

Declaration Signers

The Declaration was signed by 56 representatives from the 13 original states.

8. Which signers do you recognize? Write one line about each of those signers.

the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor. [Signed by]

John Hancock *President, from Massachusetts*

[Georgia] Button Gwinnett; Lyman Hall; George Walton

[Rhode Island] Stephen Hopkins; William Ellery

[Connecticut] Roger Sherman; Samuel Huntington; William Williams; Oliver Wolcott

[North Carolina] William Hooper; Joseph Hewes; John Penn

[South Carolina] Edward Rutledge; Thomas Heyward, Jr.; Thomas Lynch, Jr.; Arthur Middleton

[Maryland] Samuel Chase; William Paca; Thomas Stone; Charles Carroll

[Virginia] George Wythe; Richard Henry Lee; Thomas Jefferson; Benjamin Harrison; Thomas Nelson, Jr.; Francis Lightfoot Lee; Carter Braxton

[Pennsylvania] Robert Morris; Benjamin Rush; Benjamin Franklin; John Morton; George Clymer; James Smith; George Taylor; James Wilson; George Ross

[Delaware] Caesar Rodney; George Read; Thomas McKean

[New York] William Floyd; Philip Livingston; Francis Lewis; Lewis Morris

[New Jersey] Richard Stockton; John Witherspoon; Francis Hopkinson; John Hart; Abraham Clark

[New Hampshire] Josiah Bartlett; William Whipple; Matthew Thornton

[Massachusetts] Samuel Adams; John Adams; Robert Treat Paine; Elbridge Gerry

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTIONS

Short Answer

1. What is the purpose of the Declaration of Independence as stated in the Preamble?
2. What are the five main parts of the Declaration?
3. What are three rights that all people have?

Extended Answer

4. Why did the colonies feel that they had to declare their independence?