Declaration of Independence Questions

1. What is the purpose of this declaration?
2. Jefferson notes that “all men are created equal,” suggesting that this was “self-evident.” What is meant by that statement?
3. What, according to Jefferson, is the duty of the colonists?
4. What John Locke concept is explained in this quote “But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security”
5. Who is “he”? and why does Jefferson use that pronoun?
6. Define the use of the term consent and quartering.
7. Summarize the grievances or issues that Jefferson has with the king.
8. What tone is Jefferson looking to make towards the King in the paragraph that starts “He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us”
9. Why does Jefferson specify that the colonists have “become the executioners of their friends and Brethren”?
10. What is the relationship between the King and the “Indian Savages”?
11. According to Jefferson, what have the colonists attempted in the past?
12. What is meant by the Quote “solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved”
13. What rights does Jefferson claim that the colonies now possess?