



The Founding: From Colonies to the United States: SS.7.CG.1.6
Declaration of Independence
READING #5

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.1.6 Benchmark Clarification 5: Students will recognize the connection between specific grievances in the Declaration of Independence and natural rights violations.

Several complaints listed in the **Declaration of Independence** are responses to specific actions taken by the English government that denied the colonists their **natural rights**.

Specific Grievance	Natural Rights Violation (life, liberty, pursuit of happiness)
“He has refused to assent to laws...”	Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance...”	Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“Has has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature...”	Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant ...for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.”	Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people...”	Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“He has refused ...after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected...”	Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“He has obstructed the Administration of Justice...”	Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“He has made judges depending on his will alone...”	Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people...”	Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing armies without the Consent of our legislatures.”	Liberty
“He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution...”	Liberty
“For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:”	Liberty

“For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:”	Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:”	Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:”	Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:”	Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government...”	Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Government:”	Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“For suspending our own Legislatures,...”	Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“He has abdicated Government here,...by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.”	Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people”	Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny,...”	Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country,...”	Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us,...”	Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
“Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury...”	Pursuit of Happiness
“We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us.”	Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness

Declaration of Independence - a document written in 1776 that listed the basis for democratic government and the grievances of the colonists

liberty - an individual's right to be free

natural rights - the belief that individuals are born with basic rights that cannot be taken away by governments

pursuit of happiness - whatever an individual defines as making them happy