

Declaration of Independence

- ❖ Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence which was signed by representatives from all 13 colonies on August 2, 1776.
- ❖ In the document the leaders outlined their reasons for declaring independent from England.
- ❖ Historians have disagreed as to whether the colonial leaders were motivated by selfish or *ideological* reasons

Examples of Grievances against King George III and their Associated Meaning

Complaint

- He refused his Assent to Laws, necessary for public good.
- He has forbidden his Governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance.

Meaning

- He has refused to enforce laws.
- He has forbidden the legislature to pass laws.

- He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodations of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.
- He has refused to pass laws that would benefit particular states.
- He expects that states will forfeit their right of representation.

- He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records.
- He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.
- He made it difficult for the colonists to participate in governance.
- He has forbidden laws to be passed that establish judiciary powers

- He has made Judges dependent upon his Will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount of their salaries.
- He has kept among us, in times of peace. Standing Armies without the consent of our legislatures.
- He has denied judges their independence to make decisions based on case facts and the law alone.
- The has forced persons to house military person

- For imposing taxes on us without our Consent.
- For depriving us in many cases of the benefit of Trial by jury.
- He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging war against.
- Taxed citizens without the citizens approval.
- Denying those accused of crimes to jury trials.
- Refused to protect the colonists from foreign aggression on colonial lands.