







*This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader, and loves the sound of piano keys. With some support he is able to do this unit, and enjoys the challenge. He is my tester!!*



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In a separate files there are:

- lesson plan
- voice recorded PowerPoint
- Directions and links to digital activities

This unit contains over 120 pages of material. I have included a detailed lesson plan to help you make the most of everything in this unit including how to add some group activities.

# Declaration of Independence

## Lesson Plan

### Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
  - Laminate or place in page protector
- Book
  - Print out, laminate, and bind
  - OR your students can listen to the pre-recorded version
- Vocabulary cards
  - Print out a set of cards onto cardstock and laminate
  - Make one set for each student and one for the teacher to use in I Spy games

### Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the form of the assessment that best fits the learning level of your students
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

### Teaching Tips

1. *Color Coding:* this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
  - a. For more info, read more here:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
  - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
2. *Make your own copies of the activities:* Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
  - a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.
  - b. My copies were also helpful as either a model for students who needed more support or as a way for more advanced students to self-check their work.

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching students with significant needs



## Quick Look

Day	Activity	Day	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Circle map</li></ul>	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards cut and paste</li><li>• Word search</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Inalienable word map</li></ul>	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Close worksheet</li></ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Pats of the Declaration of Independence</li></ul>	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Close worksheet</li></ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Pursuit of Happiness collage</li></ul>	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessment</li></ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards cut and paste</li><li>• Sudoku puzzle</li></ul>		

The lesson plans contain:

A quick look at what you will do each day



## Day 8

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read through the story, asking lots of questions</li><li>• Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocabulary board</li></ul>
Vocabulary cards Bean Bag Toss (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Glue the cut apart symbols to the paper plates (one on each plate)</li><li>• Arrange them around the room</li><li>• Students toss the bean bag trying to get it to land on a paper plate</li><li>• Students retrieve the paper plate and share the vocabulary card they retrieved</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vocabulary cards</li><li>• Vocabulary cards cut apart</li><li>• Small paper plates (you can also use pieces of construction paper)</li><li>• Bean bags</li></ul>
Close worksheet review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the worksheet completed yesterday</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worksheet completed yesterday</li></ul>
Close Worksheet (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete the second close worksheets</li><li>• Use color coding if needed (see note on page 1 for more information)</li><li>• This is your first real chance to begin assessing if your students are making connections to the material.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book (if needed for students to find answers)</li><li>• Vocabulary board</li><li>• Close worksheet</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Glue</li></ul>
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each student shares one of their finished close worksheets</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed worksheets</li><li>• Communication devices</li></ul>

The lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run



This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!





The preamble also states 3 **inalienable** rights that all people have. These are rights each person is born with and cannot be taken or given away.



Finally, the third inalienable right is the right to the pursuit of happiness. This means that every person has the right to be happy. And each person gets to decide that for themselves. What makes you happy may not make someone else happy, and that is okay.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids



1776.

There is a book with this unit using simple text and photos. It is 32 pages and is an overview of the Declaration of Independence.

Both come in pdf versions as well as a voice-recorded powerpoints (so you don't have to print it out.)



## Declaration of Independence

Important document signed on July 4, 1776, that explained why the colonists wanted freedom from Britain.



## Parliament

Government in Great Britain.



## taxes

Money paid to the government that is added on to the price of the product or service.



## Continental Congress

Group of delegates from each colony that met in Philadelphia to make decisions for the colonists.



## preamble

The beginning of the Declaration of Independence that states the rights we are all born with.



## liberty

Freedom to do what you want and move where you want.



## inalienable

Cannot be taken or given away.



## ratified

Approved through a voting process.



There are 12 vocabulary cards that come in color and black and white.

Included are suggestions for group activities to do with these each day.



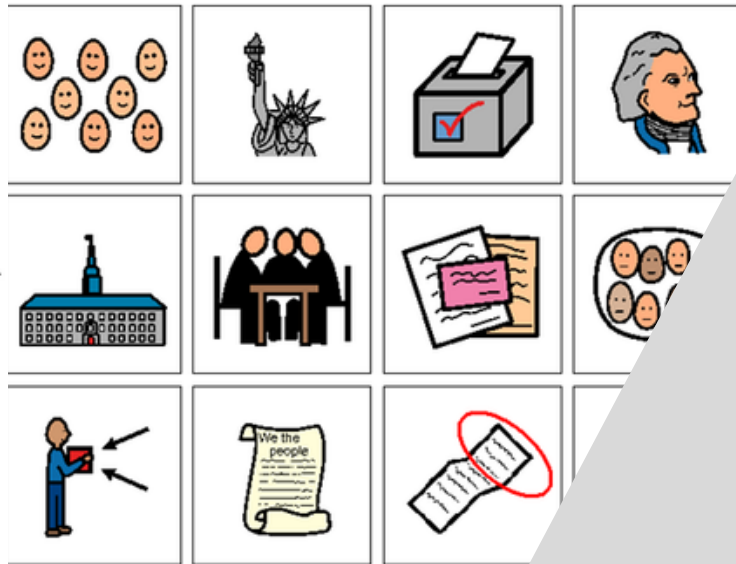
### Declaration of Independence

Important document signed on July 4, 1776, that explained why the colonists wanted freedom from Britain.



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Money paid to the government that is added on to the price of the product or service.



### Parliament

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### Continental Congress

Group of delegates from each colony that met in Philadelphia to make decisions for the colonists.



### delegates



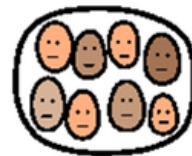
### Committee of Five



### Thomas Jefferson



### unanimous



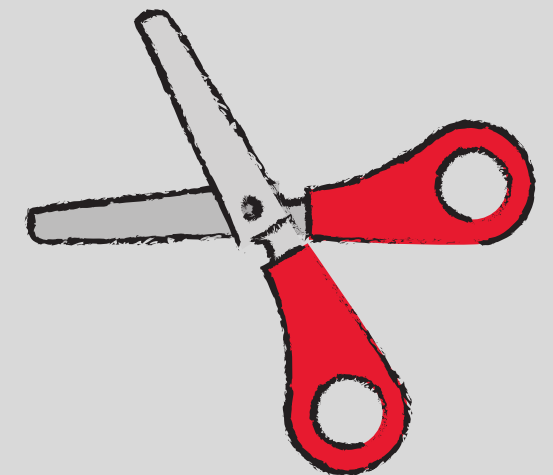
Money paid to the government that is added on to the price of the product or service.

Approved through a voting process.

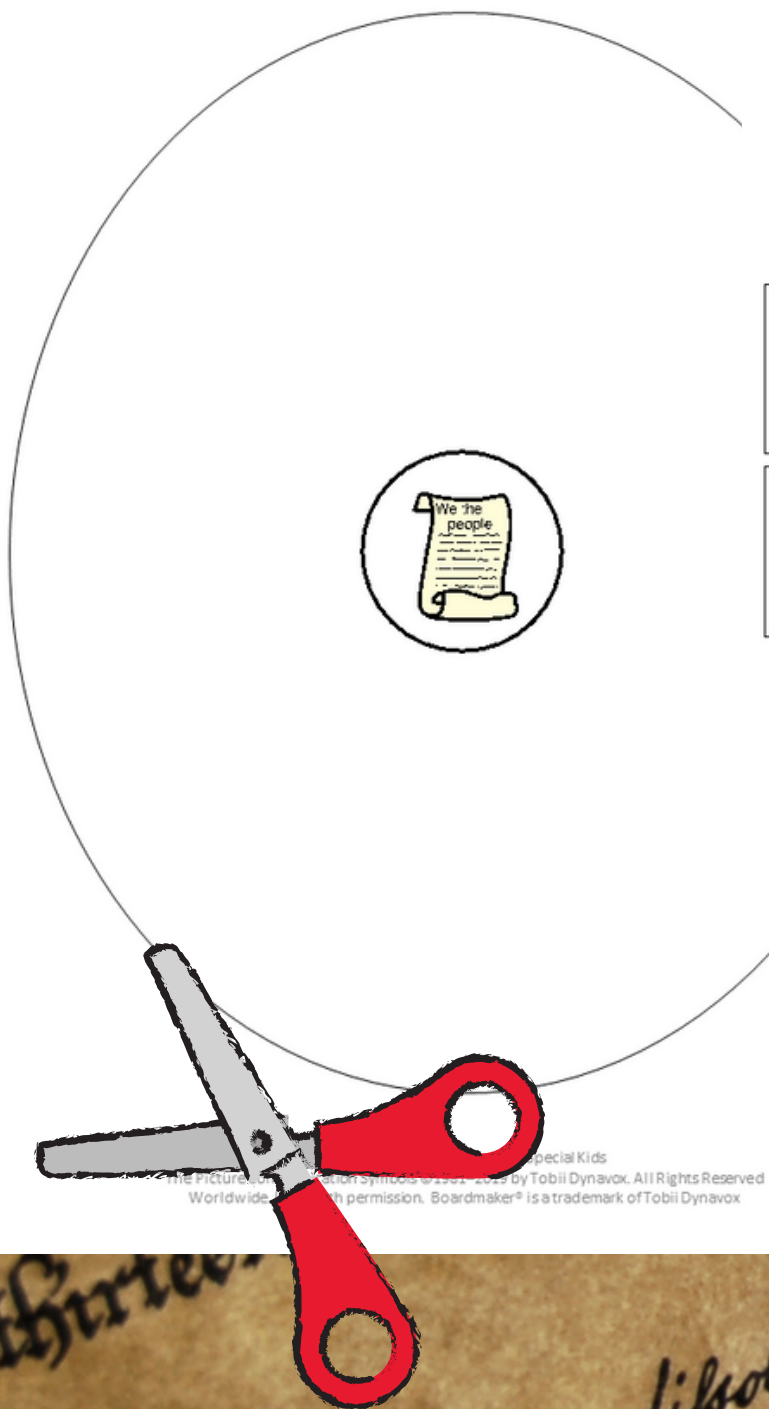
Wrote the Declaration of Independence. Went on to become the third president of the United States.

Government

On days 5&6 there is an activity where students will match either the picture to the definition or the definition to the picture (harder).

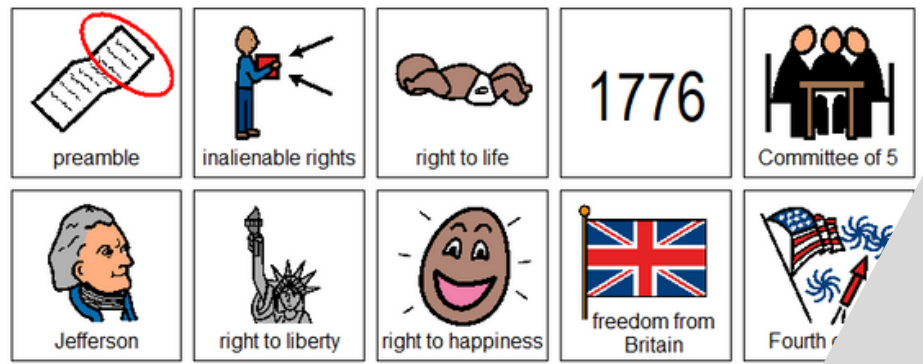




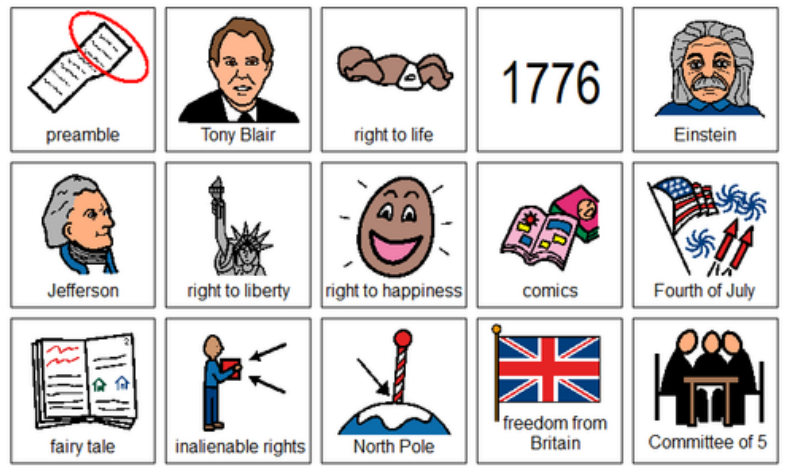


Errorless version

Cut apart pictures and place in circle map about the Declaration of Independence.



Cut apart pictures and place in circle map **ONLY IF** they relate to Declaration of Independence.



There is a circle map on the Declaration of Independence.

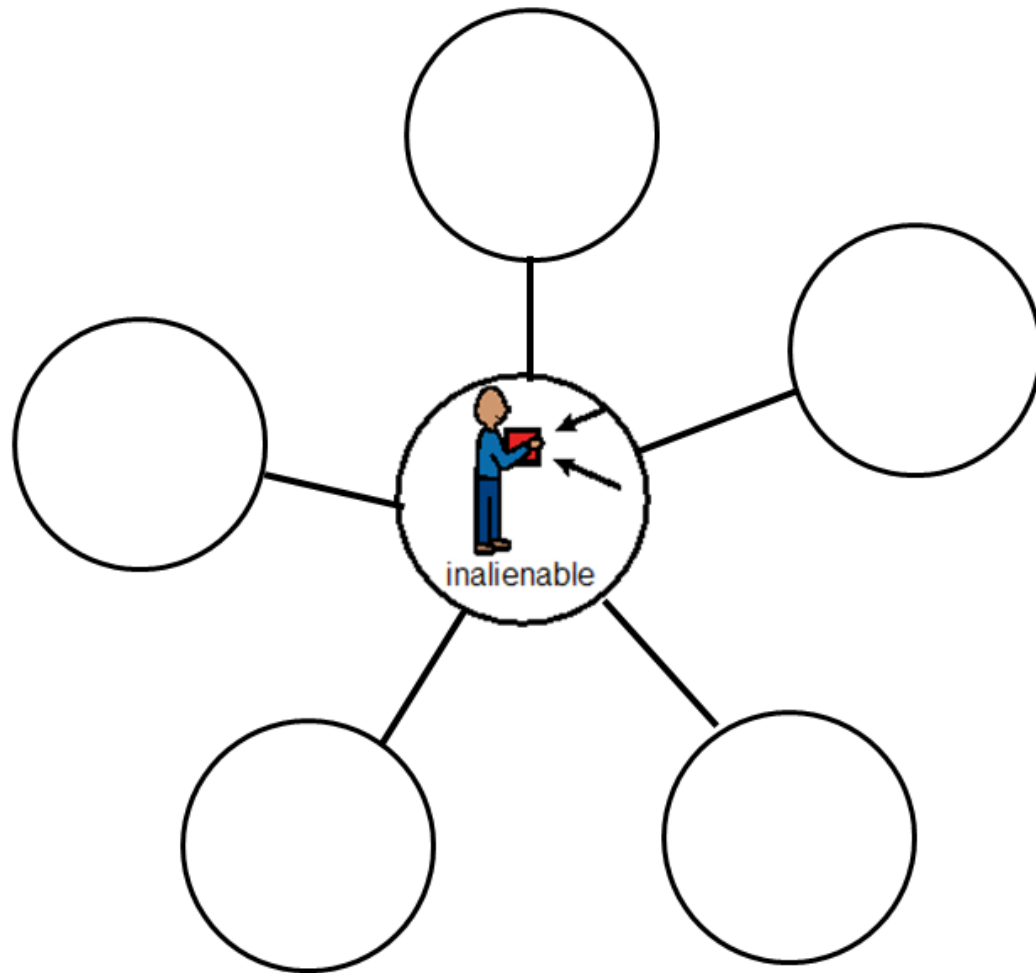
Circle maps are a great way for students to see the concept at a glance. There are 2 versions:

- One is errorless
- One has wrong answers mixed in students will have to set aside

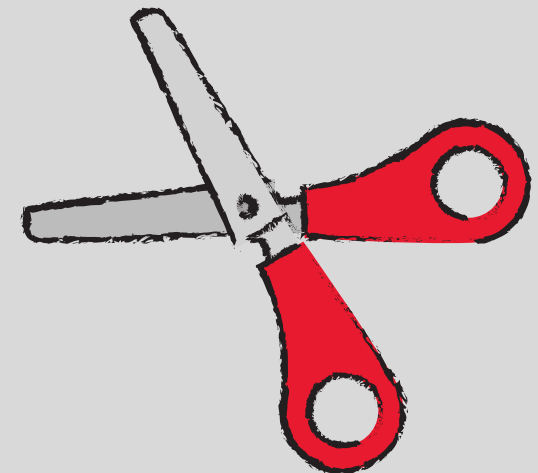
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What does inalienable mean?



There is a word map to help students understand what the word inalienable means.





Place the pictures on the next page in the correct location on the Declaration of Independence.

Preamble

Main body

King taxed us

inalienable rights

right to life

King not fair to us

people can make changes

right to liberty

right to happiness

we have no

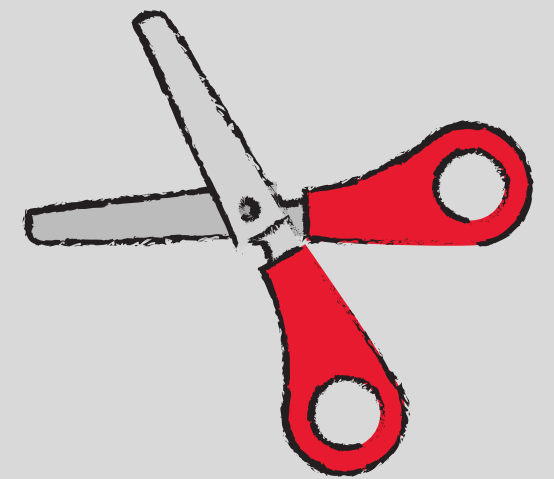
all men equal

jailed for no reason

government protects people

Christa Jo  
The Picture Communication Symbols  
Worldwide. Used with permission  
© 2011 Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved  
trademark of Tobii Dynavox

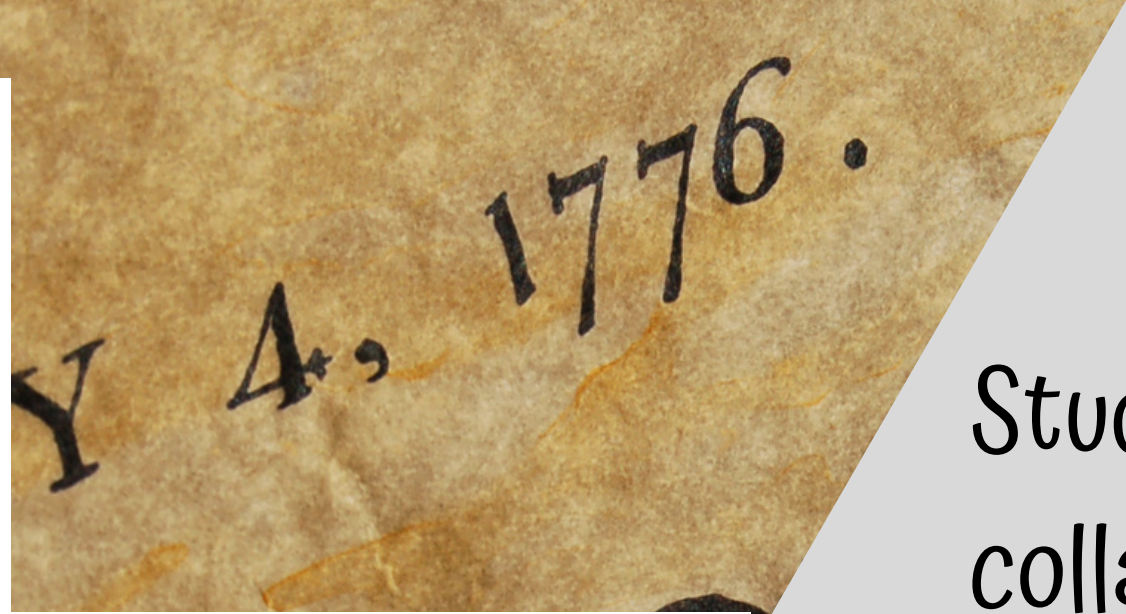
There is a sorting activity to identify what is in the two main parts of the Declaration of Independence





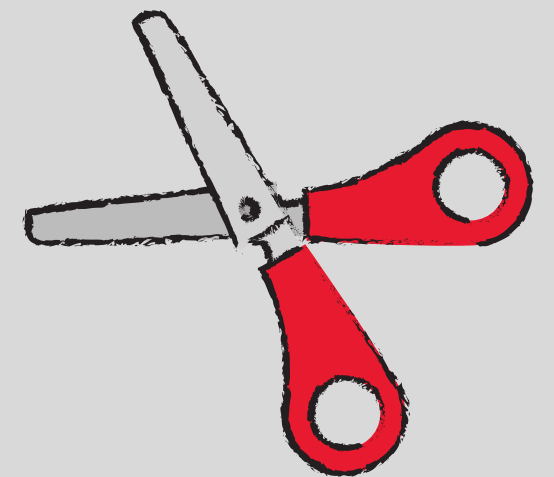
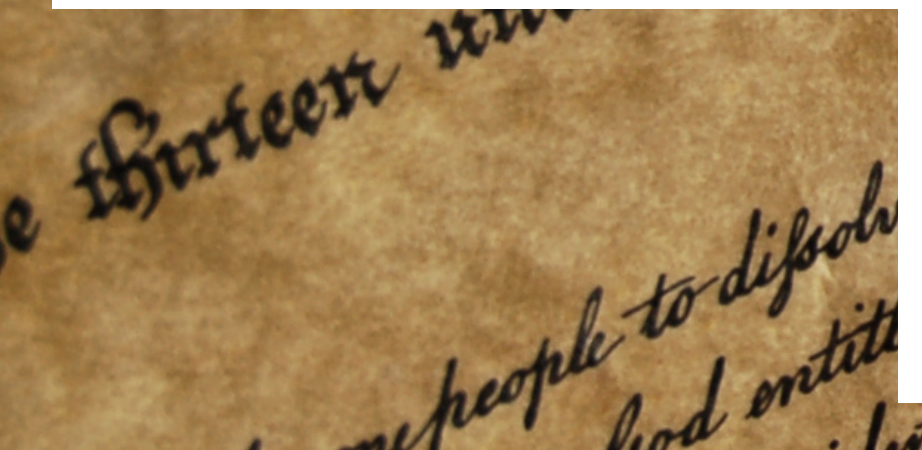
# My Pursuit of Happiness





















Students will make a collage showing things that are important to them when thinking about happiness.

Fill in the boxes on the previous page with some things that are important in your pursuit of happiness.









# Declaration of Independence









 liberty	1776	 life	 Jefferson	 inalienable	
		 inalienable		 life	1776
 inalienable					 liberty
	 Jefferson	 liberty			
	 liberty	 Jefferson	 inalienable	1776	 life
 inalienable			 happiness	 liberty	 Jefferson

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
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Place the following images in the empty squares on the previous page, completing the sudoku puzzle.

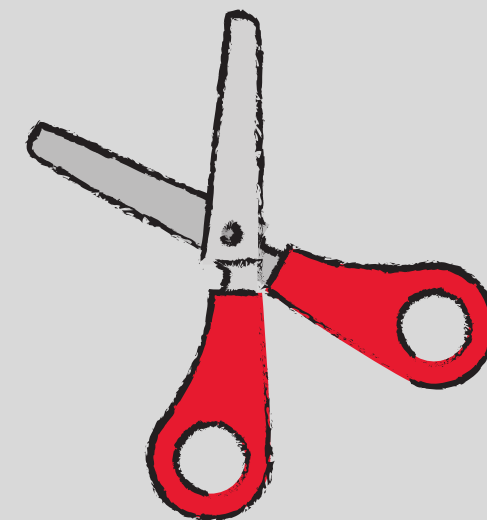
1776	1776	 life
 liberty	 liberty	 happiness

# Declaration of Independence

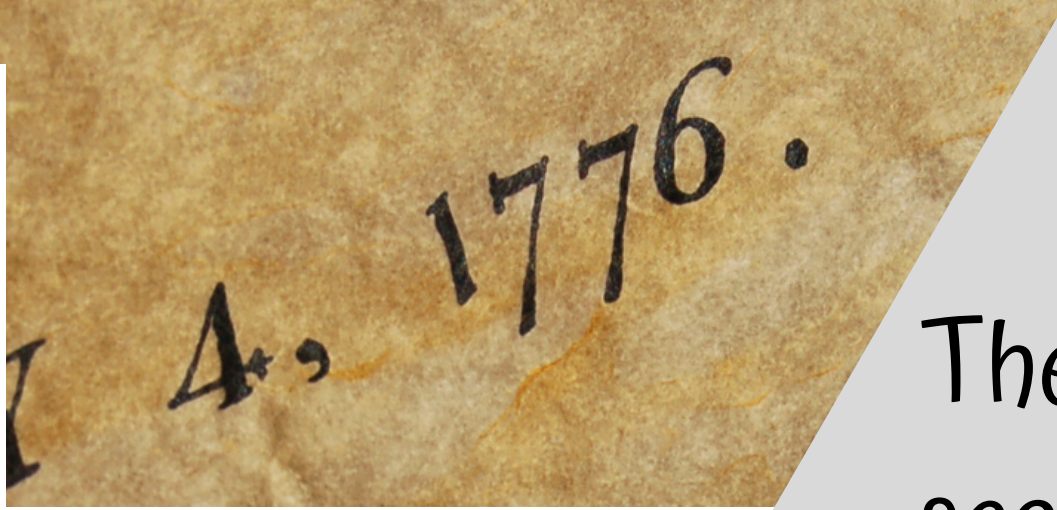
 happiness		 liberty	 life
 life			
	 happiness		1776
1776	 life	 happiness	 liberty

There is a Sudoku puzzle in this unit as well. This is a great way to work with the new vocabulary!!

There are 2 versions plus answer keys.







## Declaration of Independence

L P X U N A N I M O U S Y W M  
 Q R D F V R B M C J I Z K M Z  
 P E D H E J E F F E R S O N E  
 E A E V P K R A T I F I E D M  
 P M L Z O N A Y F U O O Y N C  
 N B E Z I N A I I E N A B L E  
 N L G B X J H A P P I N E S S  
 E E A M I O A A M H E L C S O  
 V S T D T S L I J K U I C S Z  
 E Y E C O L O N I E S B X E M  
 P P S D N A L F V B A E C O M  
 L I F E J Q Y B G H K R F E N  
 E T S T Q J H L N U F T D K L  
 J G L J J R L F Q D N Y C O W  
 G P A R L I A M E N T V L P L

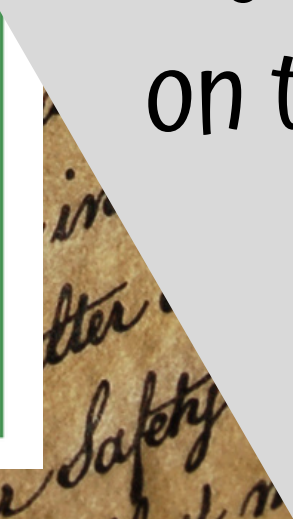
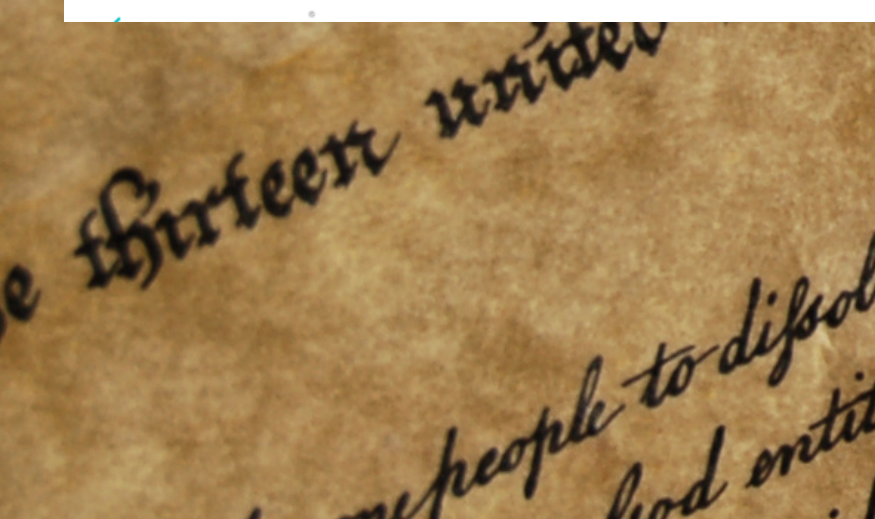
inalienable	Parliament	delegates	Jefferson
unanimous	happiness	colonies	ratified
life	preamble	liberty	

## Declaration of Independence

L P X U N A N I M O U S Y W M  
 Q R D F V R B M C J I Z K M Z  
 P E D H E J E F F E R S O N E  
 E A E V P K R A T I F I E D M  
 P M L Z O N A Y F U O O Y N C  
 N B E Z I N A I I E N A B L E  
 N L G B X J H A P P I N E S S  
 E E A M I O A A M H E L C S O  
 V S T D T S L I J K U I C S Z  
 E Y E C O L O N I E S B X E M  
 P P S D N A L F V B A E C O M  
 L I F E J Q Y B G H K R F E N  
 E T S T Q J H L N U F T D K L  
 J G L J J R L F Q D N Y C O W  
 G P A R L I A M E N T V L P L

inalienable	Parliament	delegates	Jefferson
unanimous	happiness	colonies	ratified
life	preamble	liberty	

There is also a word search to work with vocabulary. If your students cannot do a word search, have them highlight the circle words on the answer key.










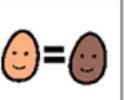
# Declaration of Independence

1. The colonists wanted freedom from .
2. The colonists had to pay high  and were often put in jail for no reason.
3. The  got together to decide who would write the declaration.
4.  was chosen to write the Declaration of Independence
5. The Declaration of Independence was written in .

 taxes	1776	 Great Britain	 Committee of 5	 Thomas Jefferson
--	------	--	---	---

# Declaration of Independence

6. The Declaration of Independence states all men are .
7. There are  inalienable rights in the .
8. People have the right to , .
9.  was the only state not to ratify the Declaration of Independence
10. The Declaration of Independence was signed on .

 July 4th	 life	 New York	 liberty	<b>3</b> three
 happiness	 equal			

Close worksheets are a great informal assessment. There are two worksheets that cover the main points from the book.

Answer key included.

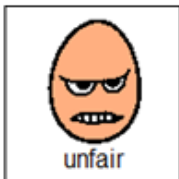
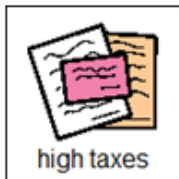




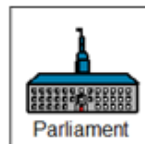
1. Who did the colonists want freedom from?



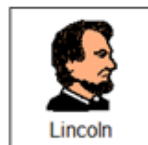
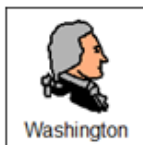
2. Why did the colonists want freedom? (circle all)



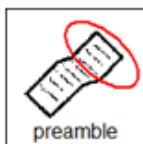
3. Who met to write the Declaration of Independence?



4. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?



5. Where are the inalienable rights found in the Declaration of Independence



FINALLY the assessment!! There are 3 versions. This version has 10 questions with 3 picture choices for each question.

Answer key included.



Print onto cardstock or mount on index cards. Cut pictures apart and show student answer choices for each question.

Q 5

 <p>preamble</p>	 <p>cover</p>	 <p>The End</p>
---	--	--

Q 6

 <p>money</p>	 <p>land</p>	 <p>life</p>
 <p>liberty</p>	 <p>travel</p>	 <p>happiness</p>

With this version, you cut out the answer choices and glue them on index cards. Ask the student the question, and they point to the correct answer.



7. The preamble also states that all men are what?
  - A. Equal
  - B. Rich
  - C. nice
8. True or False. All 13 states ratified the Declaration of Independence.
  - A. True
  - B. False
  - C. I don't know
9. When was the Declaration of Independence signed?
  - A. 1850
  - B. 1599
  - C. 1776
10. True or False. You **cannot** take or give away inalienable rights.
  - A. True
  - B. False
  - C. I don't know

This is your traditional multiple choice version. It can also be used as a recording sheet if your students are using the version with index cards.



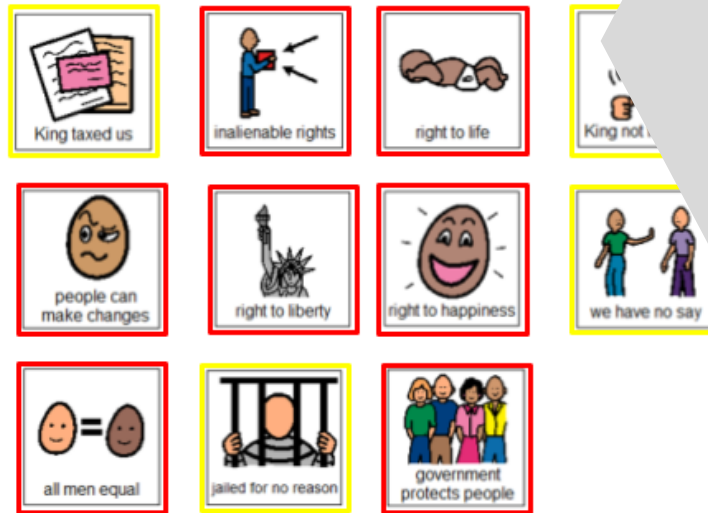
# My Pursuit of Happiness




Choose from the picture below what is important to you and makes you happy.



Sort the pictures in the correct location that they appear in the Declaration of Independence.



Preamble

Main body

This unit also has 28 google slides. There are 2 sets of slides (14 in each set). The second set is differentiated using color.





I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

**All of the activities (except the book) come in color and black and white.**

**[Click Here to read more!!](#)**