

# Enlightened Influences on DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Build a strong base for US Government by exploring how  
Enlightened principles shaped the Declaration

Multiple activity and accommodation options included!

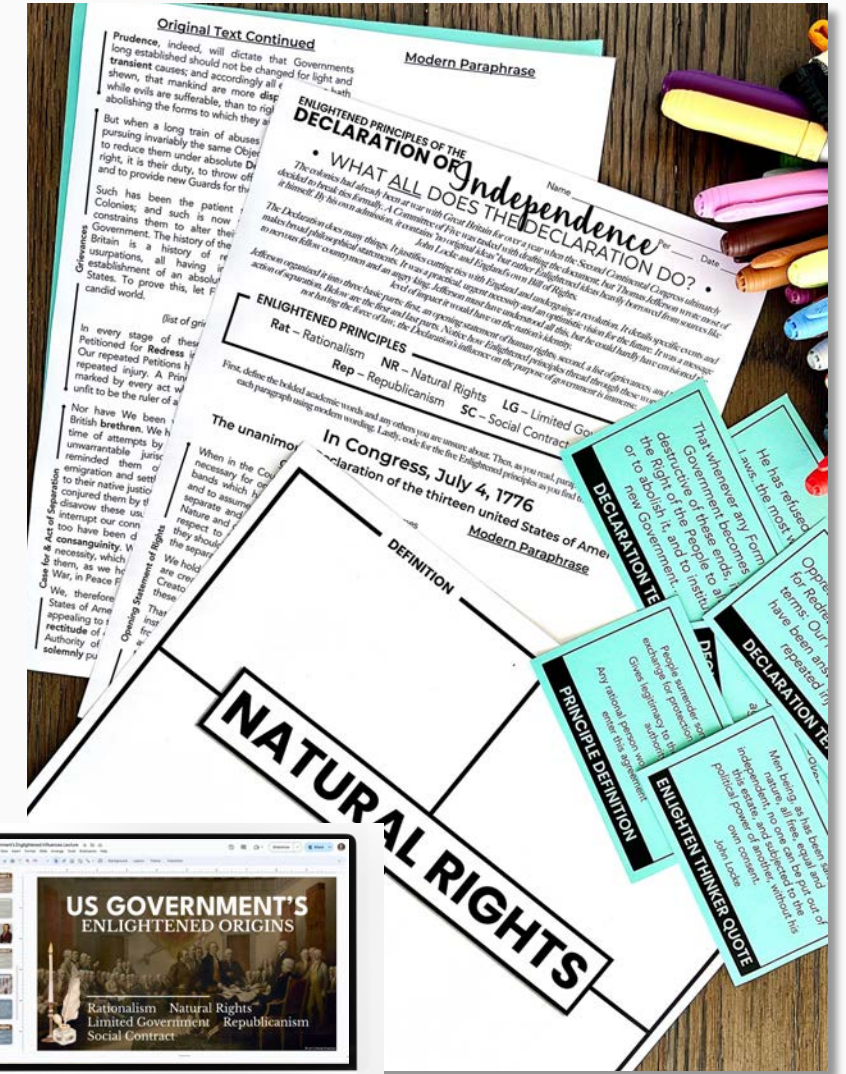
## WHAT'S INCLUDED

**Lecture Slides & Guided Notes:** introduce the Age of Enlightenment and analyze the 5 key principles that influenced the US Government's foundation

**Declaration of Independence Source Analysis:** close read this foundational source and analyze for the 5 Enlightened principles

**Card Sort Activity:** further reinforce principles and Declaration's impact with this bonus activity

**INCLUDES BOTH PRINT PDF & GOOGLE FILES**



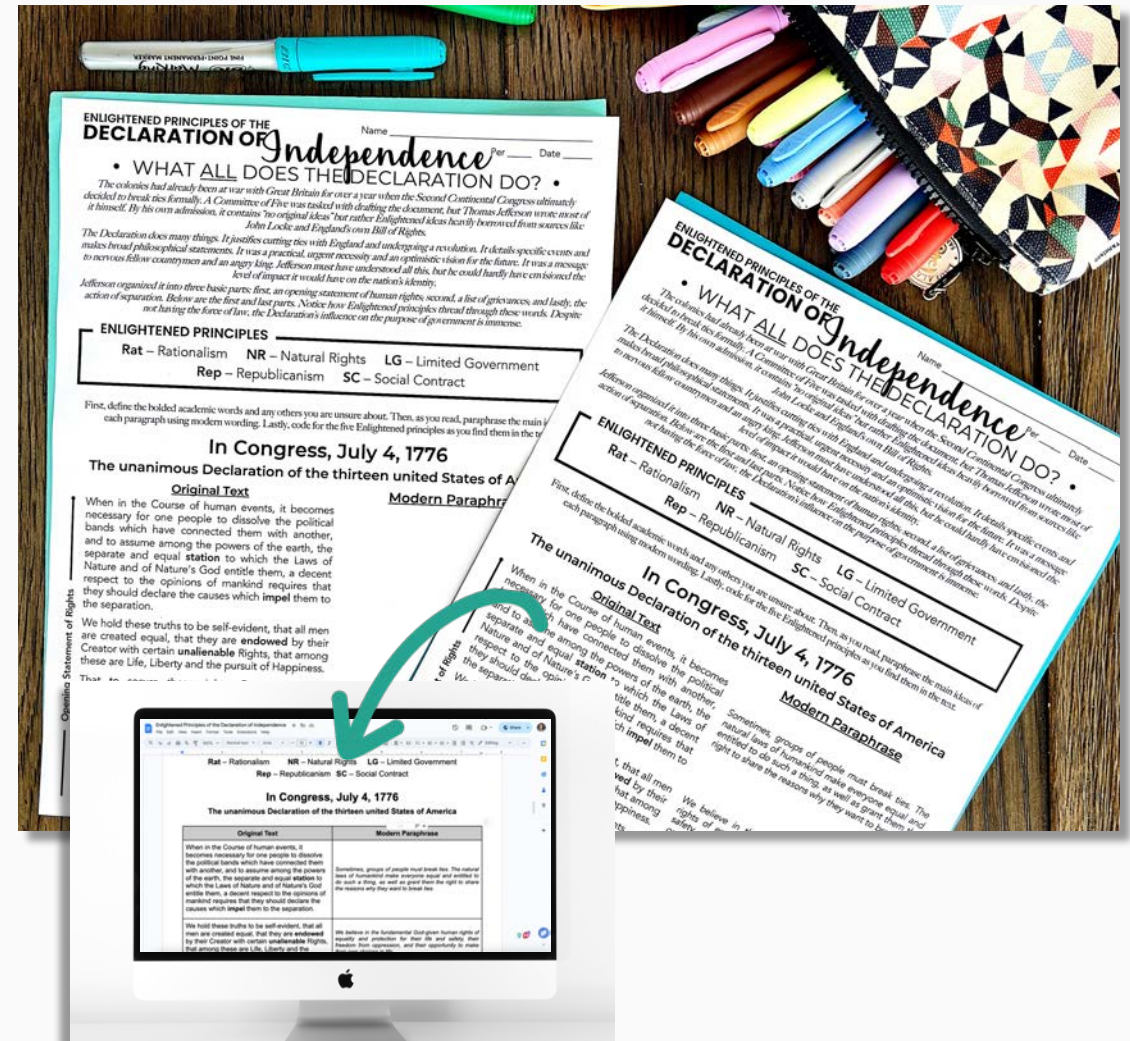
# SUPPORT ALL YOUR *students*

## Struggling, ELL, or Low-Vision Readers

- ✓ **Guided notes** with strong visual organization signals to support lecture
- ✓ **Academic words** bolded for defining
- ✓ **Paraphrased text** for lower reading levels
- ✓ **Editable Google file versions** to further adjust reading level, translate language, or support low-vision students

## Options to Tailor to All Your Students

- ✓ **Lecture** – for whole-class or self-guided, paper or digital
- ✓ **Source Analysis & Card Sort Activities** – small-group, individual, paper or digital



# I. ENLIGHTENED PRINCIPLES

## lecture

### INCLUDES

- ✓ 22 Lecture slides in Google Slides
- ✓ Slide-by-slide teacher script to teach topics like a pro
- ✓ Accompanying guided notes in both print PDF & Google Doc
- ✓ Visuals & analytical questions assist students in understanding

**STUDENTS MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH REAL-LIFE MODERN EXAMPLES**

**5 Enlightened PRINCIPLES**

- Rationalism
- Natural Rights
- Limited Government
- Republican

**NATURAL RIGHTS**

Certain rights are universal and inherent to all people

Not bestowed onto a person by a government

Right to live as one pleases & reap the reward of one's work

**SOCIAL CONTRACT**

People surrender some freedoms in exchange for protection from government

Gives legitimacy to the government's authority

Any rational person would volunteer to enter this agreement

**REPUBLICANISM**

Power rests with citizens through elected representatives

Government protects citizens

# 5 ENLIGHTENED PRINCIPLES

## covered

- ✓ **Every slide** has thoughtfully chosen images & detailed teacher script
- ✓ **Key thinkers and quotes** are included to illustrate each principle
- ✓ **Students make real-world connections** and evaluate the role principles play in today's American society

**CAN USE FOR WHOLE-CLASS OR INDIVIDUAL SELF-PACED ACTIVITY**


### NATURAL RIGHTS

Certain rights are universal and inherent to all people  
Not bestowed onto a person by a government  
Rights to life, liberty, and property



### RATIONALISM

Use reason to improve their lives and discover truth  
Confidence in using intellect to gain knowledge of how things work




### LIMITED GOVERNMENT

The king is not all-powerful  
Separate the church from the government & powers within government into branches  
Promote democracy, tolerance, and individual rights



### REPUBLICANISM

Power rests with citizens through elected representatives  
Government protects citizens' rights; citizens contribute toward the public good  
Alternative to monarchy, aristocracy, oligarchy



### SOCIAL CONTRACT

People surrender some freedoms in exchange for protection from government  
Gives legitimacy to the government's authority  
Any rational person would volunteer to enter this agreement

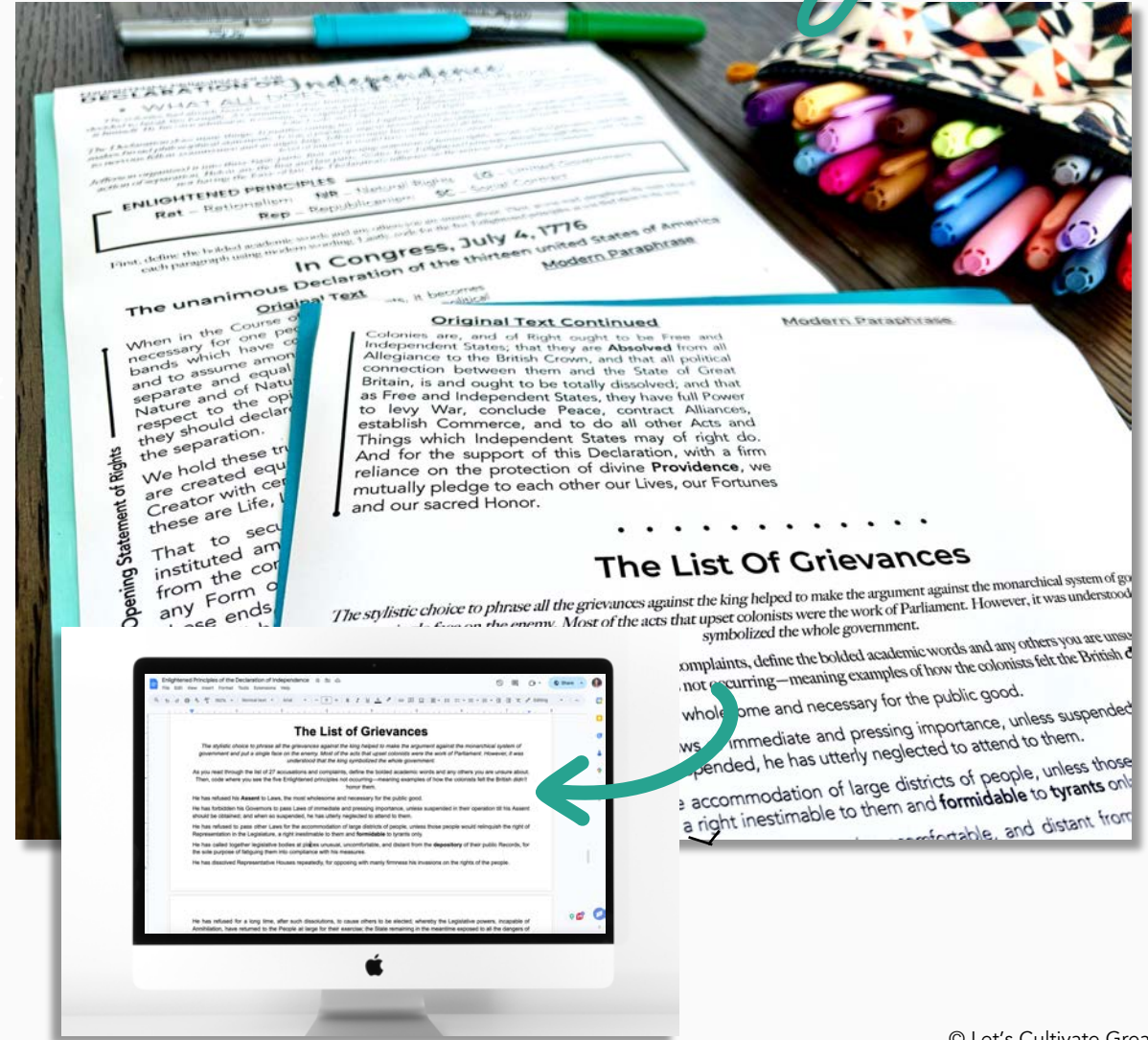


# II. DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

*close analysis*

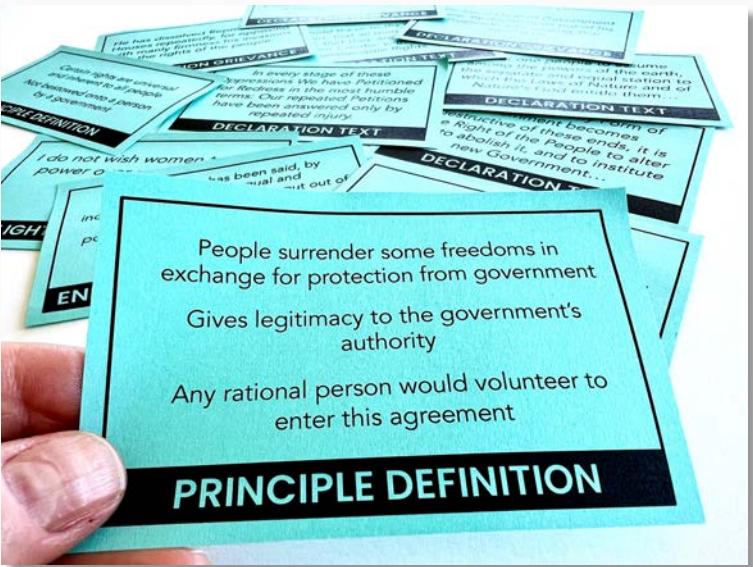
## INCLUDES

- ✓ **Background context** to introduce the significance of the source
- ✓ **Close reading** supported by academic supports
- ✓ **Annotate** for the five principles, connecting grievances to principles
- ✓ **Divided into two parts** for easier analysis: broad statements and grievances



# III. CARD SORT ASSESSMENT

## *activity*



- ✓ **Students solidify** deep connections between Enlightenment & core ideals in an American founding document
- ✓ **Two versions** to easily allow for formative and summative assessment options
- ✓ **Use in multiple settings**—individual, small group, or whole class

**STUDENTS CONNECT DEFINITIONS,  
ENLIGHTENMENT IDEAS, & DECLARATION  
QUOTES**

# FREQUENTLY ASKED *questions*

## Will this work for middle school?

This is designed for and written at a **high school level**. If your students are advanced and you are willing to edit, it may work, but I can't guarantee anything. I use these materials with my mixed-ability on-level 12<sup>th</sup> grade Civics class.

## Can I use this in a homeschooling setting?

**Definitely!** Detailed teacher notes and concise-yet-thorough **lecture slides** with detailed notes with each slide and the detailed **answer key** help **you** understand this topic and the activities before teaching it. And the **self-guided worksheet** move your student(s) through essential learning without sacrificing rigor.

## Is this editable?

**Yes!** Lecture and source analysis materials come with a digital Google file version that is editable for the exclusive purpose for you to customize it to meet your students' needs and make accommodations. Since the card sort activity is best done kinesthetically, it only comes in a print PDF version.

## Will this work for my <insert unique setting here> classroom?

The preview and product description are **extremely detailed**—be sure to take a close look. Also, know that the above-listed student materials come with an editable, digital version. If you still have questions, feel free to **leave a Q&A!**

## What standards does this address?

**Several!** This kit supports standards from various states, including:

Analyze major intellectual influences that contributed to the Declaration of Independence and how they form the philosophical foundation of our government -- Identify individuals whose ideas influenced American government, like Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Paine – Identify grievances in the Declaration in terms of various enlightened principles – Analyze sources for central idea; identify text evidence to support claims