

Declaration of Independence: Understanding Vocabulary in Context

ANSWER KEY

Term	Definition as it appears in context.
abolish	to end
assent	to agree
consent of the governed	an agreement made by the people to establish a government and abide by its laws
deprive	to take something away
derive	to take
despotism	a system of government where the ruler has unlimited power
dissolve	to bring to an end
endow	to be given something naturally
impel	a complaint
institute	to establish
oppression	the use of authority or power in a cruel or unjust manner
quarter	to house
rectitude	the quality or state of being correct
self-evident	obvious, having no need of proof
tyranny	a government that abuses its power
tyrant	a single ruler that possesses and abuses absolute government power
unalienable (inalienable) rights	basic rights of the people that may not be taken away
usurpation	the act of exercising power by force