



Name _____



Date _____

Due Friday, Nov. 14!

Reading Study Guide

Chapter **6** Section 4 (pages 160-165)

Declaring Independence

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the events that led to fighting at Lexington and Concord.

In this section, you will read about events that resulted in the Declaration of Independence.

As You Read

Use this chart to take notes on how these events led to the colonies' declaring independence from Britain.

Event	How it helped lead to independence
Continental Army captures the British Fort Ticonderoga	Artillery captured at the fort used later to force British out of Boston
Battle of Bunker Hill	
Olive Branch Petition	
Publishing of <i>Common Sense</i>	
Resolution of Richard Henry Lee	

Ethan Allen Leader of the Green Mountain Boys who helped to capture Fort Ticonderoga

artillery Cannon and large guns

Second Continental Congress Meeting held in Philadelphia in 1775

Continental Army The name of the American army.

Benedict Arnold Colonial leader who played a part in the victory at Fort Ticonderoga and who helped in a failed invasion of Canada

Declaration of Independence Document that said the colonies were independent

Thomas Jefferson Writer of the Declaration of Independence

* Underline evidence!

The Continental Army Is Formed (pages 160-161)

What happened after Lexington and Concord? After the battles at Lexington and Concord, about 20,000 militiamen from other colonies gathered around Boston. As a result, the British moved back into the city. Boston was nearly surrounded by water, which would make it hard for the colonists to attack.

Meanwhile, colonial militia were active in other areas. On May 10, 1775, Americans attacked the British Fort Ticonderoga in New York. **Ethan Allen** and a group known as the Green Mountain Boys captured the fort and its **artillery**, or cannon.

Also on May 10, colonial leaders met in Philadelphia at the **Second Continental Congress**. At this meeting, they made George Washington the commanding general of the **Continental Army**.

1. Who was chosen to be the head of the Continental Army?

The Battle of Bunker Hill (page 161)

What happened at the Battle of Bunker Hill? Tensions increased around Boston. The colonial militia seized Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill in Charlestown, outside Boston.

The militia built *fortified* positions on Breed's Hill. When the British marched up the hill, the militia fired at them. The British fell back but then charged again, forcing the militia off the hill. Although the British won, they suffered huge losses.

2. What were the results of the Battle of Bunker Hill?

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A Last Attempt at Peace (page 162)

How did the Americans try to avoid war?

Most colonists still hoped for peace. Colonial leaders sent the *Olive Branch Petition* to the king. This document asked the king to *restore* peace between Britain and the colonies. The king rejected the petition.

In the summer of 1775, Washington arrived in Boston and began to train the army. In the fall, he approved a plan to invade Canada. **Benedict Arnold** led the attack on Canada in the winter of 1775. But the attack failed, and the Americans returned home.

3. How did the British king respond to the Olive Branch Petition?

The British Retreat from Boston

(pages 162–163)

Why did British troops leave Boston?

The Continental Army surrounded British forces in Boston. Cannon and other weapons were brought in to help the Continental Army. Armed with these heavy guns, Washington moved his troops to a place overlooking Boston. The British moved out of Boston because of this threat.

More than 1,000 Loyalists left with the British. Feelings against Britain were so strong in Boston that the Loyalists did not feel safe.

4. How was the Continental Army able to force British troops out of Boston?

Common Sense Is Published

(page 163)

What was Common Sense?

In early 1776, most Americans still wanted to be a part of Britain. But Thomas Paine, an English immigrant, helped to change their minds. Paine published *Common Sense*. This was a pamphlet in which he argued for independence from Britain.

He believed that all kings and queens were dishonest. He also did not agree that staying with Britain would be better for the American economy. He said America should follow its own destiny.

Common Sense sold more than 100,000 copies in three months.

5. Why was *Common Sense* important?

A Time of Decision (pages 163–164)

What did the Continental Congress do?

On June 7, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduced an important *resolution*. It said that all political ties between the colonies and Britain were ended.

Some of the representatives in Congress were not ready to vote on the resolution. But they did set up a committee to write a **Declaration of Independence**. The committee assigned **Thomas Jefferson** the job of writing the Declaration.

On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress considered Lee's resolution again. This time the resolution passed, and the colonies considered themselves independent.

6. What resolution did the Continental Congress pass on July 2, 1776?

The Declaration Is Adopted

(pages 164–165)

What ideas did the Declaration of Independence include?

The Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The Declaration is based on the ideas of John Locke, a British *philosopher*. He said that people have certain rights that a government cannot take away.

In the Declaration, Jefferson explained that when a government doesn't protect the rights of its citizens it loses its right to govern. The people then have the right to change the government. The Declaration also listed the reasons for breaking with Britain and then declared the colonies to be independent states.

7. What did Jefferson think should happen to a government that does not protect people's rights?

Due Friday, Nov. 14!

The Declaration of Independence

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about events that led to the Declaration of Independence.

In this section, you will learn about the Declaration of Independence itself.

AS YOU READ

Use this informal outline to take notes on the Declaration of Independence.

- | | |
|---|---|
| I. The Preamble | IV. Efforts of the Colonies to Avoid Separation |
| A. | A. |
| B. | B. |
| II. The Right of the people to Control Their Government | C. |
| A. | V. The Colonies are Declared Free and Independent |
| B. | A. |
| C. | B. |
| D. | C. |
| III. Tyrannical Acts of the British King | |
| A. | |
| B. | |
| C. | |
| D. | |
| E. | |
| F. | |

- unalienable** Unable to be taken away
- grievances** Complaints
- tyrant** A ruler who uses power unjustly or cruelly
- quartering** Providing housing
- petitioned for redress** Asked for the correction of wrongs

↑
helpful dictionary

Preamble; The Right of the People to Control Their Government (page 166)

What does the Preamble to the Constitution state?

The Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The Declaration voiced the reasons for separating from Britain and stated some principles of government. It was written by Thomas Jefferson.

The Preamble, or introduction, states that the American people had decided to break away from Britain and become a separate nation. It also says that the document will explain the reasons for the separation.

The Declaration then goes on to state that all people have certain **unalienable** rights. These rights include life, liberty, and the right to seek happiness.

People set up governments to protect these rights. In exchange, the people give the governments certain powers. The Declaration says that the people have a right to act when a government destroys their rights. They can do away with the government, or they can form a new one. The Declaration states that because the British government had repeatedly taken away the Americans' rights, the American colonists had the right to form a new government.

1. Why did the Declaration of Independence state that the colonists had the right to form a new government?

Tyrannical Acts of the British King

(pages 167–168)

What offenses did the king commit against the colonists?

The Declaration of Independence then lists 27 offenses by the British king and others against the colonies. This list of **grievances** helps to explain why it became necessary to seek independence.

The Declaration states that the king refused to approve laws that the colonists needed. The king also had demanded that colonists give up their right to representation in government—he was acting as a **tyrant**. In addition, he had tried to keep the colonies from growing and had refused to set up a system of justice.

The Declaration states that the king and others had tried to rule the colonies with laws that were completely different from their own laws. Then the Declaration goes on to say what the laws tried to do. They provided for the **quartering** of British troops by the colonists, taxation without representation, taking away the right to trial by jury, and stopping the meeting of colonial legislatures.

2. Why did the Declaration of Independence list 27 offenses by the British king?

Efforts of the Colonies to Avoid Separation; The Colonies Are Declared Free and Independent

(pages 168–169)

What happened when the colonists petitioned the British king?

The Declaration of Independence states that when the colonists **petitioned for redress**, the king rejected their petitions. The colonists also had informed the British people about the unjust way that Parliament had treated them. They had asked them to speak out against Parliament's treatment. But the British had not listened.

Finally, the Declaration of Independence states that the document had listed the facts. It then declares the colonies free and independent states, with no loyalty to Britain or the king. It says that the colonies, as free and independent states, have all the powers that such states have. The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 representatives from the 13 original states.

3. How did the British king respond to the colonists' grievances?
