

The Declaration of Independence

Text-Dependent Questions	Non-Text-Dependent Questions
What is being announced in the first paragraph?	Is it confusing for the reader to see capitalization inconsistencies throughout in order to maintain conventionality to the original document?
What does the word “necessary” mean? Why is the word “necessary” considered one of the most important words in the introductory paragraph?	Do you think the unalienable rights of individuals (as stated in the Declaration) are upheld today?
How does the introductory paragraph direct readers to a favorable view of America?	Jefferson declares the need for “a decent respect to the opinions of mankind.” Why is it important to have respect for other people’s opinions?
How does the argument in the introduction advance from a trivial dispute with England to a monumental occurrence that changed the course of history?	What are some documents that influenced the authors of the Declaration?
What could be the rationale for labeling the Americans "one people" and the British "another"? Why was it so important to define the groups as separate people?	
What does “self-evident” mean? Which truths in the preamble are “self-evident”?	
Which propositions found in the first two sentences of the preamble establish the right to a revolution?	
How did Jefferson justify his argument in the preamble?	