

PBS Lesson Series

ELA, Grade 2, Lesson 16

Teacher Packet

The Declaration of Independence

and the First Fourth of July

By Michael A. Signal

Three men worked late into the night. They read and reread,



Did you know that during the American Revolution the American flag had only 13 stars to represent the 13 colonies?

making final changes to the document. It had to be perfect before all thirteen colonies would approve it. Thomas Jefferson had written most of the text, but John Adams and Benjamin Franklin reviewed the declaration to help make changes. They had been working for days. The candles lighting the room flickered and grew short. The summer air was hot and uncomfortable, but still

the men continued.

Finally, the document was ready for the colonies' representatives to read and approve. By the afternoon of July 4th, 1776, they had done just that. The thirteen British colonies had



Word Inquiry





Word Inquiry

- What does the word mean?
- How is it built?
- What other related words can you think of?
- What are the sounds that matter?

declaration - an explanation, a statement,
action of stating clearly

clar = clarus = clear

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un	de	clare "clear"	ed	
			ing	
			s	
			tion	s
			tive	

Word Building Rules

- Read a matrix from left to right.
- Make only single, complete words from a matrix.
- If you are unsure that a word you build is a real word, check a dictionary.
- You don't have to take an element from every column of a matrix – BUT
 - you must not 'leapfrog' over a column
 - you must WATCH THE JOINS – sometimes changes happen where you add a suffix

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un	de	clare "clear"	ed	
			ing	
			s	
			tion	s
			tive	

declaration
declare
declares
declared

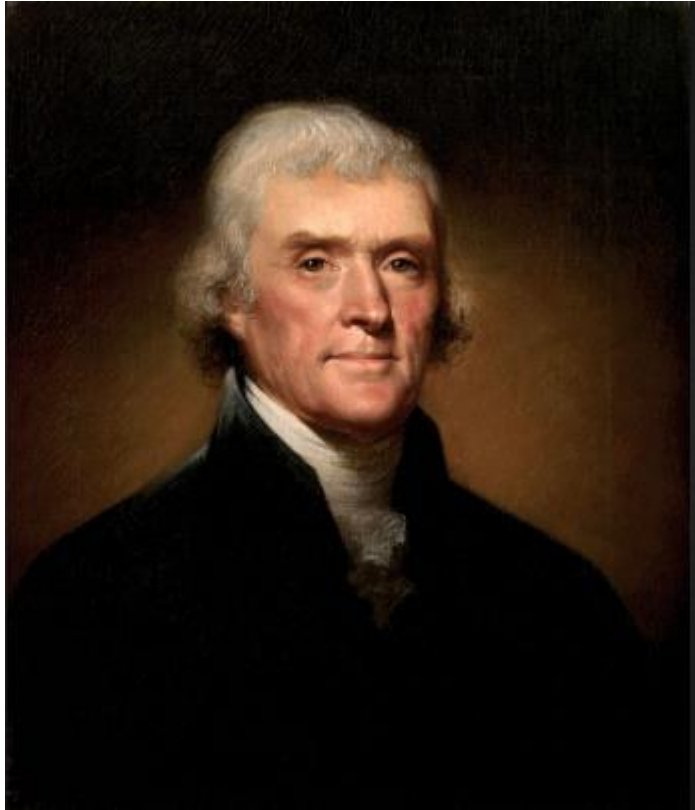
declaring
declarative
undeclared
declarations

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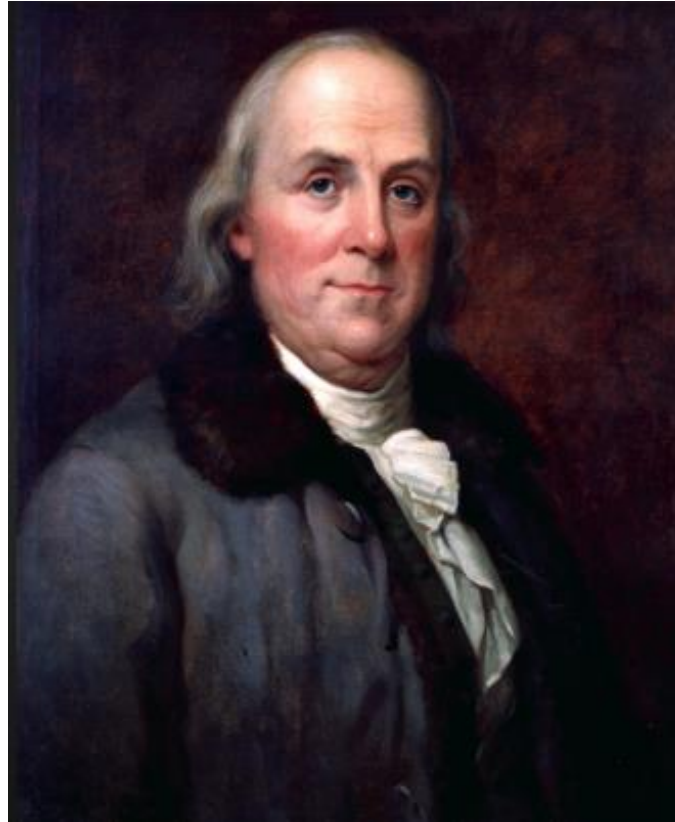


Did you know that during the American Revolution the American flag had only 13 stars to represent the 13 colonies?

Thomas
Jefferson



Benjamin
Franklin



John
Adams



Finally, the document was ready for the colonies' representatives to read and approve. By the afternoon of July 4th, 1776, they had done just that. The thirteen British colonies had decided not to be British anymore. They had declared their independence. America was born.

The British had been at war with the thirteen American colonies for over a year before the colonies declared their independence, or freedom. The Battle of Lexington marked the start of the American Revolution on April 19, 1775. The colonies had fought many battles against the British army since then, and the colonists knew that they didn't want to be ruled by the king of Britain anymore. But it still took fifteen months for the colonies to declare their independence.

Independent Practice

According to the article, what is the Declaration of Independence?

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- The Declaration of Independence is a written document announcing America's freedom from Britain. Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams worked to make it perfect, so representatives from the colonies would approve it.

Independent Practice

According to the article, what is the Declaration of Independence?

The Declaration of Independence is a written document announcing America's freedom from Britain.

- Did you use the definition of the word declaration, announcement, in your answer?
- Did you use the definition of the word independence, freedom, in your answer?
- Did you join together "an important announcement" with "freedom"?

Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams worked to make it perfect, so representatives from the colonies would approve it.

- Did you include important historical people and events?