

Declaration of Independence: Background Information and Brainstorming

Background Information

Notes

- During the Second Continental Congress in 1775, delegates argued over whether to seek _____ or remain loyal to Great Britain. Many did not want to seek independence as they feared that this would start a war with Great Britain. Others felt that independence was necessary because King George III was an oppressor who was _____ the colonists' rights and actions. They felt that Great Britain was becoming a tyranny.
- In 1776, Thomas Paine stated that it was “_____” for the colonies to break away from Great Britain. He said that King George was a “royal brute” and the colonies had every right to sever ties.
- After many months of debate, more than half of the delegates agreed to declare independence from _____.
- _____'s writings were very influential in the decision to declare independence.
- Thomas Jefferson, the main _____, detailed the colonies' reasons for breaking away with Great Britain.
- The document argued that the _____ did not look after the interests of the colonies anymore.
- He listed the _____, or complaints, that the colonists had towards the crown.

Document Brainstorming

What features do you notice about the document?	
What does this document make you feel or think about?	
What are the words or phrases from the document that caused this feeling or thought?	