

UNIT 1 Shaping the New World
Origins of the American Tradition to 1800

A STEM school
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Space Generation



THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE & BILL OF RIGHTS

FROM THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

WITH
JIM SOTO

SPEAK YOUR MIND

What rights do you have at home, at school, and at work? How do you know you have these rights?

Take a minute to consider and answer the question in your notebook.



THE DECLARATION

By issuing the Declaration of Independence in July 4, 1776, the 13 American colonies severed their political connections to Great Britain. Using the language of a divorce document, the Declaration summarized the colonists' reasons for seeking independence.

The Revolutionary War had already begun, and several major battles had already taken place.



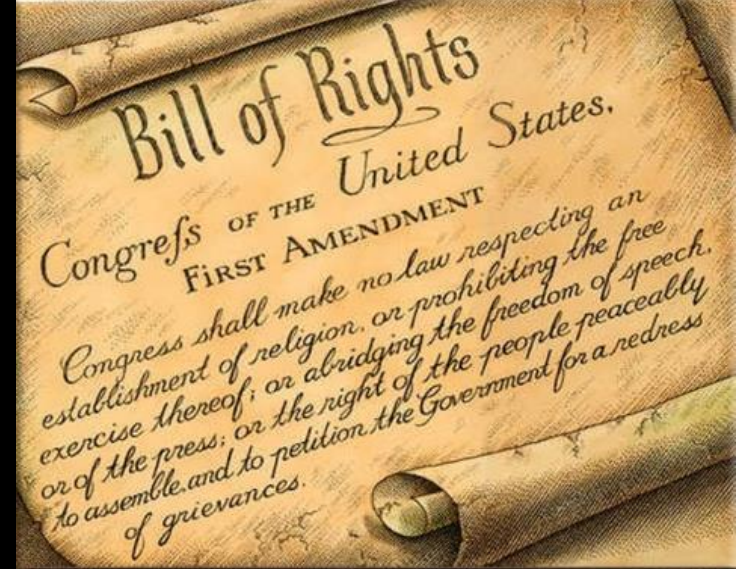
The Declaration helped unify the colonies so that they all fought together instead of making separate peace agreements with Britain.

Additionally, it established for the first time in world history a new nation based on the First Principles of the rule of law, unalienable rights, limited government, equality, and the right to alter or abolish oppressive government.



THE BILL

The **Bill of Rights** refers to the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution. Proposed to calm the fears of Anti-Federalists who had opposed Constitutional ratification, these amendments guarantee a number of personal freedoms, limit the government's power in judicial and other proceedings, and reserve some powers to the states and the public.



The following video should provide an easy and entertaining introduction to the Bill of Rights.

CLICK

**WE THE PEOPLE
ALL MEN ARE
CREATED
EQUAL
CONSENT
OF THE
GOVERNED
TRIAL BY JURY
FREEDOM OF
THE PRESS**



LITERARY ELEMENTS

Thesis

A thesis is the main idea presented and supported in a work of nonfiction. A strong thesis must be specific, precise, forceful, confident, and demonstrable.

Additionally, it should challenge the audience or the reader with a point of view that can be debated and can be supported with evidence.



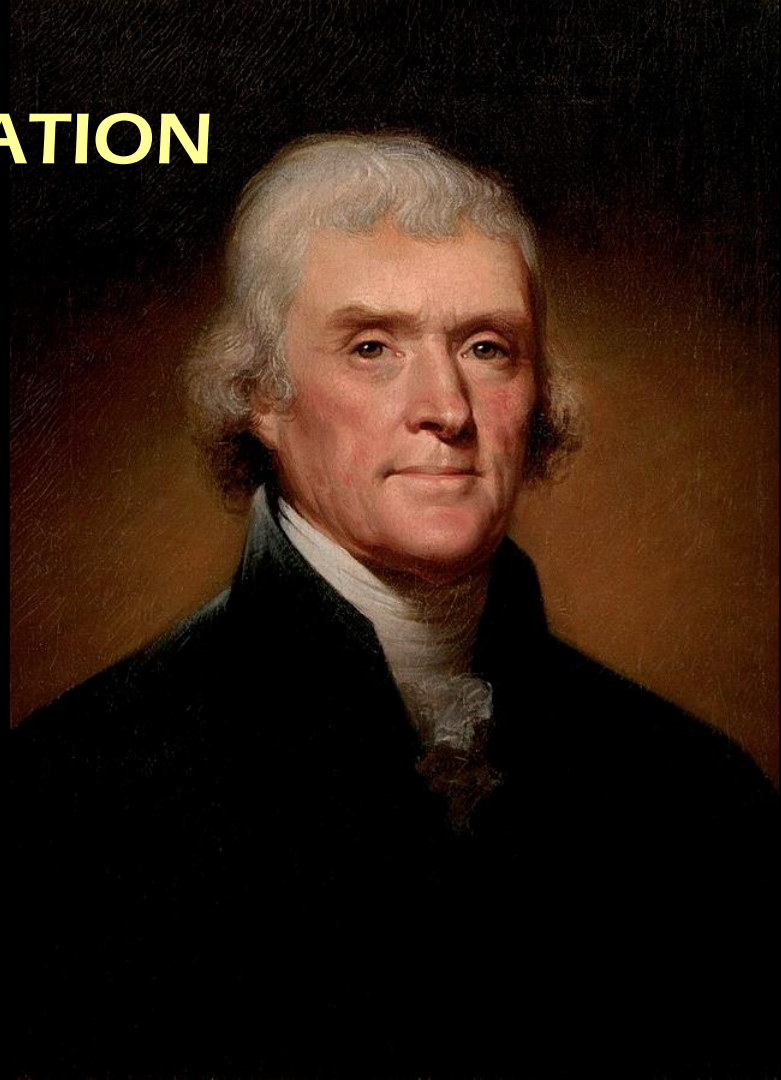
LITERARY ELEMENTS

Parallelism

Is a rhetorical technique in which a writer emphasizes the equal value or weight of two or more ideas by expressing them in the same grammatical form. Parallelism is used to create rhythm and evoke emotions. An example of parallelism in the Declaration of Independence is the use of “*we have*,” then a past tense verb, such as “*We have Petitioned*,” and “*we have conjured*.”

AS YOU READ: THE DECLARATION

Although the Declaration of Independence was created by a committee of legislators, scholars say that much of it was written by Thomas Jefferson. As you read, determine the thesis that underlies this historical document. Observe how he uses parallelism in his writing. Consider why he uses this technique to present the colonists' grievances against the British king.



AS YOU READ: THE CONSTITUTION

Four years after the U.S. signed a peace treaty with Great Britain, the thirteen colonies gained their independence. They formed a new country, the United States of America. Now, a constitution to rule the new country had to be redacted. It was to be the foundation of our Federal Government. It was an unparalleled document in human history, but imperfect. That's why the Bill of Rights came into existence.





During the debate to adopt the U.S. Constitution, a group known as the **Anti-Federalists** opposed the Constitution claiming it made government too powerful. They claimed that the Constitution, as it was originally drafted, could lead to tyranny. What was needed, was a guarantee that certain individual basic rights be protected.

To ensure that the Constitution would be ratified by all states, Congress added a “bill of rights,” spelling out limits on the power of the federal government. The Bill of Rights contains the first ten amendments to the Constitution.





As you read, decide if the Bill of Rights guarantees the unalienable rights described in the Declaration of Independence: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Name a specific amendment from the bill that supports each of these three unalienable rights.

ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 63-69 in your book, complete the activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - Thesis & Parallelism - Write a conclusion to the Declaration of Independence. In your own words, state the **thesis** of the document and analyze the different ways the thesis is supported in each section of the document. Do the authors use deductive or inductive reasoning to support their conclusions? Explain.
 - How does Jefferson use **parallelism** in his presentation of grievances against King George? What effect does this parallelism have on the reader?



Jim Soto © 2022