

STANDARD USI.6b

The student will apply social science skills to understand the causes and results of the American Revolution by
b) describing how political ideas shaped the revolutionary movement in America and led to the Declaration of Independence;

Essential Understandings

New political ideas led to a desire for independence and a democratic government in the American colonies.

The Declaration of Independence proclaimed independence from Great Britain. It stated that people have natural (inherent) rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In practicality, it only applied to white men at this time.

Essential Knowledge

Key philosophies in the Declaration of Independence were based upon ideas first expressed by European philosophers (e.g., John Locke).

Key philosophies in the Declaration of Independence

- People have “certain unalienable rights” (rights that cannot be taken away)—to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- People establish governments to protect those rights.
- Government derives power from the people.
- People have a right and a duty to change a government that violates their rights.