

Teacher guide:

Hand out the following page to each student. The page explains reasons for and against signing the Declaration of Independence. Have students cut out the bottom portion with Yes and No, and have them fold it along the dotted line to create a sign.

Get popsicle sticks or straws, and have students tape their signs onto them. Hold a class vote, and have students hold up Yes or No!

If you don't have popsicle sticks or straws, have students put the signs on their desk and show which one they would choose.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Right before Benjamin Franklin signed the Declaration of Independence, he remarked, "We must, indeed, all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

Would you sign the Declaration of Independence?

Reasons to sign the Declaration:

- Opportunity to be a leader in the newly created country
- Only signers of the Declaration can remain in the Continental Congress
- Take a stand for what you believe is right

Reasons not to sign the Declaration:

- Viewed as treason against Great Britain
- Potential to become a target for Loyalists
- If the British win the war, can lose everything

SIGNING THE
DECLARATION

YES

SIGNING THE
DECLARATION

NO