



The Founding: SS.7.CG.1.5
The Road to Independence
VIDEO #3 SCRIPT



The Declaratory Act & The Quartering Act Video #3

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 IndependenceLet's get started.
4. For more than 150 years, the colonists lived peacefully under English rule. It wasn't until the mid 1700s 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. In another video, we learned how the American colonists reacted to the taxing policies of the Stamp Act. You'll remember that the colonists sent England a petition of their grievances in response to the Stamp Act.
6. We last ended with Parliament repealing the Stamp Act. However, Parliament followed up by passing the Declaratory Act, which stated that the British Parliament's authority extended to the colonies, and it had the power to make laws that applied to the colonists since they were British subjects.
7. The colonists didn't really acknowledge the Declaratory Act, and instead celebrated the repeal of the Stamp Act. The colonists did acknowledge that they were loyal British subjects, but also recognized that the ability of England to tax them without giving them representation in Parliament was disgraceful.
8. Another act that was passed while the colonists were still protesting the Stamp Act was the Quartering Act. Parliament ordered colonial legislatures to force colonists to house and feed English soldiers.
9. The colonists viewed the Quartering Act as unjust for two reasons. First, the Quartering Act was a large financial cost to the colonists, who had to feed and house a growing number of soldiers. Secondly, the Quartering Act basically allowed standing armies in times of peace. This was a grave concern to the colonists because they feared the act was a potential source of abusive force, and the troops were there to control their freedom. This was so impactful that it would later be forbidden by the the Third Amendment to our Bill of Rights!

10. Let's Check In. How did colonists respond to the Declaratory Act and the Quartering Act?

11. ANSWER TO QUESTION

Well done!

12. Let's recap what we've learned so far. The English government passed the Declaratory Act asserting their dominance over the colonies and forcing them to follow laws passed by Parliament. The colonist ignored and rejected the act. The English government also enacted the Quartering Act, forcing the colonists to house British troops at their own expense. The colonists saw the Quartering Act as an expensive threat to their freedom. When the colonists showed some resistance, we start to see signs of a tyrannical government. As we continue to progress through these acts, you'll observe the loyalty of the colonists as British subjects, but also look for the moment where tensions between the colonists and England begin to rise.

13. Now that we know how the American colonists reacted to the Declaratory Act and the Quartering Act, let's continue to explore ways in which tensions between the British government and the colonists would, contribute to the writing of the Declaration of Independence. Be sure to watch the another video, 'The Road to Independence: The Tea Act and the Intolerable Acts.'