

U.S. AND TEXAS DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE

Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. Research the U.S. and Texas Declarations of Independence
2. Compare/contrast the U.S. and Texas Declarations of Independence
3. Create a graphic organizer depicting the information found

TEKS: SS 3.16 (C), (D), 4.16 (A), 4.22 (B), 5.2 (A), 5.16 (A), 5.25 (B)

Materials Needed: information sources, either print or online, outline maps of Texas and the US (attached), scissors, copies of "The Declaration of Independence" sheet for student response (attached)

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/republic/declare-01.html>,

<http://www.lsjunction.com/docs/tdoi.htm>,

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/TT/mjtce.html>,

<http://www.texasalmanac.com/history/declaration/>

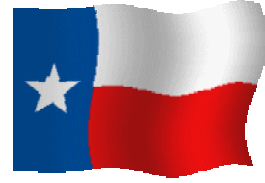
Vocabulary: grievance, declaration, independence, document

Teaching Strategy:

1. Divide the class into two groups, one of which will study the U.S. Declaration of Independence and one of which will study the Texas Declaration of Independence.
2. Students will divide the questions within their groups and use online or print sources to find the answers. Answers will be recorded on attached sheet.
3. Each group will use the information found to create a puzzle about the Declaration of Independence that they studied. Each puzzle piece will contain the answer to one question. The puzzle will be in the shape of Texas or the U.S., depending on the Declaration they studied. The attached patterns may be used as is, or enlarged to allow for more space.
4. After students make the puzzles, they will compare the two declarations by announcing the answers to their particular question.
5. Analyze the information by comparing the facts discovered.

G/T Extension:

Students will research the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20, 1775, in which Mecklenburg County, South Carolina, declared independence from Great Britain, to discover how it compares with the U.S. Declaration of Independence written a year later.



The Declaration of Independence

1. When was the Declaration formally adopted? _____
2. Who was the major writer of the Declaration? _____
3. From what country was this document declaring independence?

4. How many signers were there? _____
5. In what city was this Declaration signed? _____
6. How long did it take to write this Declaration? _____
7. How many grievances are listed in the Declaration of Independence?

8. Who was the ruler of the country we were declaring independence from? _____
9. This Declaration contains the phrase “life, liberty, and _____”
10. Bonus question: Where is this Declaration located now?

The Declaration of Independence Answer Key

	U.S.	TX
1. When was the Declaration formally adopted?	1776	1836
2. Who was the major writer of the Declaration?	G. Childress	T. Jefferson
3. From what country was this document declaring independence?	Great Britain	Mexico
4. How many signers were there?	56	59
5. In what city was this Declaration signed?	Philadelphia	Washington-on-Brazos
6. How long did it take to write this Declaration?	One day	3 wks
7. How many grievances are listed in the Declaration of Independence?	27	13
8. Who was the ruler of the country we were declaring independence from?	Geo III	Santa Anna
9. This Declaration contains the phrase "life, liberty, and _____" (US) Pursuit of happiness, (TX) Property		
10. Bonus question: Where is this Declaration located now?	National Archives, Washington, DC,	Capitol, Austin



