

## Part Two, The Making of America:

### Lesson 3: *The Declaration of Independence*

(Lesson Time 42:41 )

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

[for Sunday, October 26, 2014]

Reading: The Making of America, pages 26-38

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## The Declaration of Independence

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Reading Assignment: The Making of America, pages 26-38

Pre-lesson questions for homework study and review:

1. EXPLAIN HOW THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS CHOSEN TO WRITE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. (PAGES 26-27)

#### Preparation

o John Adams' convincing dialogue

o Educational preparation

-proficient in 5 languages

-Greek & Roman classics

-English history

-Anglo saxons

-Old & New Testament [loved words of Christ-cut out-'Jefferson Bible']

-discovered earliest form of representative government

-“ancient principles”

#### Writing the Declaration

o Completed in 17 days

-Only 1 day to list grievances against King

-copied from his “Summary View...” document

-16 days to finish the first two paragraphs!

-incorporated eight “ancient principles”

2. WHAT ARE THE EIGHT "ANCIENT PRINCIPLES" JEFFERSON INCORPORATED INTO THE BEGINNING TWO PARAGRAPHS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE? (28)

o Ancient Principles [in pgh 1,2 Declaration!]

-1. self-evident principles

-2. law of nature and nature's God

-3. Equality of man [3 areas]

-rights, -before the law, -before God

-4. Unalienable rights

-5. Life, liberty, pursuit of happiness

-6. gov – protect right of the people

-7. Consent of the governed

-8. If govt fails, right and duty of people to change

3. DESCRIBE THE FEAR THAT THE 56 SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION FELT IN PUTTING THEIR NAMES ON THE DOCUMENT. (31)

Signing of the Declaration [original is now lost btw]

- o Approved by Congress on July 2, 1776 [60 changes – mostly grievances modified]
- o First public reading July 8 [p 30 -signed by John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress]
- o Not signed until August 2
- o Jefferson not identified as author
- o Delegates knew King would charge with High Treason [17 offenses listed w/ King George]



4. WHAT DEVICE DID THE FOUNDERS USE TO HELP FUTURE GENERATIONS REMEMBER THE ROOTS OF AMERICAN FREEDOM? (32-33)

Seal of the New Nation [story on this *only in our textbook*]

- o Committee: Jefferson, Adams, Franklin [p.33]
- o One side: Ancient Israelites
- o Other side: Anglo Saxons
- o Not immediately adopted

Current seal

o On every Dollar Bill

-American Eagle (L) arrows/olive branches

-Unfinished Pyramid

-Roman numerals – 1776

-All-seeing eyes of the Creator

-*Annuit Coeptis*

-He (God) hath favored our undertaking

-*Novus Ordo Seclorum* –

-New Order of the Ages [not today's "New World

Order"]

5. DESCRIBE JEFFERSON'S SELF-APPOINTED MISSION TO MAKE VIRGINIA A MODEL STATE. (34-38)

Jefferson Resigns from Congress

- o Washington lost New York
- o Wife extremely ill
- o Virginia needed help
- o Turns down appointment to France
- o Gets himself elected to VA state legislature

Jefferson's Reforms

- o Eliminating Slavery in one generation
- o New Civil Codes
- o New criminal code doing away with cruel and unusual punishment
- o Abolish Primogeniture
- o Eliminate state church
- o Eliminate tithing tax

