



PRIMARY SOURCE QUESTIONS



Use the excerpts on the page before to answer.

◆ HARD WORDS ◆

dissolve the political bands break the ties of government

impel push, force

endowed by their Creator given at birth by God

instituted set up, created

alter or to abolish change or get rid of

Quartering giving soldiers a place to live

depriving taking away from

in all cases whatsoever about everything

station place, position

self-evident plainly true; needs no proof

unalienable cannot be taken away

consent of the governed the agreement of the people

Standing Armies armies kept ready all the time, even in peace

mock Trial a fake trial

legislate make laws

Absolved from all Allegiance freed from all loyalty

◆ QUESTIONS ◆

1. Read "The big ideas." Name the three rights the Declaration lists. Where does it say a government gets its power? Which writer in the Big Ideas reading said something similar?

2. Pick two grievances from the excerpts. For each one, name the British act or event from the readings that it complains about.

3. The Declaration says "all men are created equal." Use the readings to explain why these words did not match life in 1776 for many people.

4. What does the ending declare the colonies to be? Why were the men who signed it taking a great risk?
