

From Petition to Independence

Trace how failed compromise led to a declaration and a war with unequal effects.

11.2b "Failed attempts to mitigate the conflicts between the British government and the colonists led the colonists to declare independence, which they eventually won through the Revolutionary War, which affected individuals in different ways."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the attempt at reconciliation and Britain's response. Circle one Declaration principle. Mark two details showing different groups' wartime experiences.

When Compromise Ended

- ① By 1775, disputes over imperial control had become armed conflict. Yet many colonists still hoped to preserve ties with Britain. In July, the Second Continental Congress sent the Olive Branch Petition to George III, declaring loyalty and seeking reconciliation. The king refused to receive it and declared the colonies in rebellion. As fighting continued and reconciliation failed, support for independence grew; it was neither immediate nor unanimous.
- ② Adopted on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence explained separation to colonists and the wider world. It asserted natural rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and government by consent of the governed. Grievances against George III supported its argument that British rule violated these principles. Its equality claim did not describe rights actually enjoyed by everyone.
- ③ The war affected groups differently. Workers faced military service, disrupted trade, and rising prices. Women ran households and businesses and supplied armies, but most gained no new political rights. Some enslaved African Americans sought freedom through service with British or Patriot forces; freedom was not guaranteed, and slavery survived independence. Native nations pursued their own interests through alliances or efforts at neutrality. War devastated many Native communities. After American victory and British recognition of independence in 1783, expanding U.S. settlement further threatened Native lands. Military victory secured national independence, but its benefits and costs were unequal.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Identify one effort the colonists made to reduce conflict with Britain. How did George III respond to that effort?

- 2** How did the failure of compromise help lead colonists toward independence? Use evidence from the passage.

- 3** According to the Declaration of Independence, where does a government get legitimate power? Name one natural right the document identifies.

- 4** Compare the war's effects on women and on Native nations. Give one effect for each group.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In four sentences, connect failed reconciliation to independence, identify one Declaration principle, and compare effects on two groups.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the attempt at reconciliation and Britain's response. Circle one Declaration principle. Mark two details showing different groups' wartime experiences. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify one effort the colonists made to reduce conflict with Britain. How did George III respond to that effort?	The colonists sent the Olive Branch Petition seeking reconciliation. George III refused to receive it and treated the colonies as being in rebellion.
2	How did the failure of compromise help lead colonists toward independence? Use evidence from the passage.	After the king rejected reconciliation and fighting spread, more delegates concluded that compromise with Britain had failed.
3	According to the Declaration of Independence, where does a government get legitimate power? Name one natural right the document identifies.	A government gets legitimate power from the consent of the governed. Natural rights named include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
4	Compare the war's effects on women and on Native nations. Give one effect for each group.	Women managed households and businesses, supplied armies, or followed camps, but most gained no new political rights. Native nations faced pressure to choose alliances, and settlers later threatened their lands.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The king rejected the Olive Branch Petition, and continuing conflict increased support for independence. The Declaration justified separation through government by consent of the governed. Workers faced rising prices and disrupted trade. Native nations faced wartime devastation and greater threats to their lands after independence.

Accept equivalent evidence-based explanations of the sequence from failed reconciliation to independence. For the final response, look for an accurate causal chain, one Declaration idea, and a comparison of effects on two groups.