSWER: D. The Declaration of Independence was one of the founding documents that stated all people have the right the life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Also, the Amendments to the United States Constitution contain two places where the right to life, liberty, and property are discussed: The Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. The United States Supreme Court has stated that the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment, which says that no State shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, also guarantees a right to the pursuit of happiness.

16. According to the Declaration, where does the government get its power?

- a) **From its Constitution**
- b) **From its military**
- c) **From its elected representatives**
- d) **From the consent of the governed**

ANSWER: D. The declaration states that the government's power comes from the consent of the people that it governs.

17. Do the people have a right to alter or abolish a government that deliberately fails to protect the rights of the people?

- a) **Yes, the people may institute a new government in any form that will best protect their safety and happiness.**



- b) No, the people must obey and follow their Government, even if it is violating their rights.**
- c) Yes, but only if the Government agrees to be changed.**
- d) Sometimes, if 75 percent of the people agree to changing the government.**

ANSWER: A. The Declaration identified the right to alter or abolish an abusive government and to institute a new government. The powers of the new government should be organized so that it will provide for the safety and happiness of the People. The Declaration further states that governments should not be altered for unimportant reasons, but only when the government treats its citizens improperly through a long list of “abuses and usurpations” that result in tyranny.

18. Which of the following important ideas are found in the Declaration of Independence?

- a) People are created equal and born with natural rights.**
- b) The power of government comes from the people.**
- c) The people can change their government if it harms their rights.**
- d) All of the above.**

ANSWER: D. The Declaration includes all of these important ideas.

19. What “charges” or wrongdoings did the Declaration assert that the King of Great Britain had committed?

- a) He had refused to approve laws that were necessary for the public good and to pass laws unless certain people gave up their right to representation in the Legislature.**
- b) He had imposed taxes on the colonies without their consent.**
- c) He had quartered large groups of armed military troops in the colonies without the approval of the colonies.**



d) All of the above.

ANSWER: D. The Declaration lists many actions by the King that injured and abused the colonies and prompted them to declare their independence from Britain.

20. How many grievances, or complaints, were listed in the Declaration of Independence?

- a) 21**
- b) 27**
- c) 32**
- d) 34**

ANSWER: B. All 27 grievances were addressed to King George III. However, many of them refer to acts of Parliament.

21. Which of the following powers are not specifically stated to belong to the new independent states of America?

- a) To levy war.**
- b) To pass laws and resolutions.**
- c) To establish commerce.**
- d) To contract alliances.**

ANSWER: B. The Declaration of Independence does not specifically state that the new independent states have the power to pass laws and resolutions. However, this power was implied.

22. The purpose of the Declaration of Independence was to obtain what?

- a) freedom**



- b) money
- c) land
- d) food

ANSWER: A. The colonists wanted freedom from the tyrannical British government. The Declaration asserted their independence and explained the reasons they were seeking freedom.

23. How many states participated in the Declaration?

- a) 6
- b) 25
- c) 13
- d) 50

ANSWER: C. The original 13 colonies joined together to form the United States of America.

The following terms are included within the Declaration. Select which of the answers is the correct definition of the term.

24. In the Conclusion, it states that: “We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.” What does the term acquiesce mean?

- a) Win a debate
- b) Request something
- c) Give a present
- d) Agree or consent without protest

ANSWER: D.



25. In the above quotation, what does the term “denounces” mean?

- a) condemn**
- b) approve**
- c) commend**
- d) compliment**

ANSWER: A.

26. In the Summation, the Declaration says 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.” In this context, what does the term “allegiance” mean?

- a) dishonesty**
- b) pledges**
- c) loyalty, faithfulness**
- d) responsibility**

ANSWER: C. The colonies were declaring that they were no longer loyal or faithful to the British government.

27. The Declaration states that the colonies had, “Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms.” What does redress mean?

- a) wearing the uniforms of the British military**
- b) to mail a document again**
- c) relief from wrong or injury; the setting right of what is wrong**
- d) to create an imbalance**

ANSWER: C. The colonists petitioned the British government to fix the injuries and wrongs of the Acts and taxes placed on them.



28. In the previous question, what does “petitioned” mean?

- a) addressed**
- b) requested**
- c) replied**
- d) answered**

ANSWER: B. A petition is a formally drawn request for something. In a court of law, it is a request for a court order or for particular judicial action. Here, the colonists had formally requested, on several occasions, that the British government consider their concerns and complaints.

29. The Declaration states that the colonies appeal “to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions.” Here, what does rectitude mean?

- a) characteristic of being wrong**
- b) characteristic of being untrustworthy**
- c) characteristic of being kind**
- d) characteristic of being correct or right**

ANSWER: D.

30. In the conclusion, the Declaration says, “They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity.” What does consanguinity mean?

- a) close relationship or connection**
- b) a relationship by marriage**
- c) discord**
- d) estrangement**

ANSWER: A.



31. Which of the following was the beginning of open hostilities between the colonies and Great Britain?

- a) The Civil War**
- b) The American Revolutionary War.**
- c) The French and Indian War**
- d) The Vietnam War**

ANSWER: C. The French and Indian War, which is also known as the Seven Years War, began in 1754 and lasted until 1763. The English and the French were battling for control of the colonies in North America. Although England obtained control of the colonial outposts, the resulting debt of the war caused England to heavily tax to colonies to recover the costs expended on the battle over North America.

32. Who was king of England at the time the colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence?

- a) George III**
- b) George IV**
- c) George V**
- d) George I**

ANSWER: A. George III. The Declaration addresses each grievance, or complaint, to King George III.

33. Which law did the British Parliament pass to pay off the massive national debt from the Seven Years War?

- a) The Penny Act**
- b) The Postage Act**
- c) The Stamp Act**



d) The Tax Act

ANSWER: C. The Stamp Act was passed in 1765 as Britain's first serious attempt to assert governmental authority over the colonies and to collect money to pay for the Seven Years War.

34. What did the Stamp Act of 1765 force all American colonists to pay a tax on?

- a) Printed paper**
- b) Tobacco**
- c) Postage stamps**
- d) Tea and sugar**

ANSWER: A. The Stamp Act required American colonists to pay a tax on every piece of printed paper they used, including ship's papers, legal documents, licenses, newspapers, publications, and playing cards.

35. What did the colonists mean when they called on the British government for "No taxation without representation"?

- a) They did not want to pay any taxes to the British.**
- b) They thought the taxes they had to pay were too expensive.**
- c) They did not want to be taxed for things if they did not have a representative voice in deciding what taxes would be imposed.**
- d) They wanted the taxes to be higher.**

ANSWER: C. In October of 1765, nine colonies sent people to a meeting in New York City to talk about the Stamp Act. The representatives of the colonies decided that the British Parliament could not tax the American colonies because the colonies lacked representation in Parliament. James Otis, a Boston lawyer, coined the phrase: "No taxation without representation." After this meeting, the colonies sent a letter asking



Britain to repeal the Stamp Act, but the British responded by placing new taxes on the colonies.

36. What was one of the first violent encounters between the colonists and the British in 1773?

- a) The Snowball Stampede**
- b) The Virginia Tea Party**
- c) The St. Valentine's Day Massacre**
- d) The Boston Massacre**

ANSWER: D. The Boston Massacre occurred in 1770 and symbolized one of the first violent encounters between the American colonists and the British. A crowd of colonists were throwing snowballs at British soldiers. The soldiers fired shots at the colonies, killing five people and wounding many more.

37. In 1773, how did the colonies react to the British government's decision to allow the British East India Company to send tea to the colonies without paying taxes?

- a) They ordered as much tea from the East India Company as possible.**
- b) They dressed as Mohawk Indians, boarded a tea ship in the Boston Harbor, and threw more than 300 chests of tea into the water.**
- c) They protested by leaving 300 chests of tea in front of the Parliament building in England.**
- d) They began to drink coffee.**

ANSWER: B. This event became known as the Boston Tea Party. It was an important event that led to the start of the Revolutionary War.



38. Which of the following was not one the "Intolerable Acts" passed by the British Parliament to punish the colonies for defying British policy?

- a) Closing the port of Boston to trade**
- b) Revoking the right of the colonists to elect representatives to the British Parliament**
- c) Prohibiting town meetings**
- d) Requiring the colonists to quarter, or house, British soldiers**

ANSWER: B. In response to the Boston Tea Party, the British government passed a series of acts to punish Boston for the illegal destruction of private property and to restore British Authority in Massachusetts. In 1774, Parliament passed the Boston Port Act, which closed the port of Boston until the East India Company had been repaid for the destroyed tea. The Massachusetts Government Act unilaterally altered the government of Massachusetts to be under the control of the British government and also limited the activities of town meetings. The Administration of Justice Act allowed the governor to move the venue for trials of accused royal officials to other colonies or Great Britain if necessary to ensure a fair trial. The Quartering Act allowed a governor to house soldiers in privately owned buildings if suitable quarters were not available.

39. The Declaration of Independence was written during which American war?

- a) The Civil War**
- b) The American Revolutionary War.**
- c) The French and Indian War**
- d) The Vietnam War**



ANSWER: B. The colonists began fighting England in April of 1775, more than a year before the Declaration of Independence was written and adopted in July of 1776.

40. What was the name of the armed volunteers who fought for the rights of the colonists?

- a) Redcoats**
- b) Republicans**
- c) Minutemen**
- d) Loyalists**

ANSWER: C. The Minutemen were some of the first people to fight in the American Revolutionary war. They are perhaps most famous for the ride of Paul Revere, a minuteman who spread the news across the colonies that the British soldiers were coming.