



Memorial to the Signers of the Declaration of Independence

Welcome to the *Memorial to the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* in Washington D.C.

Read the following information about the Memorial to the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. The words that are in **bold** will help you answer questions from the Civics part of the Naturalization Test. The words that are underlined are vocabulary words from the Reading and Writing parts of the Naturalization Test.

Civics Test Questions are highlighted for quick reference.





The Declaration of Independence

It was signed by 56 members of the 2nd Continental Congress from all of the 13 colonies on July 2, 1776, in Philadelphia, PA.

The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776.

63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?



This is why **we celebrate Independence Day on July 4th.**

99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?

The Declaration of Independence announced our independence from Great Britain.

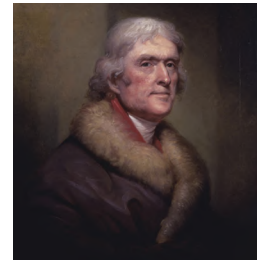
8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?

Another word for Declaration is “statement.” Another word for Independence is “freedom.”

The Declaration of Independence is a “statement of freedom.”

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.

69. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?



In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson also wrote that everyone has the right to:

- **Life**
- **Liberty**
- **Pursuit of happiness**

70. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

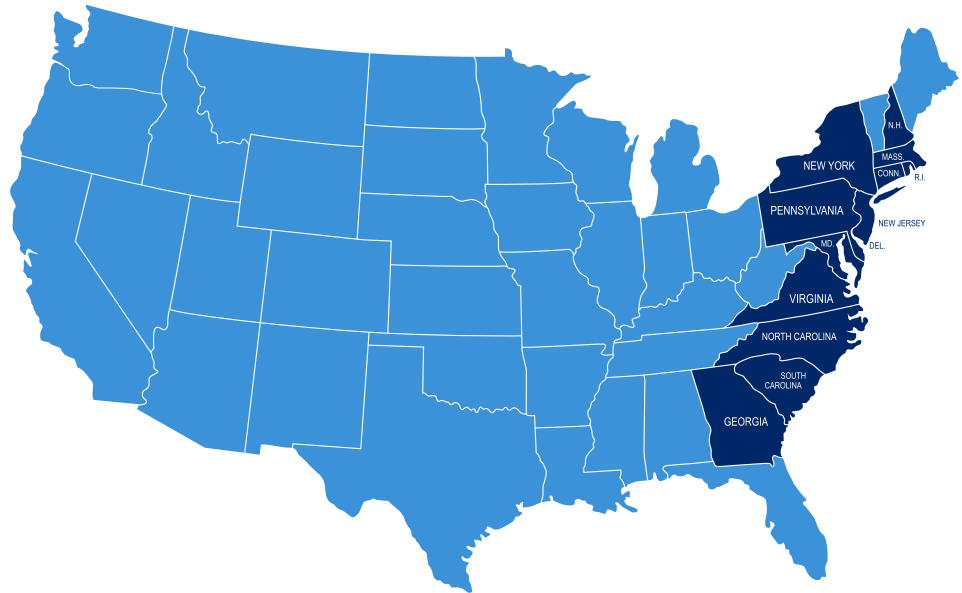


The 13 Original States

By signing the Declaration of Independence, the United States of America was created.

The 13 original colonies became the **13 original states**.

- **New Hampshire**
- **Massachusetts**
- **Rhode Island**
- **Connecticut**
- **New York**
- **New Jersey**
- **Pennsylvania**
- **Delaware**
- **Maryland**
- **Virginia**
- **North Carolina**
- **South Carolina**
- **Georgia**



64. *There were 13 original states. Name three.*

We honor the 13 original colonies on the American Flag.

The flag has 13 stripes because there were 13 original colonies.

96. *Why does the flag have 13 stripes?*



The first colony was Virginia. It was created in 1607. That is 169 years before the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

Georgia was the last colony to be created 1731. That is 45 years before the Declaration of Independence was adopted.



Fighting for Independence

The colonists adopted the Declaration of Independence when they were fighting the British in the American Revolutionary War.

The colonists were fighting the British for many reasons. Some of the reasons they fought the British were

- **because of high taxes (taxation without representation)**
- **because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)**
- **because they didn't have self-government**

61. Why did the colonists fight the British?

The United States won the American Revolutionary War in 1781 at the Battle of Yorktown. In 1783, **Benjamin Franklin, who was famous U.S. diplomat**, negotiated a treaty with Britain. In the treaty, Britain recognized the United States of American as an independent nation.



Benjamin Franklin was also one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

68. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

The Memorial to the Signers of the Declaration of Independence

The Memorial to the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was built in 1976. This was exactly 200 years after the Declaration was adopted in 1776.

The Memorial to the Signers of the Declaration of Independence is on an island in the middle of the Constitution Gardens. It includes the signatures of all 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence engraved in stone.



Vocabulary for the Reading and Writing Parts of the Naturalization Test

The table below contains the underlined words from the information you just read about the Declaration of Independence and the Memorial to the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. They are some of the vocabulary words for the Reading and Writing parts of the Naturalization Test.

Vocabulary for the Reading Test	Vocabulary for Both the Reading and Writing Test	Vocabulary for the Writing Test
America Many Pay U.S.	American flag / flag Congress First Independence Day Right / Rights United States	Delaware July Taxes

To see a full list of the 100 questions on the Naturalization Civics Test, and a full list of the vocabulary on the Reading and Writing Test, please visit the USCIS Citizenship Resource Center: www.uscis.gov/citizenship.