

Vocabulary Match:

govern	A group of people who are elected to make laws for a colony, state or country
journey	A territory that is ruled by another country
colony	The legislature of Britain
governor	Money given for the support of the government
legislature or congress	To select by voting
elect	Freedom from control by others
parliament	Make and enforce laws
document	An official who governs a colony or state
taxes	Combat between two armies
representative or delegate	A firm statement of purpose
battle	A person who is chosen to represent others
independence	trip
declaration	A written paper that is official

Read in your group.

- 1.The United States of America began as 13 colonies of Great Britain.
- 2.The king of Great Britain appointed colonial governors to rule the colonies.
- 3.But, the colonies also had elected legislatures to help make and enforce laws.
- 4.When the British king and the British parliament began to pass laws to raise taxes on the colonists, American colonists felt it was unfair.
- 5.The colonists believed they should not be taxed, because they had no representatives in the British parliament.
- 6.The colonists said they wanted, "No taxation, without representation."
- 7.Many colonists refused to pay the new taxes.
- 8.As a result, the British sent their army to the colonies and a war began.
- 9.In 1775 when the first battle began, American colonists did not seek independence.
- 10.They only sought to change the king's mind about taxing the colonists without their approval.
- 11.But by summer of 1776, most colonists agreed that America would be better off as a separate country.
- 12.A congress of delegates from the 13 colonies met in Philadelphia.

13. One delegate, Thomas Jefferson was asked to write a declaration to explain why the American colonies were fighting against Britain.
14. It also explained why Americans wanted to be free.
15. This document was approved by the congress on July 4, 1776.
16. It was signed by all delegates.
17. It is known as, "The Declaration of Independence."
18. The Declaration stated that, "all men are created equal" and that everyone has a right to, "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness".
19. It stated that the purpose of government was to ensure the people's rights.
20. If a government attempts to take away these rights, then the people have a right to abolish the government.
21. The declaration of our independence from Britain is celebrated on Independence Day, July 4th, each year.
22. People dress up in red, white and blue.
23. They fly flags on their houses.
24. They have parties and attend picnics and watch parades.
25. At night, people shoot off fireworks or watch public fireworks displays.

Use these words to fill in the blanks:

sought enforce abolish attempt display public

- My grandmother would never wear a swimsuit in _____.
- The police tried to _____ the law against speeding.
- President Lincoln _____ slavery in the U.S. in 1863.
- The police _____ the teenagers who ran away.
- I will _____ a flag on my house to celebrate July 4th.
- The magician will _____ to escape from the locked suitcase.
- I would like to _____ the rule that allows 16 year olds to drive.
- I will make an _____ to climb Mt. Everest in the fall.
- Her parents _____ a better school for her.
- The police _____ the laws that the government makes.

Declare: **Declare** is a verb. If you **declare** that something is true, you say it in a firm way. You can declare your intentions. That means tell people what you intend to do. Governments can declare ceasefires. That means they say everyone must stop fighting. You can declare goods that you are importing into a country. That means you say that you bought these things in another country. When you go through customs in the U.S. the agents will ask, "Do you have anything to declare?". They are asking you if you are bringing in new items that you just purchased in another country. The reason the agent asks this is so that you can be taxed on those items. This tax is called a "custom duty".