

LEARNING ACTIVITY

Interrogating the Sources: Versions of the Declaration of Independence



AMERICAN
PHILOSOPHICAL
SOCIETY

Library
& Museum

INTERROGATING THE SOURCES: VERSIONS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Introduction

The Declaration is a founding document of the United States.

But, did you know that there are many versions of the Declaration? What are the differences between the versions?

Which one do you feel is the most official?

Each version of the Declaration has differences and a history of its own. This activity takes you through the early history of printing and sharing the Declaration. It provides information to help you find the differences between four of these versions.

Content warning (racist language): We acknowledge that, as an author, politician, and Revolutionary, Thomas Jefferson was trying to build a very strong case for American Independence. At the same time, we acknowledge that his language and actions are heavy with contradictions and have caused harm to many. The document, in its many editions, asserts in the first line that "all men are created equal," but it is subject to the legacy of its authors and to the nation that was established on stolen land and through the enslavement, displacement, and disfranchisement of hundreds of thousands of human beings.

LEARNING ACTIVITY CONTENT

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Inquiry Design Model (IDM)		
Compelling question: Which printed version of the Declaration of Independence do you feel is the most official?		
PA State Aligned System standards: 5.1.6.F: Describe how citizens and leaders use political symbols. 5.1.7.F: Describe how the media uses political symbols to influence public opinion. 5.1.8.F: Analyze how political symbols are used by the media and leaders to influence public opinion. 8.3.6-9, 12.B: Evaluate the importance of historical documents, artifacts and places critical to United States history.		
Staging the Question: Discuss what it means that a document is “official” and what we might look for to prove a document is official.		
Supporting question #1:	Supporting question #2:	Supporting question #3:
What are the visual differences between these four versions of the Declaration?	What do the printers do to show that the document is official?	What makes each version official?
Formative performance task:	Formative performance task:	Formative performance task:
- Examine the four versions provided. Take notes on the differences you see. - Compare and contrast the differences between versions.	- Review the Timeline provided. - Discuss the timing of each printing and how the public might have encountered each version.	- Review the historical background provided. - Discuss the history of each version, the motivations of the printers, and what makes them “official.”
Featured sources:	Featured sources:	Featured sources:
Images of the four versions provided.	Timeline provided.	Historical background provided.
Summative performance task	Select one of the four versions of the Declaration provided. Construct an argument for why that version is an official Declaration.	
	Extension: Further explore the meaning of “official” in our modern world by comparing and contrasting a local government document with a social media post by a local government officer. How do they differ? What do the authors do to make them “official”? What gives these two documents their “official” nature?	

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. What are the visual differences between these four versions of the Declaration?

- Examine the four versions of the Declaration provided. Take notes on the differences you observe.
- Compare and contrast the differences you observed between these versions of the Declaration.

2. What do the printers do to show that the document is official?

- Review the Timeline provided.
- Discuss the timing of each printing and how the public might have encountered each version.

3. What makes each version official?

- Review the historical background provided.
- Discuss the history of each version, the motivations of the printers, and what makes them “official.”

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
A DECLARATION

PRIMARY SOURCES

- July 4-5, 1776 printing by John Dunlap
- July 6, 1776 newspaper printing in the Pennsylvania Evening Post
- January 1777 broadside by Mary Katherine Goddard, signed by John Hancock and Charles Thompson
- 1823 engraving by William J. Stone, commissioned by John Quincy Adams.

July 4-5, 1776 printing by John Dunlap
Single sheet of paper, 44.45 x 29.85 cm, 17.5 in x 11.75 in

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
A DECLARATION
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve 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 entitle them, 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, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. 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. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. 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 his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.
He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

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 called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

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

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us;

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States;

For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World;

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent;

For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury;

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences;

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies;

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments;

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.

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.

Now have we been wanting in Attention to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by our Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. 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.

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; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. 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.

Signed by ORDER and in BEHALF of the CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

ATTEST.
CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

PHILADELPHIA: PRINTED BY JOHN DUNLAP.

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The PENNSYLVANIA EVENING POST.

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Vol. II.]

SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1776.

[Num. 228.]

In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.
A Declaration by the Representatives
of the United States of America,
in General Congress assembled.

WHEN, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve 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 entitle them, 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, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. 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. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. 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 his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and, when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

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 called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

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

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependant on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states:

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing taxes on us without our consent:

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury:

For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighbouring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies:

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments:

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is, at this time, transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and

(336)

perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow citizens taken captive on the high seas to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

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.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connexions and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. 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.

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 INDEPENDANT STATES; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connexion between them and the state of Great-Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that, as FREE AND INDEPENDANT STATES, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which INDEPENDANT STATES may of right do. 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.

Signed by ORDER and in BEHALF of CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

Attest. CHARLES THOMSON, Sec.

TO be SOLD, the brigantine TWO FRIENDS. She is a prime sailer, but three years old, and carries nine hundred and fifty or a thousand barrels of flour.

The schooner MARY ANN. She is a prime sailer, but four years old, and carries four hundred and fifty barrels of flour.

The schooner is loaded and ready to go, and will be sold with her cargo, or alone. She has an inventory suitable and complete. The brig may be fitted for sea with a very small expence, and the schooner requires none. Both vessels are very good, but any gentleman inclining to purchase may have them viewed by proper persons. Inquire for Mr. JOHN PARRY, on board the brig, at Vine-street wharf.

TO be SOLD, a Quantity of very fine TIMOTHY HAY of this year's growth. Inquire of the printer,

A FEW Hogheads and Barrels of JAMAICA SUGAR, of the best quality, to be sold by DAVID SPROAT.

HYNS TAYLOR, UPHOLSTERER, in Second-street between Market and Arch streets (late from Saint James's, London) begs leave, by this method, to inform his friends and the public in general, that he makes up all kind of furniture in the newest fashion, viz. dome, tea-set; drapery, Venetian, Gothic, canopy, four-post and couch beds, also field and camp beds, all sorts of mattresses, Venetian and festoon window curtains, and every other article of household furniture, on the most reasonable terms.

AMELIA TAYLOR, MILANER and MANTUA MAKER, makes up all sorts of milanery goods, viz. childbed linen, childrens robes, jams, frocks, vests and tunics, gentlemen's shirts, frocks, gloves, and all kind of needlework, in the very neatest manner.—For sale, some fine Holland shirts full trimmed.

N. B. Part of a house to be let, with good cellars, &c.

TO be LET, a Lot of good Grass Ground, in Spring-garden, containing near four acres, with a commodious Brick House, two stories high, four rooms on a floor, Barns, Stables, Smoke House, Garden, and two Pumps of good Water, lately occupied by William Shipley. For farther particulars inquire of David Pancoast, in Fourth-street, between Race and Vine-streets.

ISAAC HAZLEHURST has for sale, at his store in Water-street, the fifth door above Market-street, COFFEE of the best quality, Muscovado SUGARS in hogheads, tierces and barrels, MOLASSES, CINNAMON, POWDER BLUE, and a few hogheads of exceeding good Jamaica SPIRITS five years old. June 15, 1776.

A SILVER FACED WATCH, larger than the common size, maker's name James Gerrard, London, No. 1919, was LOST out of the subscriber's house on the ninth inst. It is supposed to be stolen by a person in company with two others, who are known to pass by early that morning. Any person who shall have it offered to him for sale, is desired to stop it, and on delivering it to Joseph Steward in Hanover township, Burlington county, New-Jersey, or to the printer, shall have FOUR DOLLARS reward.

TO be SOLD, by Attmore and Helling's, at their store on the wharf, a few doors below Chestnut-street, Bar Iron, American blister, spring, and square Steel, sheet and rod Iron, Bake Plates, Iron Tea Kettles, Dutch Ovens, Pots, Kettles, and Skillets. Tea at the price limited by Congress, loaf and brown Sugars, Molasses, French Brandy, Fyrl Wine, Nutmegs, Spermaceti and Whale Oil, Mackarel, &c. &c. &c.

MUSCOVADO SUGAR and COFFEE in hogheads, excellent HYSOON TEA in quarter chests, PIMENTO, CHOCOLATE and PEPPER, Madeira WINE, in pipes and quarter casks, and a few quarter casks of choice French BRANDY, to be sold by Samuel Garrigues, jun. and Co. in Market-street, near the London Coffee-house.

A QUANTITY of INDIGO to be sold by James Gallagher, in Front-street, the corner of Spruce-street.

Goddard Broadside, January 1777
Single sheet of paper, 54 x 44 cm or 21.3 x 17.3 in

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, 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 entitle them, 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, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that Governments long established, should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are tolerable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. 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. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. 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.

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and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us:
For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World:
For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:
For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences:
For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:
For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

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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; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of Right do. 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 Honour.

John Hancock.

GEORGIA, { Batten Gwinnett,
Lyman Hall,
Geo. Walton.
NORTH-CAROLINA, { Wm. Hooper,
Joseph Hewes,
John Penn.
SOUTH-CAROLINA, { Edward Rutledge,
Thos. Heyward, junr.
Thomas Lynch, junr.
Arthur Middleton.
MARYLAND, { Samuel Chase,
Wm. Paca,
Thos. Sim, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton.

VIRGINIA, { George Wythe,
Richard Henry Lee,
Thos. Jefferson,
Benja. Harrison,
Thos. Nelson, jr.
Francis Lightfoot Lee,
Cartor Braxton.
PENNSYLVANIA, { Robt. Morris,
Benjamin Rush,
Benja. Franklin,
John Martin,
Geo. Clymer,
Jas. Smith,
Geo. Taylor,
James Wilson,
Geo. Ross.

DELAWARE, { Cesar Rodney,
Geo. Read.
NEW-YORK, { Wm. Floyd,
Phil. Livingston,
Fran. Lewis,
Lewis Morris.
NEW-JERSEY, { Richd. Stockton,
Jas. Witherspoon,
Fran. Hopkinson,
John Hart,
Abra. Clark.
NEW-HAMPSHIRE, { Josiah Bartlett,
Wm. Whipple,
Matthew Thornton.

MASSACHUSETTS, { Saml. Adams,
John Adams,
Robt. Treat Paine,
Elbridge Gerry.
RHODE-ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE, &c. { Step. Hopkins,
William Ellery.
CONNECTICUT, { Roger Sherman,
Saml. Huntington,
Wm. Williams,
Oliver Wolcott.

IN CONGRESS, JANUARY 18, 1777.

ORDERED, THAT an authenticated Copy of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCY, with the Names of the MEMBERS of CONGRESS, subscribing the same, be sent to each of the UNITED STATES, and that they be desired to have the same put on RECORD.

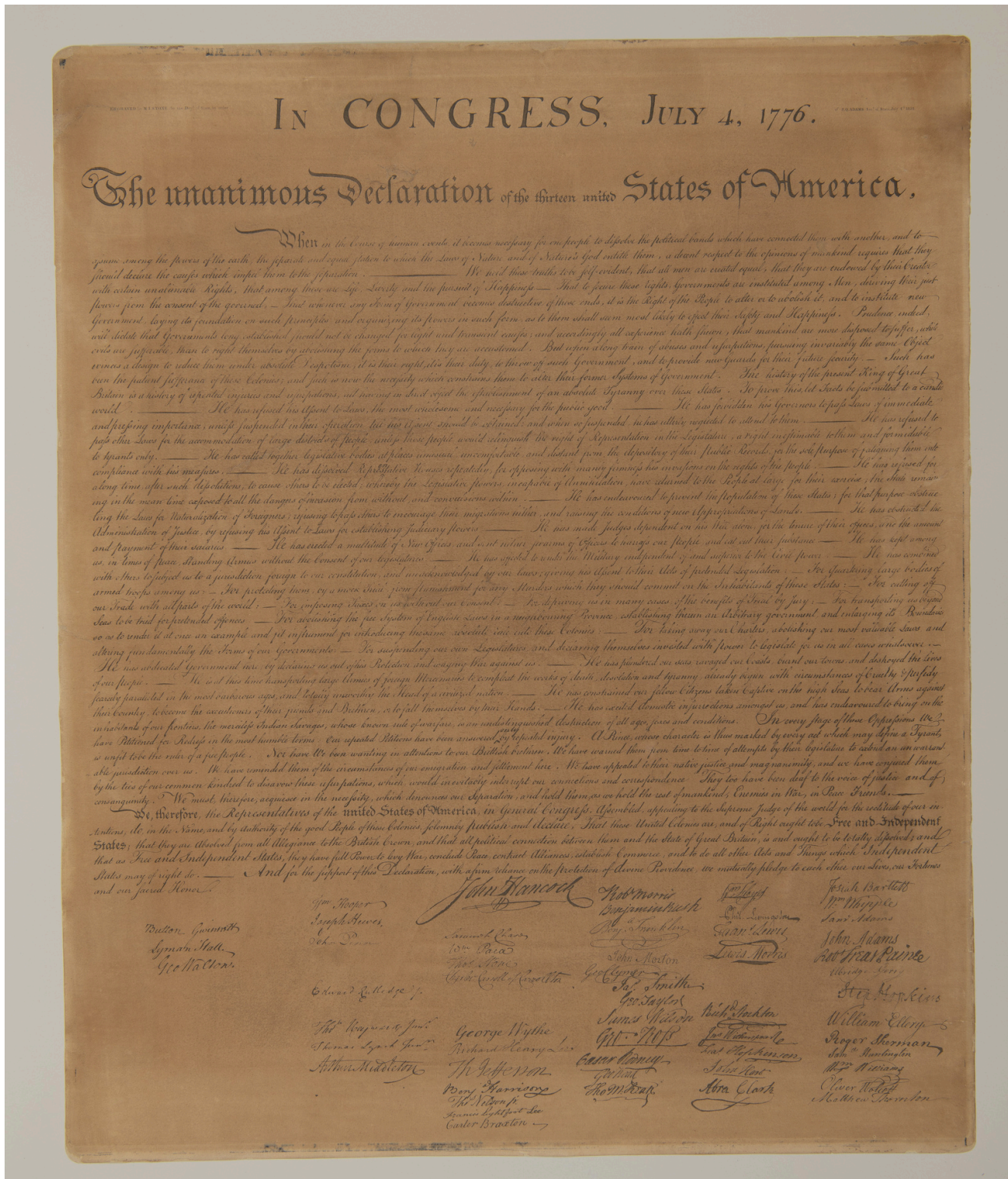
By Order of CONGRESS,

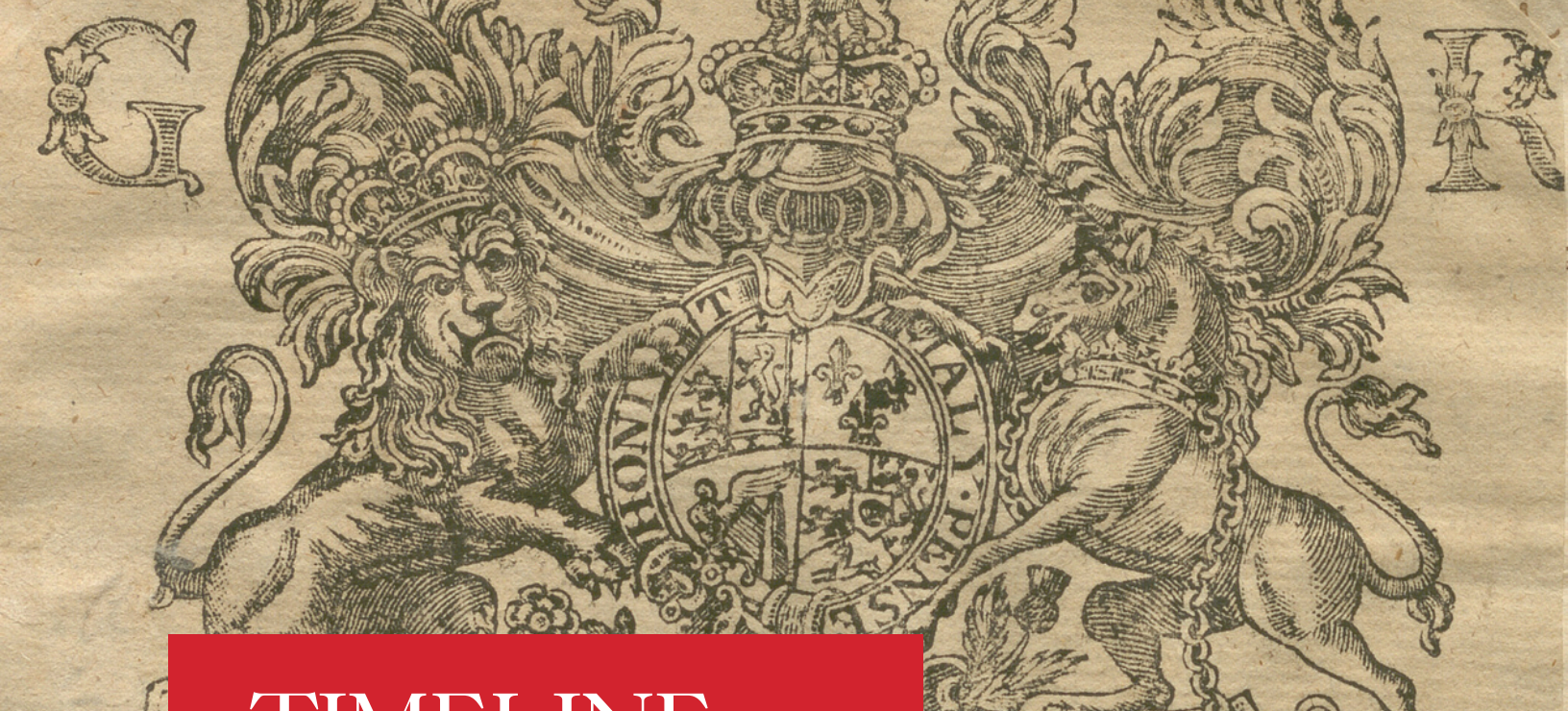
JOHN HANCOCK, President.

Mar. Williamson
John Hancock

BALTIMORE, in MARYLAND: Printed by MARY KATHARINE GODDARD.

Single sheet of paper, 80 x 65.4 cm, 31.5 x 25.75 in



The background of the slide features a detailed black and white engraving of the Royal Coat of Arms of Great Britain. It depicts a shield supported by a lion on the left and a unicorn on the right, both wearing crowns and holding a shield. Above the shield is a crown, and the entire emblem is surrounded by ornate scrollwork and floral patterns. In the top left corner, there is a small decorative initial 'G' and in the top right corner, a small decorative initial 'R'.

TIMELINE

- November 1, 1765: Stamp Act goes into effect in the colonies
- March 5, 1770: Boston Massacre
- December 16, 1773: Boston Tea Party
- April 19, 1775: Battle of Lexington and Concord marks the beginning of The Revolutionary War in Massachusetts
- May 10, 1775: Second Continental Congress convenes
- July 5, 1775: Congress adopts the Olive Branch Petition to voice the colonists' frustrations with British rule
- August 1775: King George III proclaims the colonies in rebellion
- June 11, 1776: Congress appoints the Committee of Five to draft the Declaration of Independence
- July 2, 1776: Congress votes unanimously to declare independence from Great Britain

TIMELINE

- July 4, 1776: Congress approves the Declaration of Independence explaining the reasons behind this significant decision
- July 4-5, 1776: John Dunlap works through the night to print 200 broadsides of the Declaration to distribute.
- July 6, 1776: The Declaration is printed in a newspaper for the first time. The newspaper is Benjamin Towne's Pennsylvania Evening Post.
- July 8, 1776: John Nixon reads the Declaration aloud to a crowd outside the State House (now Independence Hall).
- August 2, 1776: Delegates begin to sign the parchment copy of the Declaration. It takes several months to gather all the delegates' signatures. The last is added in January 1777.
- January 18, 1777: Congress asks Baltimore printer Mary Katharine Goddard to print the first copies of the Declaration with the names of the signers.



- October 17, 1777: The Continental Army force the British forces at Ticonderoga, New York, to surrender. This turns the tide of the war.
- February 6, 1778: Alliance with France



TIMELINE

- October 19, 1781: British General Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown, Virginia
- September 3, 1783: Treaty of Paris is ratified. This officially ends the Revolutionary War.
- May 25 - September 17, 1787: Constitutional Convention meets to create the U.S. Constitution
- June 18, 1812: U.S. declares war on Great Britain. They are fighting over territory in North America as the U.S. tried to expand its borders north and west.
- August 24, 1814: The British Navy burns Washington, D.C. including the White House and the U.S. Capitol. The fires destroyed the Library of Congress, but the Declaration and other vital documents had already been moved out of the city.

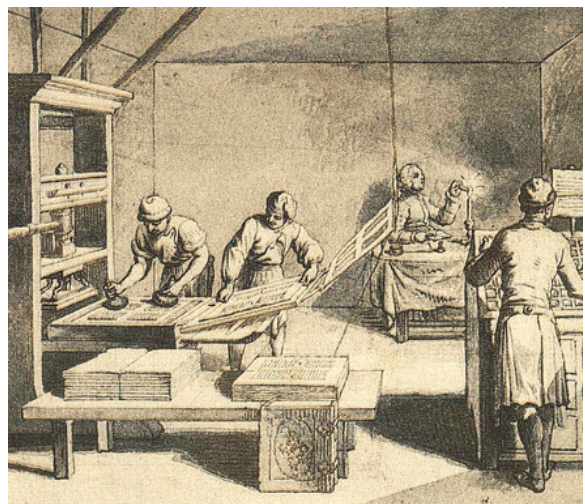


- March 6, 1820: Congress increases tensions over slavery by passing the Missouri Compromise. This allowed slavery in Missouri and banned slavery in Maine. Both anti-slavery and pro-slavery politicians use the language of the Declaration to make their cases.
- July 4, 1826: 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

■ John Dunlap

- Born in Ireland in 1746, John Dunlap came to Philadelphia in 1756 as an apprentice to his uncle, William Dunlap, who was a printer and bookseller. John took over the business in 1766.
- He published newspapers, broadsides, books, and other materials.
- In 1776, John was contracted by the Continental Congress to make the first public printing of the Declaration of Independence. He received the handwritten copy of the Declaration in the evening of July 4 and worked through the night to produce several hundred copies. These copies are called the Dunlap Broadside. A broadside is single sheet flyer or poster used as a form of public announcement.
- Dunlap Broadside were distributed to officials throughout the colonies. They were used for public readings of the Declaration on July 8, 1776.
- During the war, John served in the First City Troop and fought at the battles of Trenton and Princeton. He was also one of the main printers for Congress.
- In 1787 he was hired by the Constitutional Convention to publish the first printings of the U.S. Constitution.



Benjamin Towne and the Pennsylvania Evening Post

- Benjamin Towne's print shop was located on Front Street near the intersection with High Street (or Market Street today).
- The Pennsylvania Evening Post was a newspaper that ran from 1775 to 1784. It was printed three times a week. In 1783, Benjamin began printing the newspaper every day making it the first daily newspaper in the United States.
- It was the first newspaper to publish the Declaration of Independence on July 6, 1776.
- The Pennsylvania Evening Post published materials in support of the American Revolution.
- The British occupied Philadelphia from November 1777 through June 1778. Benjamin was one of the few printers who remained in the city. However, the paper changed sides to support the British.
- After the British left Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council charged Benjamin with treason. Since he was one of the only printers left in the city, he was also chosen to print the same list of traitors that he was on. The charge was later dropped.

(231)
The PENNSYLVANIA EVENING POST.

Price FIFTEEN PENCE.

Vol. IV.]

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 1778.

[Numb. 504.]

In CONGRESS, June 11, 1778.

A LETTER of the ninth from general Washington, inclosing a letter of the ninth to him from gen. sir Henry Clinton, informing that the earl of Carlisle, William Eden and governor Johnstone, three of the commissioners for restoring peace between Great Britain and America, are arrived in Philadelphia, and requesting a passport for doctor Ferguson, their secretary, with a letter from them to congress, and a copy of general Washington's answer, desiring to grant a passport till the pleasure of congress is known, was read.

Ordered, That the same be referred to a committee of three.

June 12. The committee to whom was referred the letter of the ninth from general Washington, with the papers inclosed, brought in a report, which was taken into consideration, and, after debate,—Resolved, That the farther consideration thereof be postponed.

Saturday, June 13. Congress resumed the consideration of

an act for the better regulating the government of the province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England." The other two the same as the bills already published.—The letters are as follow :

To his excellency HENRY LAURENS, the president, and other the members of congress.

Gentlemen,

WITH an earnest desire to stop the farther effusion of blood and the calamities of war, we communicate to you, with the least possible delay after our arrival in this city, a copy of the commission with which his majesty is pleased to honour us, as also the acts of parliament on which it is founded. And, at the same time that we assure you of our most earnest desire to re-establish, on the basis of equal freedom and mutual safety, the tranquillity of this once happy empire, you will observe that we are vested with powers equal to the purpose, and such as are even unprecedented in the annals of our history.

In the present state of our affairs, though fraught with

■ Mary Katharine Goddard

- Mary Goddard was born in Connecticut in 1738. In 1762, her younger brother, William, started a printing press and newspaper in Providence, Rhode Island. He soon left it to his mother and sister to run while he traveled.
- In 1770 Mary followed her brother to Philadelphia and then Baltimore. He would start a printing press, and then she would run it.
- In 1774 Mary and William Goddard started the newspapers the Maryland Journal and the Baltimore Advertiser.
- William left (again) in 1775. On May 10, 1775, Mary took full credit as publisher by printing her own name.
- In 1775 Mary also became the first woman postmaster in the colonies. In this role she was often one of the first people in Baltimore to hear important news, like the report of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. This was important for her newspapers.
- In 1777, Congress hired Mary to produce the first printing of the Declaration of Independence that included all the names of the signers. This is now called the Goddard Broadside.
- Mary ran the press, its publications, and a bookshop until 1784.
- She continued as postmaster for Baltimore until 1789 when the new federal government decided the role was unsuitable for a woman. She then ran her own bookshop in Baltimore until her death in 1816.
- Mary enslaved a woman named Belinda Starling. Mary freed Belinda upon her death and left Belinda all her property.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

■ William J. Stone

- After the War of 1812 and the burning of Washington, D.C., there was a renewed feeling of patriotism in the country. This was nearly 50 years after the signing of the Declaration. Many of the signers had died. The original Declaration was fading and becoming fragile. There was a desire to make reproductions of the Declaration available. Several printers published their own decorative printings of the Declaration to capitalize on these feelings.
- In 1820 Secretary of State John Quincy Adams decided there needed to be an official reproduction made. He hired William Stone, an engraver in Washington, to make a replica of the original handwritten text and signatures.
- William was born in London in 1798 and came to the US in 1804. He started his workshop in Washington in 1815 and received many commissions from the federal government.
- It took William three years to create his engraving. It closely reproduced the original handwriting. No one is sure how he did it.
- The State Department used William's engraving to print 200 copies on parchment (animal skin). The original Declaration was also written on parchment.
- These copies were given to the three surviving signers of the Declaration (Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Charles Carroll), current and former presidents, the Marquis de Lafayette, Congress, the Supreme Court, several government departments, state governors, state legislatures, and universities and colleges.

IMAGE CREDITS



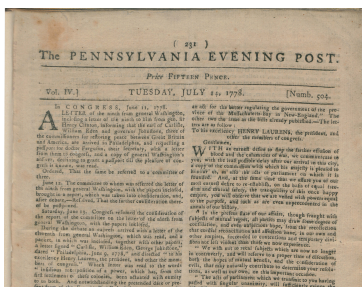
The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Print Collection, The New York Public Library. "John Nixon reading the Declaration of Independence to the people in front of the State House immediately after its passage." New York Public Library Digital Collections.

British Burning Washington
Paul M. Rapin de Thoyras, 1816
from *The History of England, from the
Earliest Periods, Volume 1*
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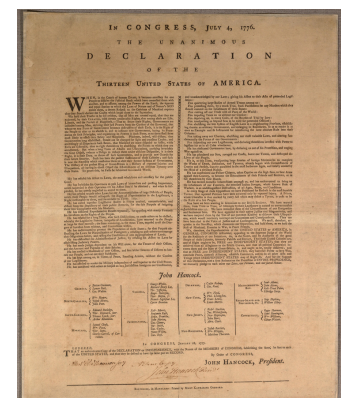


Newspaper clipping of Royal Coat of Arms for King George III
In John Brown's Receipt Book 2, page 19
American Philosophical Society

Daniel Chodowiecki 1770
from *62 bisher unveröffentlichte
Handzeichnungen zu dem
Elementarwerk von Johann Bernhard
Basedow.*
Wikimedia Commons



The Pennsylvania Evening Post, July 14,
1778
Issue 504
Benjamin Towne, 1778
Pennsylvania State Library



The Goddard Broadside
Mary Katherine Goddard, 1777
Library of Congress, Digital Collections

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

The American Philosophical Society, the oldest learned society in the United States, was founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin for the purpose of “promoting useful knowledge.” In the 21st century we sustain this mission in three principal ways. We honor and engage leading scholars, scientists, and professionals through elected membership and opportunities for interdisciplinary, intellectual fellowship, particularly in our semi-annual Meetings. We support research and discovery through grants and fellowships, lectures, publications, prizes, exhibitions, and public education. We serve scholars through a research library of manuscripts and other collections internationally recognized for their enduring historic value. The American Philosophical Society’s current activities reflect the founder’s spirit of inquiry, provide a forum for the free exchange of ideas, and convey our conviction that intellectual inquiry and critical thought are inherently in the best interest of the public.

