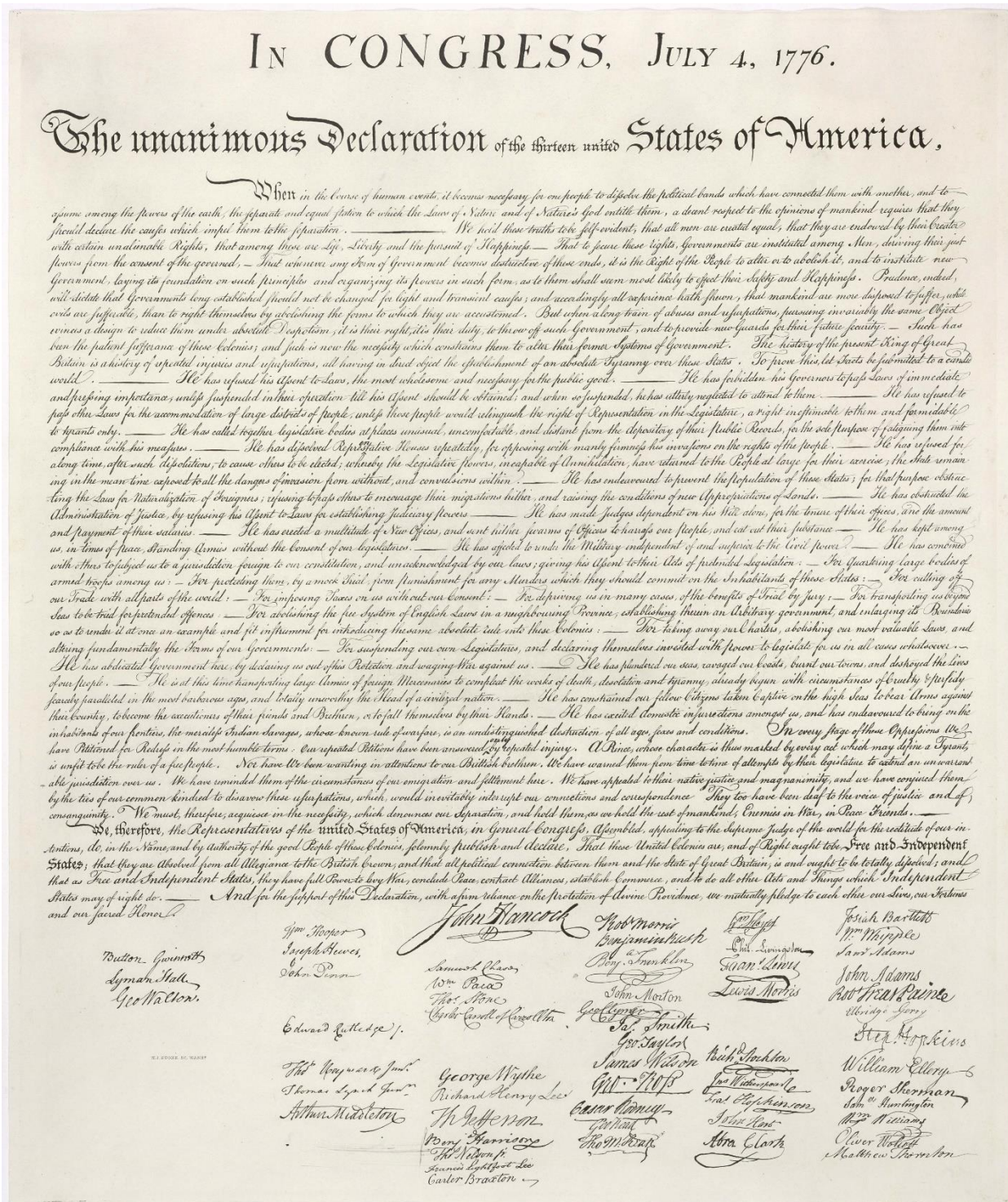




Lesson 5.3: Who Declared Independence?



Declaration of Independence
Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration



Lesson 5.3: Who Declared Independence?

12 NOV 1779 109.

State of New Hampshire

To The Hon^{ble} The Council and House
of Representatives of said State now sitting at Exeter
in and for said State

The Petition of, Nora Brinsler, Tharash Rogers, Anne
Rindge, Gals Newmarth, Cesar Ginneth, Gideon Gardner, Quam Sher-
burne, Somers, Wm. Wadsworth, Will. Clark, John Jack, Odiorne, Ephie Fleets-
barg, Simeon Hall, Silas Warner, Gals Warner, Tharash, Thos. Kings, Jr.,
Nathl. Garret, Cotton, Kettindge, Suckermore, John East, John Whipple, &
Natives of Africa, now forlately detained in Slavery of the
said State most humbly sheweth, That the
God of Nature, gave them, Life, and Freedom, upon the
Terms of the most perfect Equality with other men; That
Freedom is an inherent Right of the human Species, not
to be surrendered, but by Consent, for the sake of social
Life; That private or publick Tyranny, and Slavery, are
alike detestable to Minds, conscious of the equal Digni-
ty of human Nature; That, in Power and Authority of In-
dividuals, derived solely from a Principle of Coercion,
against the Will of Individuals, and to dispose of their Persons
and Properties, consists the completest Idea of private and
publick Slavery; That all men being amenable to the
Deity, for the ill Improvement of the Blessings of his
Providence, they hold themselves in Duty bound, strenuous-
ly to exert every Faculty of their Minds, to obtain that Bless-
ing of Freedom, which they are justly intitled to from the
Donation of the beneficent Creator; That thro' Ignorance
and brutish Violence of their native Countrymen, and by
the sinister Designs of others (who ought, to have taught
them better) and by the Avarice of both, They, while both
Children, and incapable of Self-Defence, whose Infancy
might have prompted Protection, were seized, impris-
oned and transported from their native Country,
where,

Freedom Petition Submitted by Enslaved People to the New Hampshire
State Legislature, page 1
Courtesy of the New Hampshire State Archives



Lesson 5.3: Who Declared Independence?

12 Nov 1779

(109)

Should the Humanity and Benevolence of this Honorable Assembly restore us to that State of Liberty of which we have been so long deprived, We conceive that those, who are our present Masters, will not be Sufferers by our Liberation, as we have most of us spent our whole Strength, and the Prime of our Lives in their Service; And as Freedom inspires a noble Confidence and gives the Mind an Emulation to vie in the noblest Efforts of Intrepidity, and as Justice and Humanity are the Result of your Deliberations, we fondly hope that the Eye of Pity and the Heart of Justice may commiserate our Situation and put us upon the Equality of Men and give us an Opportunity of evincing to the World, our Love of Freedom, by exerting ourselves in her Cause, in opposing the Efforts of Tyranny and Oppression over the Country in which we ourselves have been so long injuriously enslaved.

Therefore your humble Slaves most devoutly Pray for the sake of injured Liberty, for the sake of Justice, Humanity, and the Rights of Mankind; for the Honour of Religion, and by all that is dear, that your Honours would graciously interpose in our Behalf, and enact such Laws and Regulations, as you in your Wisdom think proper, whereby we may regain our Liberty & be ranked in the Class of free Agents, and that the Name of Slave may no more be heard in a Land gloriously contending for the Swath of Freedom; And your humble Slaves as in Duty bound, well we Pray.

Portsmouth November 12th 1779

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Samuel Hall | Nero Brinster |
| Peter Warner | Pharoah Rogers |
| Cato Warner | Romeo Rindge |
| Pharoah Shores | Cato Newmarch |
| Winnor Moffatt | Isaac Gorris |
| Garnell Collins | Isabell Gardner |
| Hillindge Suckerman | Quam Sherburne |
| Peter Frost | Samuel Wentworth |
| James Whipple | Will. Clarkson |
| | Isaac Adzorne |
| | Cypio Hubbard |

Freedom Petition Submitted by Enslaved People to the New Hampshire State Legislature, page 3
Courtesy of the New Hampshire State Archives



Name _____

Selections from the Declaration of Independence

These quotes are from the Declaration of Independence that the founding fathers wrote to the king of England in 1776. The main idea is that the colonists should be free because the king was abusing their rights. Read selections from the petition and answer the questions to find out how the writers tried to persuade their audience to agree with that main idea.

-
1. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries ... all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute **Tyranny** over these States.

(**tyranny**: cruel power)

What is the problem this declaration is trying to fix?

2. We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled ... solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States...

What do the people writing this declaration want?

3. 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.

(**self-evident**: obvious)

(**endowed**: given)

(**unalienable**: something you can't give up)

Why do they believe they should have what the declaration is asking for?





Name _____

Selections from Freedom Petition Submitted by Enslaved People to the New Hampshire State Legislature

These quotes are from the petition for freedom that 20 enslaved people wrote to the government of New Hampshire in 1779. The main idea is that they should be free because they are equal to all people. Read selections from the petition and answer the questions to find out how the writers tried to persuade their audience to agree with that main idea.

-
1. ...they ... were seized, imprisoned, and transported from their native country, where they are compelled ... to drag on their lives in miserable **servitude**.

(**servitude**: slavery)

What is the problem this petition is trying to fix?

2. Therefore, your humble slaves most devoutly pray ... for the sake of justice, humanity, and the rights of mankind ... that your honors would ... **enact** such laws ... as ... we may regain our liberty and ... that the name of slave may no more be heard in a land gloriously contending for the sweets of freedom.

(**enact**: to make into law)

What do the people writing this petition want?

3. ...that the God of Nature gave [the enslaved people] life and freedom ... of the most perfect equality with other men; that freedom is an **inherent** right of the human species, not to be surrendered ... that ... **tyranny** and slavery, are alike **detestable**...

(**inherent**: essential)

(**tyranny**: unfair power)

(**detestable**: hateful)

Why do they believe they should have what the petition is asking for?



Selections from the Declaration of Independence

These quotes are from the Declaration of Independence that the founding fathers wrote to the king of England in 1776. The main idea is that the colonists should be free because the king was abusing their rights. Read selections from the petition and answer the questions to find out how the writers tried to persuade their audience to agree with that main idea.

-
1. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries ... all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute **Tyranny** over these States.

(**tyranny**: cruel power)

What is the problem this declaration is trying to fix?

The problem is that the king of Great Britain has been using his cruel power to hurt the states, again and again.

2. We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled ... solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States...

What do the people writing this declaration want?

They want the colonies to be free and independent from Great Britain.

3. 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.

(**self-evident**: obvious)

(**endowed**: given)

(**unalienable**: something you can't give up)

Why do they believe they should have what the declaration is asking for?

They believe they should have independence because they think all men are created equal, with rights that cannot be taken away from them. These rights include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.



Selections from Freedom Petition Submitted by Enslaved People to the New Hampshire State Legislature

These quotes are from the petition for freedom that 20 enslaved people wrote to the government of New Hampshire in 1779. The main idea is that they should be free because they are equal to all people. Read selections from the petition and answer the questions to find out how the writers tried to persuade their audience to agree with that main idea.

1. ...they ... were seized, imprisoned, and transported from their native country, where they are compelled ... to drag on their lives in miserable **servitude**.

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(**inherent**: essential)

(**tyranny**: cruel power)

(**detestable**: hateful)

What is the problem this petition is trying to fix?

The problem is that the people writing the petition have been kidnapped, imprisoned, taken away from their country, and now are made to live in slavery.

What do the people writing this petition want?

They want the government of New Hampshire to make laws that will give the enslaved people liberty. They want to not hear the name of slave any more in a country that is fighting for its own freedom.

Why do they believe they should have what the petition is asking for?

They believe that God gave them life and freedom and equality with other men. They believe that freedom is an essential right of humans that is not to be given up. They believe that cruel power and slavery are both hateful.



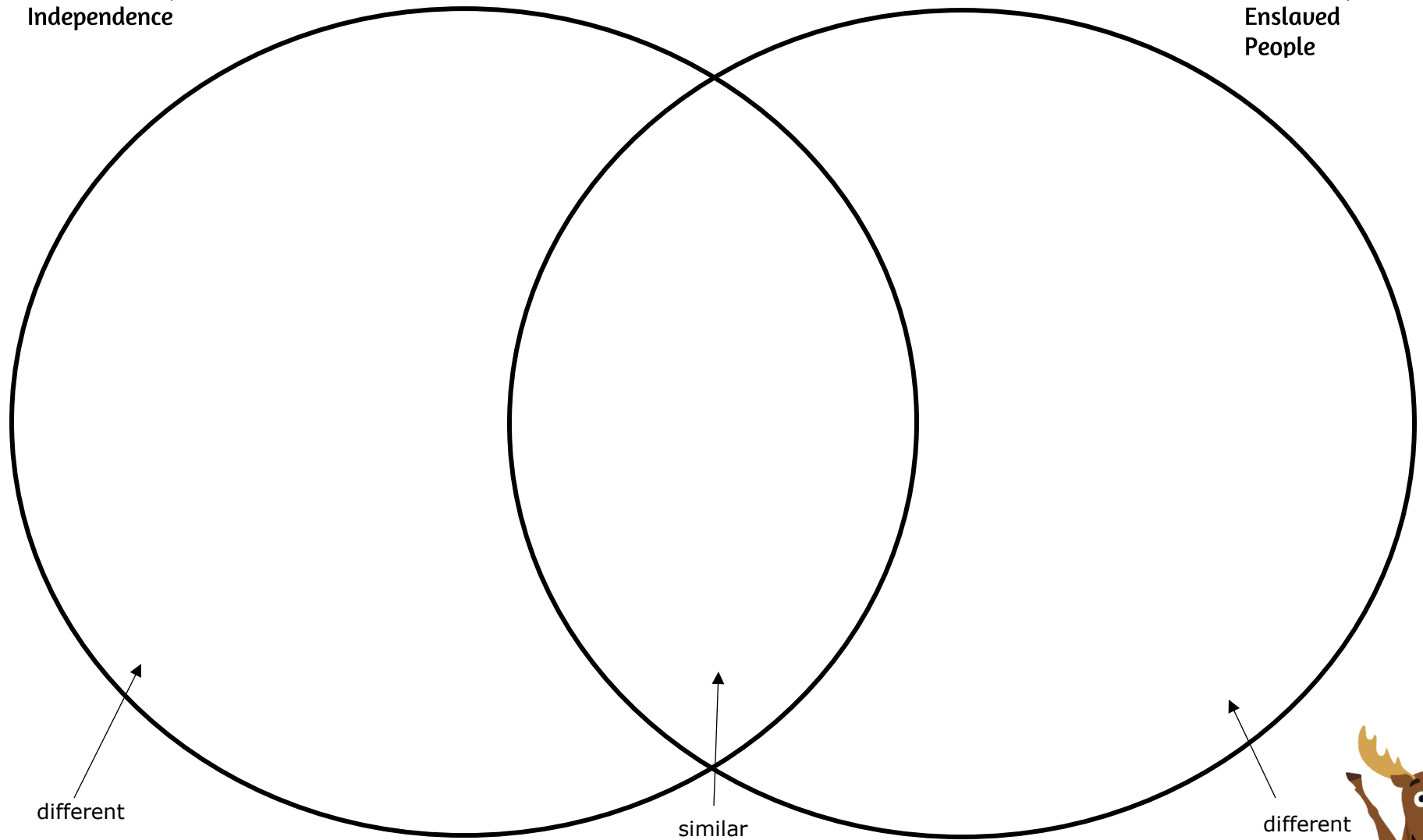
Lesson 5.3: Who Declared Independence?

Name _____

Venn diagram: Petition and Declaration

Declaration of
Independence

Freedom
Petition of
Enslaved
People





Lesson 5.3: Who Declared Independence?

Name _____ Answer Key _____

Venn diagram: Petition and Declaration

Declaration of Independence

- Written in 1776 by white men
- Written by men trying to get their country free from an oppressive government
- States that independence is happening, does not ask
- Writers are leaving the government to get freedom

**Freedom
Petition of
Enslaved
People**

- Written in 1779 by enslaved black men
- Written by men trying to get themselves free from slavery
- Asking for freedom, does not state that it will happen
- Writers are working within the government to get freedom

- Both about the rights of human beings
- Both say that all men should have freedom
- Both against tyranny

different

similar

different



Lesson 5.3: Who Declared Independence?

Name _____

Petition or Declaration?

Petition:

something asked, a formal request made to an official person

Declaration:

making known officially, an announcement

Consider the definitions of the words "petition" and "declaration" and read the situations below. Choose whether each situation would be appropriate for a petition or a declaration.

| Situation | Petition or Declaration? | Why? |
|---|--------------------------|------|
| Parents want the town to increase the number of crosswalks near an elementary school. | | |
| A community center wants to establish a new set of rules for the people who use it. | | |
| Two rival summer camps want to compete to see who has better spirit. | | |
| Employees want longer lunch time and better quality of food available. | | |
| A candidate wants to run for president. | | |
| A child wants to have more technology time on the weekends. | | |



Lesson 5.3: Who Declared Independence?

Name _____ Answer Key _____

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Petition:

something asked, a formal request made to an official person

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making known officially, an announcement

Consider the definitions of the words “petition” and “declaration” and read the situations below. Choose whether each situation would be appropriate for a petition or a declaration.

| Situation | Petition or Declaration? | Why? |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Parents want the town to increase the number of crosswalks near an elementary school. | Petition | The parents petition the town to increase the number of crosswalks and work with the town government to make it happen. |
| 2. A community center wants to establish a new set of rules for the people who use it. | Declaration | The community center makes a declaration of the new rules. It has the power to decide and enforce them, and make them official. |
| 3. Two rival summer camps want to compete to see who has better spirit. | Declaration | The summer camps make a declaration of a competition. There is no higher authority for them to appeal to. |
| 4. Employees want longer lunch time and better quality of food available. | Petition | Employees petition their employer for what they want. They need to work within the rules and ask. |
| 5. A candidate wants to run for president. | Declaration | A person makes a declaration about running for president. They have the power to make it official. |
| 6. A child wants to have more technology time on the weekends. | Petition | A child petitions their parents for more screen time. Children do not have the power to make the decision themselves. |