

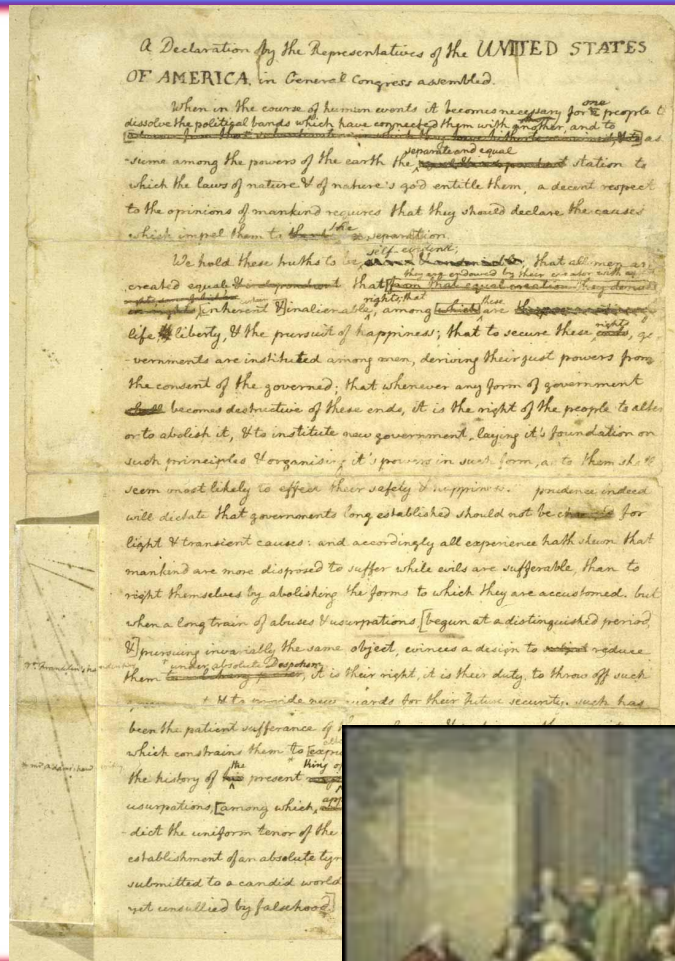
The Declaration of Independence

**California State Standard 10.2.2
Modified from Ms. Owen**

The Standard

- **List the principles of the...American Declaration of Independence...**

Declaration of Independence, 1776





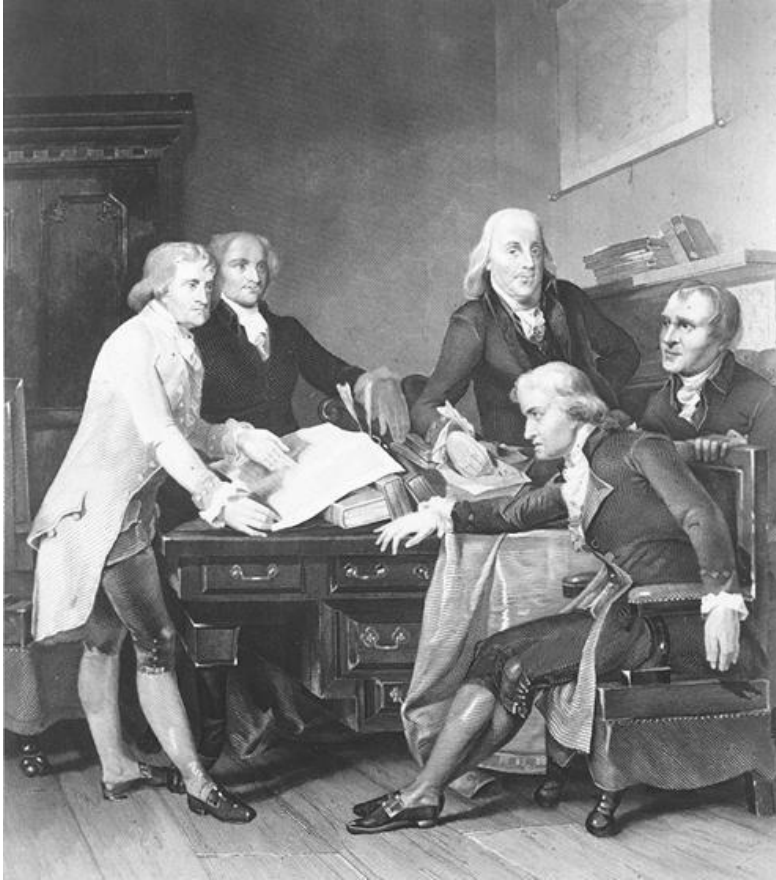
declaration : (*n*)

an official statement

independence : (*n*)

**the freedom to govern on
one's own.**

Who was involved?



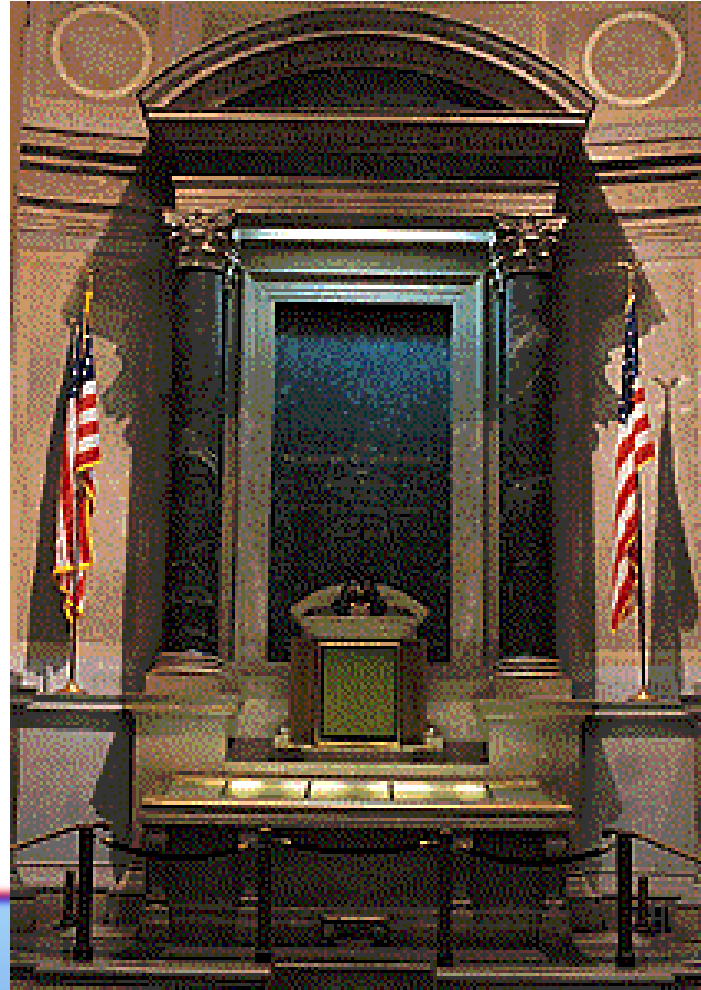
- Benjamin Franklin
- John Adams
- Robert R. Livingston
- Roger Sherman
- Thomas Jefferson

Where did it all take place?

This is a replica of the Graff house where Jefferson wrote the majority of the 1st draft of the Declaration of Independence. The original building (at this location) was destroyed in 1888.

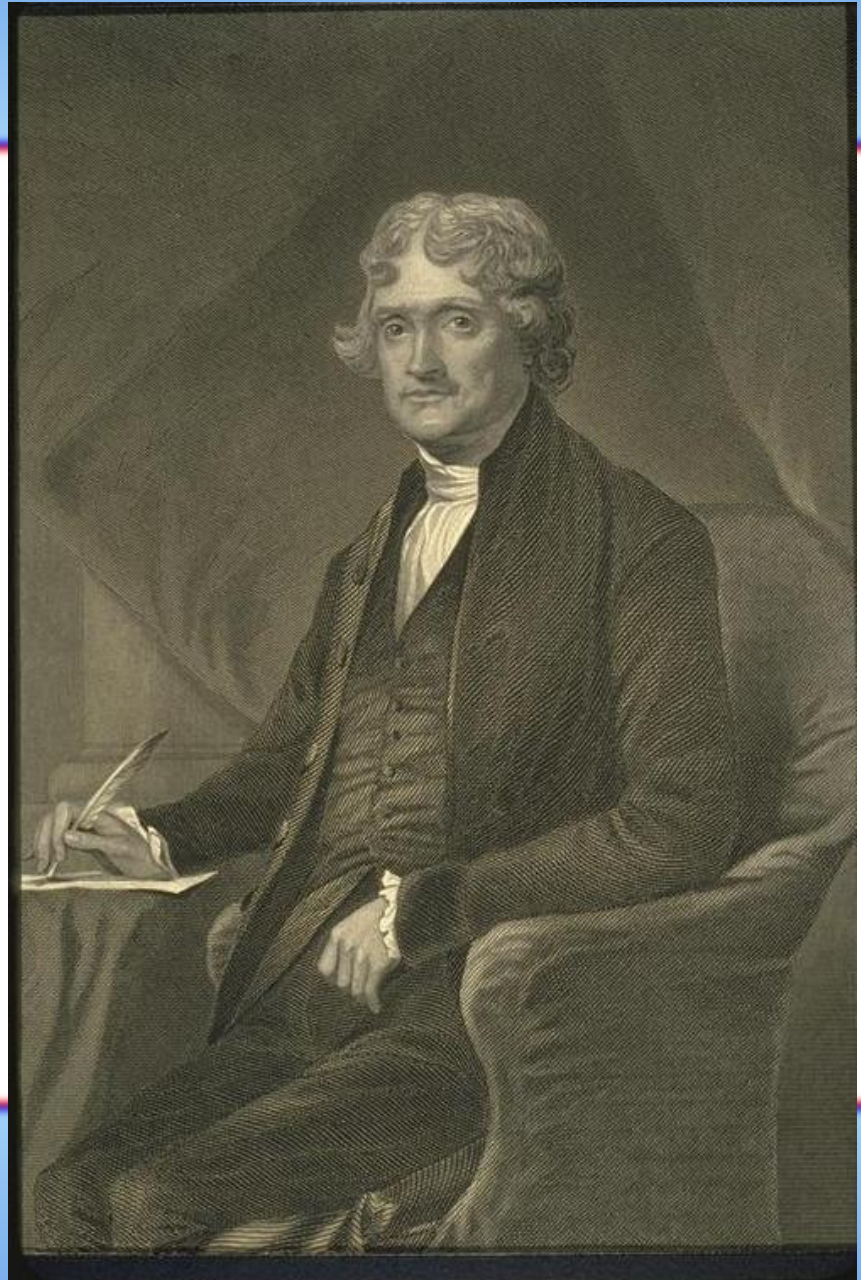


What happened after it was signed and where is it now?

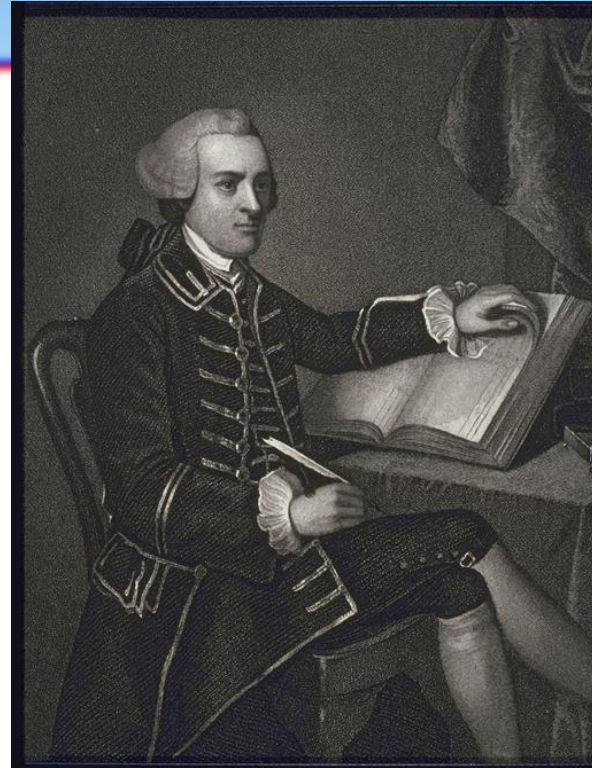


**What did it
look like?**

Great.



**Who signed
it first?**



John Hancock

Structure

- 1 **The Declaration of Independence is divided into four parts:**
 - 1 A preamble that announces the reason for the document
 - 1 A section that explains the political principles underlying the rights of people
 - 1 A list of the unfair acts of the British king
 - 1 The actual declaration of independence from Britain



The Preamble

- Jefferson by trying to legally and philosophically justify the revolution that was already underway
- He says 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

Part II

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

Part III

- In this section, Jefferson condemns the behavior of King George
- He lists the king's many tyrannical actions that have forced his American subjects to rebel

Part IV

- In this passage, the delegates declare independence
- The Declaration ends with the delegate's pledge, or pact
- The delegates at the Second Continental Congress knew that, in declaring their independence from Great Britain, they were committing treason—a crime punishable by death