

6.2 Notes: Colonies Declare Independence

- I. *Common Sense* and Thomas Paine's Influence on the Colonies
 - A. Thomas Paine writes *Common Sense*, urging the colonies to declare independence
 - 1. Colonist begin to consider creating own country

Against Independence	For Independence
-Many colonists still felt loyal to Britain -People felt they owed their allegiance to the king	-Colonists did not owe loyalty to any king -Colonists didn't owe anything to Britain, who used the colonies to get rich

- II. Congress Declares Independence
 - A. Richard Henry Lee introduces a resolution for independence
 - B. 2nd Continental Congress debates the resolution
 - C. Congress appoints committee to write a formal declaration of independence
 - D. Thomas Jefferson writes official document
 - E. Declaration is read to Congress
 - F. Congress votes and accepts declaration on July 2, 1776
 - G. Declaration is printed and signed on July 4, 1776
 - H. Copies distributed to the colonies
- III. Declaration of Independence
 - A. Preamble
 - 1. Introduction: explains why the colonies want to break from Great Britain
 - B. 1st Section: Natural Rights
 - 1. Life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness are guaranteed to all
 - 2. Governments exists to protect those natural rights, if they fail to do so, people have the right to get rid of the government
 - C. 2nd Section: List of British Wrongs
 - 1. Jefferson listed all the things that the British had done to the colonist
 - a. Closed colonial legislatures
 - b. Sent troops and required colonists to let them live in their homes
 - c. Limited colonial trade
 - D. 3rd Section: Independence
 - 1. Declares that the colonies are free and independent
 - 2. 1st use of the name United States of America