

**Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 by, John Trumbull**  
**Artwork Viewing Guide**

<b>Artwork</b>	<b>Specific Evidence from the Painting</b>	<b>Complete Sentence</b>
What do you think is going on in this painting?		
What is the issue on which it is focusing?		
What is the action that is taking place?		
Do you see any familiar people or objects?		

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

**The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,**

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, ..., a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.— That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent 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 abolish it, and to institute new Government...But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security... The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

...He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

...He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

... He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

... He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

... For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

...For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent.

...For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States...And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

\* Really Important Words

## Declaration of Independence: Understanding Vocabulary in Context

Term	Definition as it appears in context.
* abolish	
assent	
* consent of the governed	
deprive	
derive	
despotism	
dissolve	
* endow	
impel	
institute	
oppression	
quarter	
rectitude	
self-evident	
* tyranny	
* tyrant	
* unalienable (inalienable) rights	
* usurpation	

Completing the rest of the definition is worth bonus points!!



Primary Source Document Analysis Worksheet

*Directions Use A copy of the Declaration of Independence online to answer these questions*

Document Title: Declaration of Independence

1.	<p>What type of document is this? (check one): *VISUAL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper    <input type="checkbox"/> Report    <input type="checkbox"/> Memo    <input type="checkbox"/> Letter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain): _____</p>
2.	<p>What are some unique <u>visual</u> characteristics of this document? (check all that apply) *VISUAL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Interesting Letterhead    <input type="checkbox"/> Handwritten    <input type="checkbox"/> Typed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Seals/Stamps    <input type="checkbox"/> Notations    <input type="checkbox"/> Signatures</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> "Received" Stamp    <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain): _____</p>
3.	<p>What is the date of this document?</p>
4.	<p>Who is the author (or creator) of this document? *TEXT</p> <p>What is their position? What words does the author use to make their position known to the reader?</p>
5.	<p>Who is intended to read this? Do you think they read it? *TEXT</p>

6. Key Information – Using the document, answer the questions that follow: \*TEXT

A. What is the author’s purpose for writing this document?

B. What evidence helps you understand why it was written? (Choose a specific quote from the document)

C. How is the concept of “natural rights” discussed in this document? (Choose a specific quote from the document)

D. How are “natural rights” and the government connected? (Choose a specific quote from the document)

E. What are some grievances that the colonists express in the document?

F. Which grievances listed violate the colonists “natural rights”?

G. What were the colonists willing to give up by signing this document?