



Q1 • Declaration of Independence • Elementary Upper

Stories of the Declaration of Independence

Theme: Histories of Independence

Time Required: 45–60 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Vocabulary worksheets (fill-in-the-blank, word matching, crossword, or word search)
- Chart paper or whiteboard
- Copies of recommended books
- Writing materials or journals

Activity Overview

This activity introduces students to the meaning and language of the Declaration of Independence. Through vocabulary study, reading, and discussion, students explore how cooperation, conflict, and resolution shaped the American Revolution. The activity helps learners connect the historical quest for freedom with modern expressions of fairness, communication, and understanding.

This lesson aligns with New Mexico's statewide recognition of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. As part of The American Revolution: 250 Years since the Declaration of Independence initiative, schools are encouraged to connect this classroom activity to Constitution Day and Citizenship Day on or near September 17, fostering reflection on civic responsibility and shared values.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Identify key vocabulary and ideas from the Declaration of Independence.
- Understand how conflicts can be resolved through communication and collaboration.
- Recognize how individuals and groups worked together to create change during the American Revolution.
- Connect historical independence to personal and community actions that demonstrate equity and cooperation.



Essential Questions

- What is the purpose of the Declaration of Independence?
- How did the colonists express their ideas and resolve conflict?
- What can we learn from the way they worked together?
- How can we show cooperation and equity in our own classroom or community?

Inspired Conversation Topics

- Discuss what systems help your class work well together.
- Explore how characters in the stories showed courage or kindness.
- Talk about what conflict means and how people can resolve disagreements respectfully.
- Imagine writing a “Declaration of Equity ” for your classroom. What would it include?

Connection to Statewide Theme

The Introduction to the Declaration of Independence activity helps students explore the principles of cooperation, independence, and fairness that inspired the nation’s founders. Educators may extend this learning by linking it to Constitution Day assemblies or school-wide celebrations of The American Revolution: 250 Years since the Declaration of Independence.