

Declaration of Independence Word Search

In the word search, find and circle the words from the Declaration of Independence. Words can be found going horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or backwards.

The catch that makes this different from an ordinary word search: We've provided a word bank at the bottom, but some of the words in the word bank are not in the Declaration of Independence. They won't appear in the word search, so you also have to figure out which words in the word bank shouldn't be there.

Q	Q	I	T	T	U	N	J	B	N	Y	S	Z	S	T
K	Q	Y	N	N	A	R	Y	T	D	F	T	B	N	E
J	V	G	Z	S	M	F	T	G	S	C	C	U	K	D
A	Q	N	K	L	A	U	Q	E	P	U	A	Z	K	A
V	Q	I	Y	Q	B	G	R	D	D	Z	F	M	Y	R
Y	Q	K	S	R	E	U	W	D	H	I	O	G	T	T
R	U	Q	D	C	A	L	M	O	E	Z	F	S	R	N
E	A	M	N	R	C	T	Q	N	K	R	E	I	E	Y
O	T	L	E	X	V	O	I	C	E	A	S	O	B	Z
Q	N	D	I	E	R	M	S	L	S	T	E	M	I	T
Y	K	U	R	G	U	W	W	P	I	A	C	U	L	O
J	R	T	F	W	H	J	A	K	M	M	J	Q	S	F
Z	Y	Y	K	G	C	T	L	V	T	I	V	E	A	B
Y	M	E	M	I	G	R	A	T	I	O	N	Q	T	C
E	V	I	T	A	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	E	R	J

Time	Reconciliation	Facts	Military	Duty
Seas	Laws	Equal	Parliament	King
Protest	Tyranny	Majesty	Voice	Liberty
Treaties	Murders	Emigration	Delusion	Representative
Trade	Light	Slavery	Friends	Vote

Which Words are in the Declaration of Independence?

Answer Sheet

YES: Time, Laws, Facts, Military, Duty, Taxes, Seas, Equal, King, Tyranny, Voice, Liberty, Murders, Emigration, Representative, Trade, Light, Friends

NO: Reconciliation, Parliament, Protest, Treaties, Delusion, Slavery, Vote, Majesty

TIME

Time/Times can be found six times in the Declaration of Independence

Example: “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 meantime exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.”

LAWS

Laws can be found nine times in the Declaration of Independence

Example: “For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:”

FACTS

Facts can be found one time in the Declaration of Independence

“To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.”

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is NOT a word in the Declaration of Independence

Previous petitions of the Continental Congress had favored reconciliation; see, for example, in the 1775 Olive Branch petition, which requested, “that your Majesty be pleased to direct some mode, by which the united applications of your faithful Colonists to the Throne, in pursuance of their common counsels, may be improved into a happy and permanent reconciliation...” John Dickinson made one last plea for reconciliation in his July 1, 1776 speech to the Congress, saying, “It is Our Interest to keep Great Britain in the Opinion that We mean Reconciliation as long as possible...”

But, the goal of the Declaration of Independence was total separation from Great Britain, not reconciliation.

Definition of reconcile from Merriam-Webster: “to restore to friendship or harmony”

MILITARY

Military can be found only one time in the Declaration of Independence

“He has affected to render the *Military* independent of and superior to the Civil Power.”

DUTY

Duty can be found one time in the Declaration of Independence

“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.”

TAXES

Taxes can be found only one time in the Declaration of Independence

“For imposing *Taxes* on us without our Consent:”

PARLIAMENT

Parliament is NOT a word in the Declaration of Independence

The word Parliament appeared twice in Thomas Jefferson’s original rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, but was cut from the final text; for example, “we utterly dissolve & break off all political connection which may have heretofore subsisted between us & the people or parliament of Great Britain.” The grievances in the Declaration are targeted at King George III (“He”) rather than at the British Parliament.

SEAS

Seas can be found three times in the Declaration of Independence

Example: “He has plundered our *Seas*, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.”

EQUAL

Equal can be found two times in the Declaration of Independence

Example: “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.”

KING

King can be found only one time in the Declaration of Independence

“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.”

See also, “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.”

PROTEST

Protest is NOT a word in the Declaration of Independence

A number of protests took place in the years leading up to the Declaration of Independence, in response to some of the grievances that were eventually listed in the Declaration (examples include the Stamp Act protests and the Boston Tea Party).

TYRANNY

Tyranny can be found two times in the Declaration of Independence

Example: “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.”

See also, “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.”

Definition of tyranny from Merriam-Webster: “oppressive power; a government in which absolute power is vested in a single ruler”

TREATIES

Treaties is NOT a word in the Declaration of Independence

The final paragraph of the Declaration of Independence included “contract Alliances” among the list of acts and things that the United States had the right to do. Part of John Dickinson’s argument against declaring independence was, “Not only Treaties with foreign powers but among Ourselves should precede this Declaration.”

Definition of treaties from Merriam-Webster: “an agreement or arrangement made by negotiation”

DELUSION

Delusion is NOT a word in the Declaration of Independence

On October 31, 1776, King George III opened the new session of Parliament with a speech to both houses, in which he address the Declaration of Independence. His address began, “Northing could have afforded me so much satisfaction as to have been able to inform you, at the opening of this session, that the troubles, which have so long distracted my colonies in North America, were at an end; and that my unhappy people, recovered from their delusion, had delivered themselves from the oppression of their leaders, and returned to their duty...”

VOICE

Voice can be found one time in the Declaration of Independence

“They too have been deaf to the *Voice* of Justice and of Consanguinity.”

LIBERTY

Liberty can be found only one time in the Declaration of Independence

“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.”

MURDERS

Murders can be found one time in the Declaration of Independence

“For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any *Murders* which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:”

SLAVERY

Slavery is NOT a word in the Declaration of Independence

One of the most noteworthy portions of Jefferson’s original rough draft that was cut by the Continental Congress was a grievance placing the blame for slavery in the American colonies on King George III:

“he has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating it’s most sacred rights of life & liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. this piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the CHRISTIAN king of Great Britain. determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought & sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce: and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them, by murdering the people upon whom he also obtruded them; thus paying off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.”

VOTE

Vote is NOT a word in the Declaration of Independence

The American colonists were not directly represented in Parliament. The issue of representation in the new United States was addressed after the Declaration of Independence, in the Articles of Confederation and then the U.S. Constitution.

MAJESTY

Majesty is NOT a word in the Declaration of Independence

Previous petitions of the Continental Congress were addressed directly to King George III. The Olive Branch Petition, for example, was addressed, “To the King’s Most Excellent Majesty,” and referred to the king as “your Majesty” throughout, as a sign of loyalty and respect. In contrast, the Declaration of Independence was

addressed “to a candid world.”

EMIGRATION

Emigration can be found one time in the Declaration of Independence

“We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our ***Emigration*** and Settlement here.”

See also, “He has endeavoured 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.”

Definition of emigration from Merriam-Webster: “the act of leaving one region or country to live in another”

REPRESENTATIVE

Representative/Representatives can be found two times in the Declaration of Independence

Example: “He has dissolved ***Representative*** Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.”

See also the title, as presented on the Dunlap broadside: “In Congress, July 4, 1776. A Declaration By the Representatives of the United States of America, In General Congress assembled.”

TRADE

Trade can be found one time in the Declaration of Independence

“For cutting off our ***Trade*** with all Parts of the World:”

LIGHT

Light can be found one time in the Declaration of Independence

“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.”

FRIENDS

Friends can be found two times in the Declaration of Independence

Example: “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.*”

SOURCES

- Full text of the Declaration of Independence:
<https://declaration.fas.harvard.edu/resources/text>
- Dickinson’s speech:
<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/arguments-against-theindependence-of-these-colonies/>
- Jefferson’s rough draft:
<https://jeffersonpapers.princeton.edu/selecteddocuments/jefferson%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%9COriginal-rough-draught%E2%80%9D-declarationindependence>
- Olive Branch Petition: https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Olive_Branch_Petition
- Howe’s declaration: <https://declaration.fas.harvard.edu/blog/august-howe>
- King George III’s speech to Parliament:
<https://declaration.fas.harvard.edu/blog/september-kingspeech>