

# 5-Independence Declared!

**Olive Branch Petition**-Letter sent by the 2nd Continental Congress to King George III asking him for help resolving our problems with Parliament to avoid further conflict.  
REJECTED!!!

**Common Sense**-pamphlet written by Thomas Paine and widely read calling for American Independence.

2nd Continental Congress proposes independence for the colonies as a way to unite colonies and look for foreign help.

**Thomas Jefferson** is chosen as main author for the new document

Jefferson bases the Declaration on the ideas of John Locke (natural rights, social contract) Also listed our grievances against King George III and Parliament.  
-It was not a form of government JUST a Declaration of Independence.

## **Eternal Statement**

*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 abolish it.*

## **Choosing Sides**

**Loyalists**-loyal to the British crown and Parliament; also called **Tories** 1/3 of the population, strong in South  
**Patriots**-those who supported independence, could be hung as traitors 1/3 of population, strong in Northern cities, **rebels**  
Undecided-everyone else, not willing to commit to either side