



*The Founding: SS.7.CG.1.5*  
**The Road to Independence**  
**VIDEO #1 SCRIPT**



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## The French and Indian War Video #1

1. The Declaration of Independence, written in 1776, outlined the colonists' complaints against the king of England and their desire to be free and independent. This document played an important role in the American colonies becoming the United States of America.
2. How did this happen? What caused the colonists to write the Declaration of Independence? In this video series, we will explore key events that took place from 1754-1776 and how these events led to the writing of the Declaration of Independence.
3. After watching this video, you will be able to
  - Summarize the events that led to the writing of the Declaration of Independence
4. For more than 150 years the colonists lived peacefully under English rule. It wasn't until the mid-1700's that the relationship between the colonists, the English Parliament, and King George III changed and became strained. Some key events occurred that created this difficult relationship.
5. Let's begin with the French and Indian War, also called the Seven Years War.
6. During this war, the English and the French fought over land west of the colonies. The colonists supported the English and fought in their army. The English won the war, but the war left the English in heavy debt.
7. After this war, King George III of England was looking for ways to raise money to pay of this debt. The king and Parliament decided that taxing the colonists was the best way to raise money. The colonists did not have representation in the English Parliament when this was decided.
8. Let's Check In. How were the American colonies impacted by the English's victory in the French and Indian War?
9. ANSWER TO QUESTION  
Well done!
10. Let's recap what we've learned so far. The French and Indian War left England with a heavy war debt. To eliminate this debt, the English king and Parliament decide to tax the colonies. The colonists didn't have representation in the English Parliament when taxing the colonies was decided. This idea of taxation without representation concerns the colonists as other taxing laws are passed by Parliament.

11. Now that we know how the debt created by the French and Indian War impacted the colonies, I bet you can't wait to see what other laws the English king and Parliament enacted that contributed to the colonists' writing of the Declaration of Independence. Be sure to watch the next video, the Road to Independence: The Stamp Act and the Townshend Act.