Intellectual Causes of the American Revolution:

Declaration of Independence & Common Sense

Rewrite = rewrite the sentence to make correct

Complete = write the correct answer that completes the idea

Vocab = define the word, using the context

Revise = rewrite the sentence with simpler grammar

Opinion = give your own opinion

= complete the interactive notebook entry

Complete (This is review. Refer back to other BFUs)

1. One example of self-government in New England is _____.

2. One example of self-government in Virginia is _____.

3. The religious movement called the _____ caused Americans to feel separate from Europe.

4. _____ was an Enlightenment philosopher who influenced America.

5. Life, liberty, and property are _____.

6. In government, you enter into an agreement called the _____ between ruler and people.

7. If the consent of the governed is violated, the people can have a _____. They can overthrow the government.

Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine have the same name. Everyone now has heard of Thomas Jefferson; very few outside the USA know about Thomas Paine. These two men are connected to the Enlightenment ideas about natural rights, social contract, and consent of the governed. They are both responsible for making an argument. The argument was for American freedom from England.

Complete

1. Both Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson believe in _____ ideas about natural rights.

2. Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson made an _____ for American independence.

Here is their argument:

-The leader of America is King George III of Britain.

-He is a bad leader because he taxes the Americans without giving them representation.

-He is not listening to the American complaints about “no taxation without representation.”

-America has no choice but to have a revolution and start their own democracy.

Complete

1. King George III is bad because _____.
2. America has no choice but to _____.

Now, here is the argument using Enlightenment ideas:

Facts	Enlightenment
King George III a bad leader because he taxes the Americans without giving them representation.	King George II is denying natural rights to the Americans.
He is not listening to the American complaints about “no taxation without representation.”	England has broken the “social contract.”
America has no choice but to have a revolution and start their own democracy.	Americans should not consent to be governed. They are justified in having a revolution.

Opinion

1. In the page above, underline the central Enlightenment ideas. These are the ideas of John Locke.

2. Now, why do you think Americans needed to use Enlightenment ideas to have a revolution?

Thomas Jefferson drafts these ideas into a letter to King George III. Of course, we are referring to the Declaration of Independence. It's more like an essay.

Here it is. It was signed on July 4th. Have you heard of July 4th? I bet you have!

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

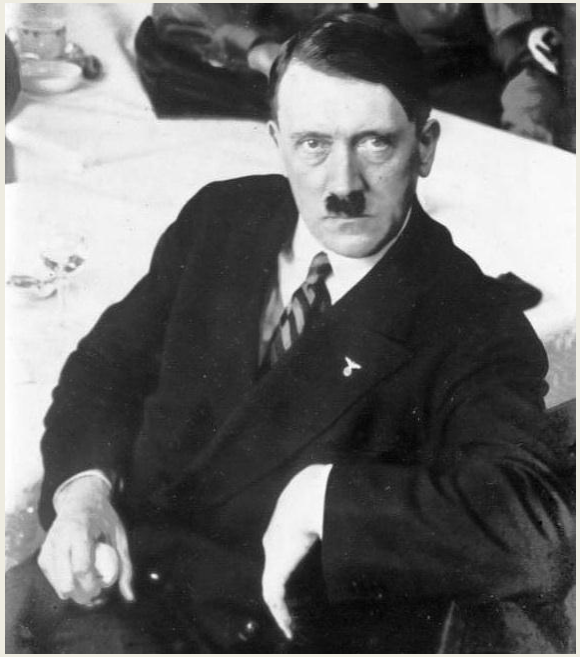
When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. — We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. 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. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. — He has called together Legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. — He has refused for a long time after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. — He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their substance. — He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislatures. — He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. — He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended legislation: — For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: — For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: — For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences — For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. — He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. — Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. —

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by authority of the good People of these Colonies, 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; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to 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.

Can you circle the signatures?

Can you put an arrow on the biggest signature? Whose name is it?

The Declaration of Independence is like when your teacher tells you to prove something with *citations*. You can't just write: I think Hitler is bad because he is not nice. You have to use evidence.



Works Cited

Author-last-name, Author-first-name. "Title of Article/Chapter." *Title of Book/Journal*. City: Publisher, Year. pages. Print.

Author-last-name, Author-first-name. *Title of Book*. City: Publisher, Year. Print.

Author-last-name, Author-first-name. "Title/Name of Web Page." Date of Posting/Revision. *Title/Name of Web Site*. Date you accessed the site <http://www.website.edu>.

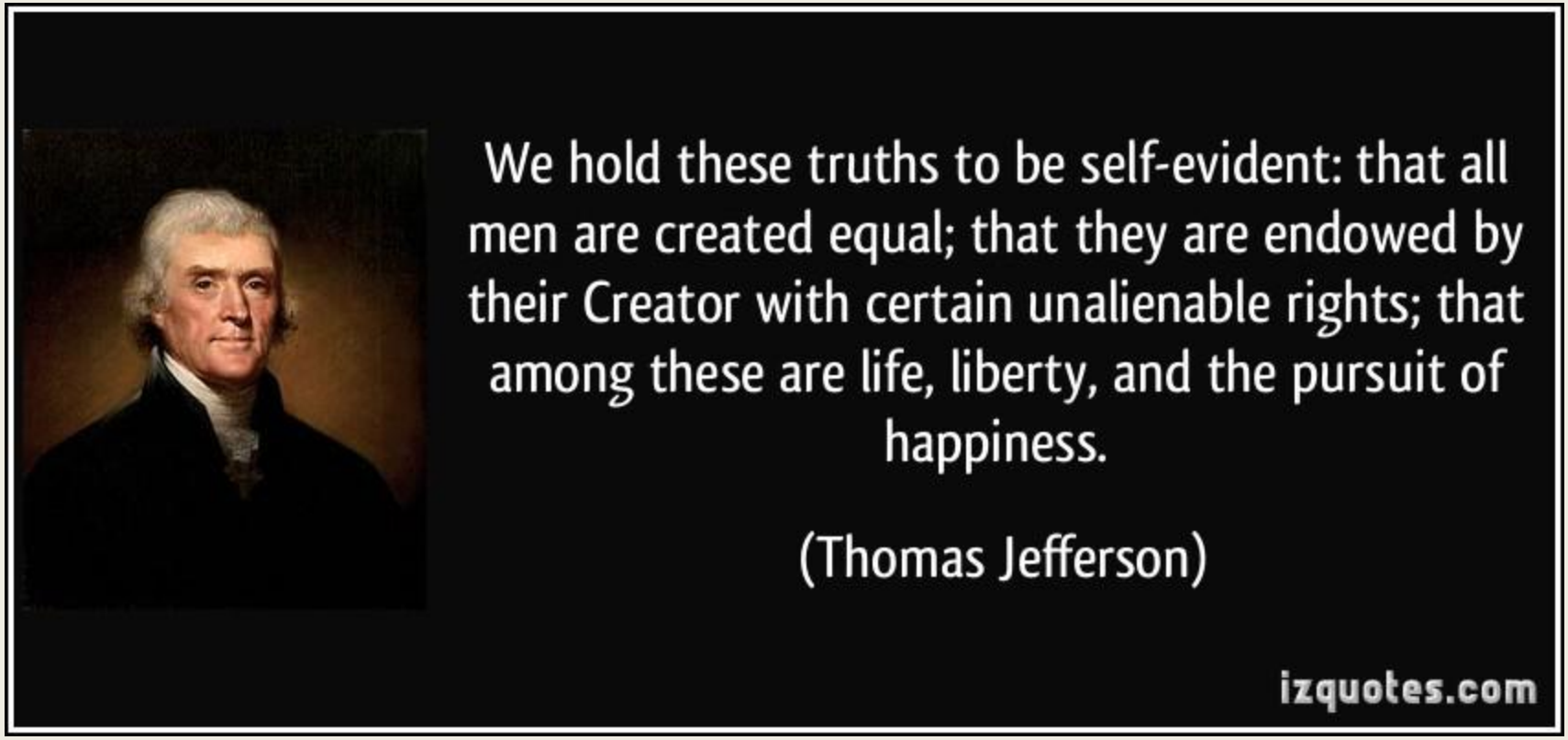
Thomas Jefferson uses evidence. He uses the ideas of John Locke and the Enlightenment. He puts it all together in the Declaration of Independence. American delegates from the Continental Congress sign it on July 4, 1776 in Philadelphia. This is the date we use for American Independence.

Complete

1. The Declaration of Independence is a _____ to King George III.

2. The Declaration of Independence uses the Enlightenment ideas of _____.

3. The Declaration of Independence is signed on _____ in _____.



This is the beginning of the Declaration of Independence. Think about what he is referring to; he is referring to Natural Rights.

Opinion Circle the part where he talks about Natural Rights.

"That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Here Thomas Jefferson is referring to the social contract and the consent of the governed. He is claiming the power for the people of America.

Opinion Circle the part where he talks about the social contract.

"That whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of those ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it… and to institute new Government."

Finally, Thomas Jefferson is saying that because the social contract is broken, Americans can have a revolution. They can start a new government.

Opinion

What words make you think that Thomas Jefferson is calling for a revolution?

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence for the King of England. But he really wrote it for other Europeans, especially the intellectuals and the leaders. He wanted support. He wanted Europe to support America against the British. The British were so powerful. The Continental Congress leaders didn't want to be seen like a bunch of criminals. They wanted to be seen as Enlightenment people, even if they were having a violent revolution against their colonial fathers. So, the Declaration of Independence is kind of like when you feel like you are in trouble for no reason, so you prepare some arguments ahead of time.

Rewrite

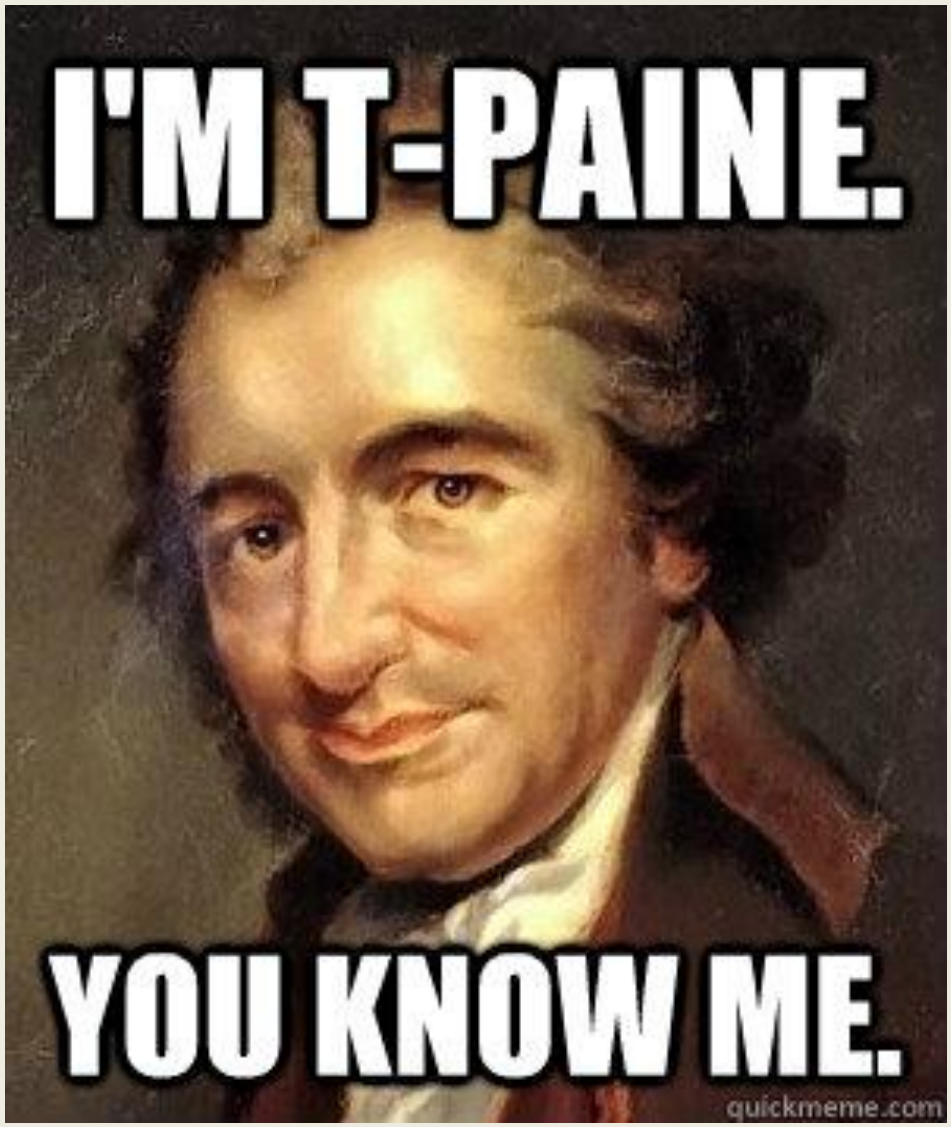
1. The Declaration of Independence is written for the common people.

2. The Declaration of Independence consists of arguments based on nationalistic ideas.

3. Thomas Paine writes the Declaration of Independence for other Europeans, especially those sympathetic with the Enlightenment.

4. The Declaration of Independence was written on July 14th 1776 for the Queen of France. (2 errors)

Now, let's discuss Thomas Paine.



Actually, you probably don't!

Thomas Paine made the same arguments as Thomas Jefferson. He made the same Enlightenment arguments. But he made them to the American people. Not everyone supported war against England. There were many loyalists, who wanted to stay with England. There were even more neutrals, who didn't take a side. Thomas Paine was writing to them. He was writing, also to the patriots, to get them excited, and he did so with Enlightenment ideas, in his book called Common Sense.

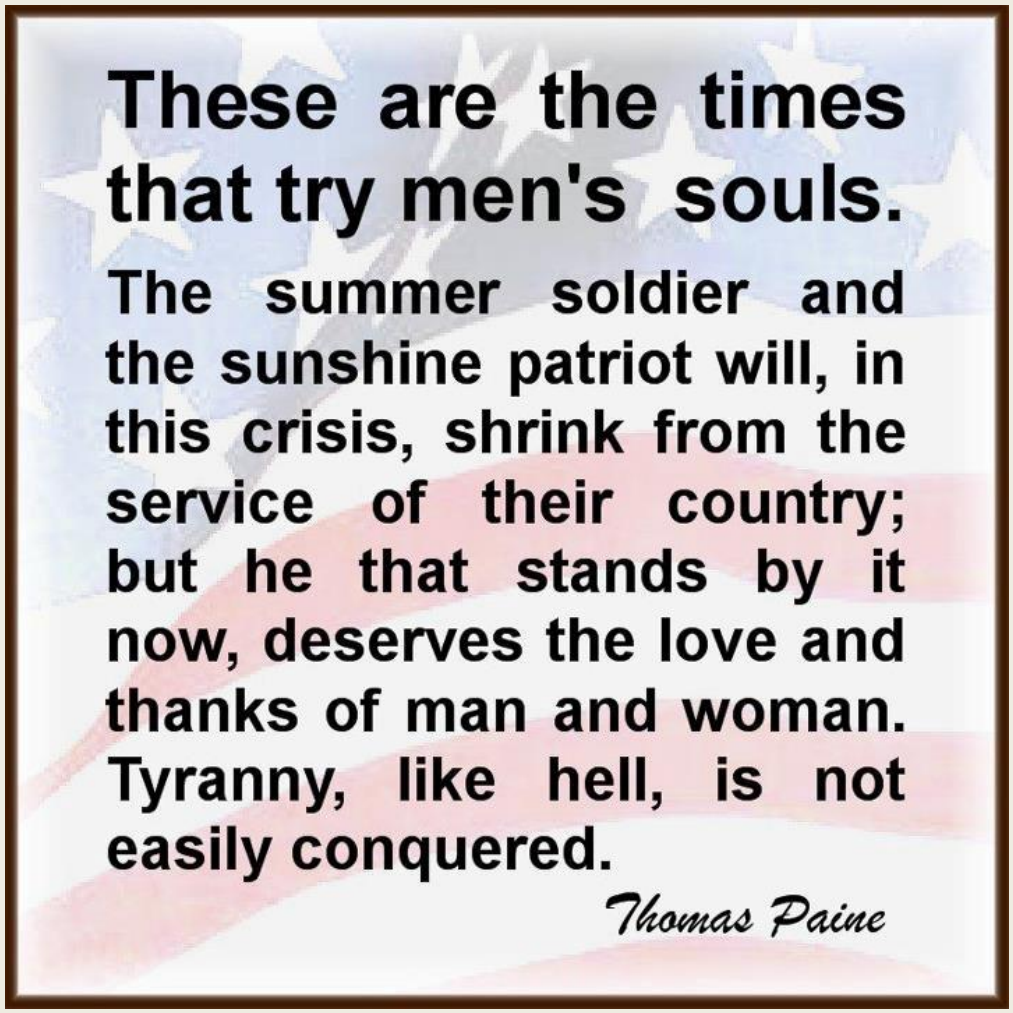
Thomas Paine took the Enlightenment arguments and made them easy to understand. His book, "Common Sense," takes these ideas of natural rights and makes them sound like Common Sense. He wants to convince Americans that independence is the only way!

Revise

Complete

1. Thomas Paine was similar to Thomas Jefferson because they both…

2. Thomas Paine wrote to _____, _____, and patriots. These three groups had different opinions about war with England.



Opinion What times is Thomas Paine talking about here?

Now, complete the Declaration and Common Sense pastable.