

Name _____ Class Number _____

Web Quest: Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is an important document in the history of our country. We'll read about the Declaration and some of the people who influenced the beginnings of our new country.

Let's [meet some amazing Americans](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa).

[CTRL + click to follow link to <http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa>]

- Select **U. S. Presidents**
- Select **Thomas Jefferson**

Read about Thomas Jefferson and then answer these questions.

1. Who was the main author of the Declaration of Independence?

2. What other important jobs did Thomas Jefferson have in his lifetime?

- Select the story about Thomas Jefferson with the title, **The Most Important Thing He Ever Wrote**. *Read all four pages.*

3. How do we know that Thomas Jefferson wrote more than one draft of the Declaration of Independence?

4. Why did the other members of the Continental Congress choose Thomas Jefferson to write the Declaration of Independence?

5. What are the best-known words of the Declaration of Independence?

6. Why was the Declaration of Independence written?

7. What does the Declaration of Independence explain?

8. What two big ideas did Thomas Jefferson believe in?

Go back to **Meet Amazing Americans**

- Select **Leaders and Statesmen**
- Select **Benjamin Franklin**

Another man who was important during the time of the American Revolution was Benjamin Franklin. Benjamin Franklin was the only person to sign three important documents.

9. Which three documents did Benjamin Franklin sign?

10. Why are these three documents so important?

Go back to **Meet Amazing Americans**

- Select **U.S. Presidents**
- Select **John Adams**

John Adams was another very important person in our country's history.

11. What were two of John Adams's important government jobs?

- Select another story, **Thomas Jefferson's Survives: Adams's Friend (and Rival)**. *Read all three pages.*

12. What committee was John Adams on while he was in the Continental Congress? What was this committee's job?

13. What did Thomas Jefferson and John Adams have in common?

14. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were the only two men who _____ and were elected

Now use what you've read about the Declaration of Independence and some of the important people who helped to form our country to answer these questions.

15. Why is the Declaration of Independence important?

16. How were Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams similar? _____

17. How were Jefferson, Franklin and Adams different?
