



## ACTIVITY

# CHECKLIST



### Q1 • Declaration of Independence • Elementary Upper

#### Stories of the Declaration of Independence

#### Before the Activity

- ☐ Review the Activity Overview for this activity.
- ☐ Select one or two age-appropriate books introducing the Declaration or the American Revolution (e.g., *Mumbet's Declaration of Independence*; *A Peacemaker for Warring Nations*).
- ☐ Gather materials: chart paper/whiteboard, notebooks, markers, vocabulary list, Declaration vocabulary worksheets (Grades 3–4).
- ☐ Preview reading and identify key themes: independence, conflict, grievances, rights, community.
- ☐ (Optional) Prepare an introductory clip: Schoolhouse Rock “Fireworks”
- ☐ Prepare a vocabulary list (e.g., revolution, grievance, independence, declaration).

#### During the Activity

##### 1. Introduction

- ☐ Explain that students will explore independence through stories and discussion.
- ☐ (Optional) Show the Schoolhouse Rock clip to build background knowledge.
- ☐ Ask a simple question: “What is independence, and why might people fight for it?”



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## 2. Story Reading & Discussion

- ☐ Read your selected book(s) aloud or in small groups.
- ☐ Pause to clarify historical context and vocabulary.
- ☐ Discuss:
  - *What was your favorite part? Why?*
  - *How did characters help each other?*
  - *What conflicts did they face and how were they resolved?*
  - *How does this relate to the Declaration?*

## 3. Vocabulary & Concept Building

- ☐ Use Declaration vocabulary worksheets (fill-in-the-blank, matching, crossword, word search).
- ☐ Ask: *Which terms were new? How would you explain them?*
- ☐ Practice pronunciation by breaking difficult words into syllables.

## 4. Primary Source Exploration (Optional)

- ☐ Read a short excerpt from the Declaration in pairs or small groups.
- ☐ Support pronunciation and clarify concepts.
- ☐ Pause to discuss grievances, rights, and perspectives.

## 5. Independent Reading & Reflection

- ☐ Students choose another American Revolution book with a protagonist who is not a Founding Father.
- ☐ Students complete a brief book report addressing:
  - The character's role in the Revolution
  - How the Declaration affected them
  - How life changed after the Revolution



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## After the Activity

- ☐ Reinforce key ideas: conflict resolution, independence, grievances, rights, community.
- ☐ Choose 1–2 extensions:
  - Write a modern Bill of Rights
  - Draft a Classroom Constitution
  - Create “mini-declarations” (e.g., Equity, Justice)
- ☐ (Optional) Participate in the All-School Q1 Activity.
- ☐ Prepare the class grievance for the school-wide Declaration:
  - Research the grievance
  - Present findings
  - Create and rehearse a short skit
  - Present at the assembly
- ☐ (Optional) View *Liberty’s Kids* or *Johnny Tremain* films and compare with the texts.