

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

"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."

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The Declaration of Independence was written in 1776 by the colonies to say that they were going to separate from Britain. The document includes reasons why the colonists felt that they needed to separate. After reading over the excerpt from the Declaration of Independence, answer the questions below.

According to the Declaration of Independence, where does a government get its power from?

What are the rights in the Declaration of Independence that everybody should have? According to the colonists, how was Britain going against those rights?

How do these ideas in the Declaration of Independence influence the United States today?

What was interesting or surprising to you about this excerpt of the Declaration of Independence?