



*The Founding: From Colonies to the United States SS.7.CG.1.6*  
**The Declaration of Independence**  
**VIDEO SCRIPT**



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## COLONIAL COMPLAINTS & GRIEVANCES

1. As a refresher, the Declaration of Independence had two purposes: it outlined colonial complaints against the king and stated Americans' desire to be an independent country.
2. The main arguments of the Declaration was that the government had a responsibility to protect people's natural rights, and the King of England was not doing this. And in this video, we're going to explore some of the complaints and grievances the colonists had against the King of England. If you haven't done so already, be sure to watch the first video in this module, on the Declaration of Independence, to get a better sense of what we mean when we say natural rights and some of the other concepts we're talking about here.
3. After watching this video, you'll be able to:
  - ◆ Recognize the connections between specific grievances in the Declaration of Independence and natural rights violations, and
  - ◆ Recognize colonial complaints as identified in the Declaration of Independence So let's dive in and get started.
4. Wait a minute, what do I mean by grievance? Well, a grievance is a serious complaint about someone's actions, and the Declaration lists a number of grievances against the king. And these are ways in which the king violated natural rights. These are the grievances the colonists had against the king.
5. So the colonists had grievances about the king violating their natural rights. What are natural rights? Well as a reminder, remember that natural rights are things you're born with, and they can't be taken away by the government. And for the Founding Fathers, these were life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. They accused the king of violating all three of these.
6. The fact that the government had a responsibility to protect people's natural rights was the main argument of the writers of the Declaration of Independence. Let's look at some examples of colonial grievances, or complaints, and the natural rights that were violated by the actions of the English government.
7. Example 1: *For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.*
8. This grievance means that...  
→ PAUSE-ANSWER TO QUESTION

9. The natural rights violated here are...

→ PAUSE-ANSWER TO QUESTION

10. Example 2: Another grievance. *He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.*

11. This grievance means that...

→ PAUSE-ANSWER TO QUESTION

12. The natural right violated here is...

→ PAUSE-ANSWER TO QUESTION

13. Example 3: *For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us...*

14. This grievance is pretty basic

→ PAUSE-ANSWER TO QUESTION

15. The natural right violations here are...

→ PAUSE-ANSWER TO QUESTION

16. Example 4: Here's another grievance: *For imposing taxes on us without our consent...*

17. With this grievance...

→ PAUSE-ANSWER TO QUESTION

18. The natural right violation here is...

→ PAUSE-ANSWER TO QUESTION

19. Now it's your turn. Summarize each grievance in your own words, and identify the natural rights being violated and how they are being violated.

20. Here's our first one. *For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury...*

Summarize this in your own words, and explain the natural rights being violated and how they are being violated.

21. Did you get it?

→ PAUSE-ANSWER TO QUESTION

22. Were you able to identify the natural rights being violated?

→ PAUSE-ANSWER TO QUESTION

23. Let's do another one. *He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies without the consent of our legislatures.* What does this mean, and what's the natural right violation?

24. This might be a tougher one.

→ PAUSE-ANSWER TO QUESTION

25. Our natural rights violation was...  
→ PAUSE-ANSWER TO QUESTION

26. Let's recap a little bit. Remember that the Declaration of Independence argued that protecting natural rights was the most important job of government. And the Declaration listed grievances against the King of England, ways in which he was violating the natural rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

27. As a reminder, be sure to view video one in this module to make sure you understand natural rights and the Declaration of Independence. You should be able to explain natural rights and be able to identify some of the grievances that are important in the Declaration of Independence.