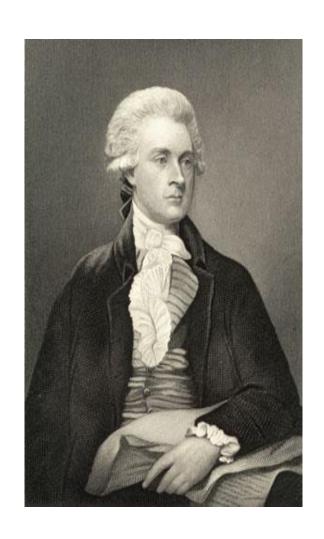
The Second Continental Congress

The Promise is Kept

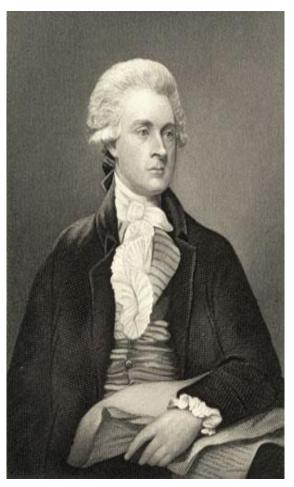
- As the First Continental Congress promised in our last unit, *IF* King George III refused their demands the members would get together again.
- The Second Continental Congress meeting is the meeting that changes the future of our country.
- Can anyone remember the date when "the The beginning of the American Revolution shot heard round the world" started the American Revolution.
 American Revolution.
 April 18, 1775.

Virginia and the Declaration

- On July 4, 1776, members of the Continental Congress from Virginia decided they wanted to create a document to explain their desire for independence.
 - Can anyone guess what this "formal document" would be called?
- The Declaration of Independence



Declaration of Independence



Thomas Jefferson

- Everyone tried to decide whom they wanted to be in charge of writing down everyone's thoughts onto the Declaration of Independence.
- Thomas Jefferson, the <u>youngest</u> member of the Continental Congress (he was 33), was selected to write and put together a draft.
- He was quiet, shy, and rarely spoke at any of the meetings.
 - So <u>why</u> did they pick HIM?

Declaration Writer Acknowledgement

- The Declaration of Independence was drafted by a committee of 5 men including famous Americans, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams.
 - However, the <u>primary author</u> of the Declaration of Independence is Thomas Jefferson.
 - Because Thomas Jefferson and John Adams did not get along with each other, Jefferson often worked independently, revising the declaration.
 - TRIVIA: Jefferson & Adams were not fans of each other. In fact, they had a running bet......



The Jefferson-Adams Bet

- It was common knowledge that Jefferson and Adams often disliked each other.
 - They had a respect for each other's leadership styles, but personally, they didn't get along.
- They both bet each other on who would outlive the other – who would die first.
 - Through the years they wrote each other to keep in touch, seek advice from one another, etc. --- but no, they were never friends.

Who won the bet?????

- Both men died on the SAME DAY July 4, 1826 exactly 50 years after they wrote the Declaration of Independence.
 And....
- They died 5 hours apart, but Jefferson died first. Adams won the bet. ☺

The Importance of the Declaration

- The two reasons why the Declaration was important to get the right person to write the Declaration of Independence was because they:
- 1. Had to convince the Loyalists and Fence-Sitters to take sides with the Patriots.
- 2. Wanted England to really understand why they didn't want to be ruled by a king anymore.

Can anyone tell me the TWO (2) reasons why John Hancock's name is written the largest on the Declaration of

- 1. Everyone was <u>afraid</u> of signing it it was an act of treason (the worst crime against one's country; death was punishment). Hancock signed it *extra large* to show he wasn't afraid, and that he believed in what they were doing.
- 2. Hancock was the president of the Second Continental Congress. He signed it first

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the 18ther units States of America.

White is the bound home could it become confunction in majorithe to defeate, his political brade which have commetted these with consider, and to bone every the free of the early the plants and exact from it which the law of Nature and of Arthreis land while them, a damb respect to the opinion of machine region that they - We had then Mathe tota fiff widout; that all more on could round; that they are underval by their breaks all Rights, that arring there are left about it with present of Happings. That I presented lights former and in instituted covering their public policy. the would githe ground . That above one to my borney becomes home botterting of him mile, it is the light of the things to attend to which it and to implicate new ng ito fearlistics in oach, franciples, and regionzing its francisis and, francisch there while arm mort thely is opic this religious and bloopings. "Indines indied add dietric blad feveniments long utababule flendel met is changed for longit und termined confers and mediagly all expresses hath flower other consecution was desposed to figher with over as frequently them to optic the involve by absolution of the from the state of the contract of the finite printips. I want to the contract of the contract of the finite printips. raw the pulmed following of their bedomer, and factor was the neighbor which constrains them to alto. Her forms electron of Generalization. The histografile product thing of Great lititate is a history of ripolish improve our highestones, all house to hearing to head about the gibble hearing of me which the principles of the second second of the second the second second to the second th the amount latin of large district of people weigh their people would alwayed it explict of lazarentetim ratio legislature, a right in opinish tellem and formal He has allowing the legal sin bodies at place amount, accompation, and distant from the departing of best fluible Records for the place of fi ____ Ilk has undersoned be farment. He flood between of these Master: for their purpose wheten no fr. Neisendyster. of Georgius exchange lefup elevate mensage that migration bilder, and sensing the condition of new Appergication of Lords. _____ Its does that the The discounted a multidade of New Yesis, and contributes, because of Officer behingle over Archive, websit out their fulldames in to fee fresh . For him the how weating in attacking to attacking to be their delicity within the feether of the accompanie. "We wise, therefore, agreeme in the mention, which decomme my chancelow and back theory would be incorpored to help and the second of the control of the contro 1 marine leophitus Button foundty Syman Hall. Ger Wallow. Sty Markins

The Declaration of Independence in a Nutshell

- The Declaration of Independence is broken up into four (4) parts:
 - The Preamble (an introduction telling the purpose of the document and why it was written)
 - The Declaration of Human Rights (the basic ideals of American democracy of equality, and independence from England)

- The Grievances Against
 the King (the list of abuses
 committed by King George
 from the first taxes to the
 passage of the Intolerable
 Acts).
- The Announcement for Independence from England (notification to the world that the former British colonies are free and independent states and are to be treated as equal nations of the world.



On July 4, 1776
Americans sent
King George III the
Declaration of
Independence.

REMEMBER: The American Revolution began BEFORE the Declaration of Independence was even sent to England.

War Started: April 18, 1775

<u>Declaration Sent:</u> July 4, 1776

The Declaration of Independence and Influences from the Enlightenment

In Congress, July 4, 1776.

A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness; that, to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Jefferson begins the Declaration by attempting to legally and philosophically justify the revolution that was already underway. Here Jefferson is saying that, now that the colonists have begun to separate themselves from British rule, it is time to explain why the colonists have taken this course of action.

These passages reveal the influence of the English philosopher John Locke. In *Two Treatises of Government* (1690), Locke argued that if a government does not allow its citizens to enjoy certain rights and freedoms, the people have a right to replace that government.

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