

# Colonists Urged to Use Common Sense

BrainBuilder  
LA #654

## Gathering

In 1776, the colonies were buzzing with excitement. A journalist named Thomas Paine had written a pamphlet called *Common Sense*. In it, he encouraged the colonists to claim independence or to break away from England's rule. His pamphlet helped to inspire the writing of the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 1776, Congress approved the Declaration of Independence. Take a closer look at how the colonies moved toward independence.

### Part A

**Directions:** Draw a line connecting each section of the Declaration of Independence with its description.

Sections of the Declaration	Description
1. declaration of rights	a. This explains the harmful actions that King George III committed against the colonists. The 27 items listed happened between 1763 and 1776.
2. statement of independence	b. This explains why the Americans thought that it was necessary to separate from Great Britain.
3. list of wrongs	c. This explains that the colonies are free and independent states.
4. preamble	d. This states the basic rights of all people, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The government's duty is to protect these rights. If the government fails to protect its citizens, the government risks being replaced.

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## Part B

**Directions:** Fill in the blank with the correct answer from the date box below.

July 9, 1976

July 9, 1776

July 8, 1776

July 4, 1776



June 7, 1776

July 4, 1976

June 7, 1976

July 8, 1776

1. On \_\_\_\_\_, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia presented an independence proposal to be voted on by the Continental Congress.
2. On \_\_\_\_\_, the Declaration of Independence was officially adopted.
3. On \_\_\_\_\_, outside the Pennsylvania statehouse, the Declaration of Independence was read to the public for the first time.
4. On \_\_\_\_\_, George Washington read about the Declaration of Independence being signed.