

Declaration of Independence Lesson Plan 6th Grade

6th Grade Lesson Plan (50 minutes)

Topic: The Declaration of Independence & Founding Fathers

Objective

Students will understand:

- Why the colonies wanted independence
 - Key ideas like **freedom** and **rights**
 - Important people (Franklin, Jefferson, Washington)
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Warm-Up (5 min)

Ask:

- “What does freedom mean to you?”
 - “Why might people want to be independent?”
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Mini Lesson (15 min)

Teacher explains (simplified):

- Colonists were upset about **taxes without representation**
- King George III treated them unfairly
- The **Declaration of Independence** explained why they wanted freedom

Introduce key figures:

- Benjamin Franklin – Statesmen, scientist and leader

- Thomas Jefferson – wrote the Declaration
 - George Washington – led the army
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Activity (15 min)

“Match the Founder” Students match:

- Person → What they did Example:
 - Jefferson → wrote the Declaration
 - Washington → led army
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Discussion (10 min)

- Why was signing the Declaration dangerous?
 - What would you risk for freedom?
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Exit Ticket (5 min)

Write:

- One reason colonists wanted independence
 - One person you learned about
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6th Grade Quiz

1. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
2. Why were colonists upset with Britain?
3. Who was the first president?
4. What does “freedom” mean?

Answer Key:

1. Thomas Jefferson
2. Taxes/unfair treatment
3. George Washington
4. (reasonable student answer)