



The Founding: SS.7.CG.1.5
The Road to Independence
VIDEO #5 SCRIPT



Complaints Against the King and Parliament Video #5

1. In a previous video, we learned how the Tea Act and the ‘Intolerable Acts’ organized the colonists to take action against the English king and Parliament. Now that you know some key events that led to the writing of the Declaration of Independence, let’s explore some of the common themes of complaints against the king and Parliament.
2. After watching this video, you will be able to
 - Understand the major themes of the colonists’ complaints against the King of England.
3. Let’s get started.
4. The colonists’ reasons for declaring independence and their specific complaints against the English government can be summarized into three main themes: Individual rights, representation and taxation.
5. **Individual rights** are rights that are guaranteed to people. The colonists believed that King George III and the Parliament limited the colonists’ individual rights by the acts that they passed. The colonists believed that their rights were limited by being taxed on various goods and services while at the same time, the money from these taxes did not benefit the colonies.
6. Government **representation** was another main concern of the colonists. The colonists were not represented in Parliament in their view, though the English said otherwise with the Declaratory Act, and therefore their interests or opinions were not considered when laws were passed and other decisions made.
7. Finally, the colonists believed that **taxation without representation** was wrong. The colonists believed that the taxes from the various acts that were passed were unfair because the tax money went directly to England, instead of being returned to the colonies. The colonists also believed that

the taxes were unfair because the colonies were not represented in Parliament in their view.

10. Let's Check In. What are the three main themes of the colonists' complaints and their reason for writing the Declaration of Independence?

11. ANSWER TO QUESTION

Well done!

12. Let's recap what we've learned so far. The three main themes of the colonists' complaints are individual rights, representation, and taxation. Individual rights are rights guaranteed to people. Representation in the English Parliament was important to the colonists, and the colonists believed that taxation without representation was wrong.

13. Ultimately, years of problems between Great Britain and the colonists would lead to the writing of the Declaration, which pointed out all the ways in which these themes affected the colonies! Be sure to watch the videos about the Declaration of Independence to learn more!