

Thomas Jefferson: The Writer of the Declaration of Independence

Introduction:

The purpose of this unit is to give students a deeper understanding of Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence with a focus on the writing process. My goal is to provide information about Jefferson in a way that both regular education and special education students can benefit. The PowerPoint is written in a format that emerging note-takers can benefit and follow along. I emphasized the writing process because in 8th grade in Oklahoma the students take the writing assessment and they need good examples of the writing. The Thomas Jefferson Institute has increased my knowledge and understanding of Thomas Jefferson and his history and it will make me a better teacher.

Setting:

The Unit is designed for 8th grade class United States History class to 1877 with regular and special education students.

PASS Objectives for the Unit:

Social Studies

US History Through 1877:

PASS Objective: III: Analyze and explain the sources of colonial dissatisfaction and colonial responses that led to the American Revolution.

PASS Objective IV: Analyze and describe key events and significant individuals of the American Revolution.

Lesson objective E. Analyze the ideological war between Great Britain and her North American colonies as expressed in Common Sense and the Declaration of Independence.

Lesson objective: Understanding of the basic ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the reasons for writing the declaration of Independence.

PASS Objective IV. Recognize the significance of key Individuals including Thomas Jefferson during the American Revolution.

English Objectives:

Oklahoma Standard 1 Vocabulary- The student will expand vocabulary through word study, literature and class discussion.

Textbook: *The American Republic to 1877*, McGraw-Hill 2006

Resources-

Adams, James Truslow Jeffersonian *Principles* **Little, Brown, and Company 1928**

Appleby, Joyce. "Defining His Presidency" in *Thomas Jefferson*, Henry Holt & Company, 2003." in the Americans: The National Experience. Vintage Books, 1965.

Appleby, Joyce. *Thomas Jefferson*. Henry Holt & Company, 2003.

Becker, Carl *the Declaration of Independence: A Study in the History of Political Ideas*

Bernstein, R. B. *Jefferson*. Oxford University Press, 2003.

Ellis, Joseph J. *American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1997

Gibbon, Peter H. *A Call to Heroism* Grove Press 2002

Jefferson, Thomas, *The Declaration of Independence*, **1776**

Onuf, Peter. "To Declare Them A Free And Independent People," in *Jefferson's Empire: The Language of American Nationhood*. University Press of Virginia, 2000.

Onuf, Peter, *The Mind of Thomas Jefferson* University of Virginia Press 2007

Children Books:

Penner, Lucille Recht *Liberty How the Revolution War Began*, Random House 2002

St. George, Judith *The Journey of the One and Only Declaration of Independence*, Philomel Books [www.penguin.com/young readers](http://www.penguin.com/young_readers)

Grodin, Elissa *D is for Democracy; A Citizen's Alphabet*, Sleeping Bear Press 2004

Websites:

Library of Congress: [www. loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)

NARA The National Archives experience-Internet Explorer:
http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries>

The Jefferson Monticello: www.monticello.org