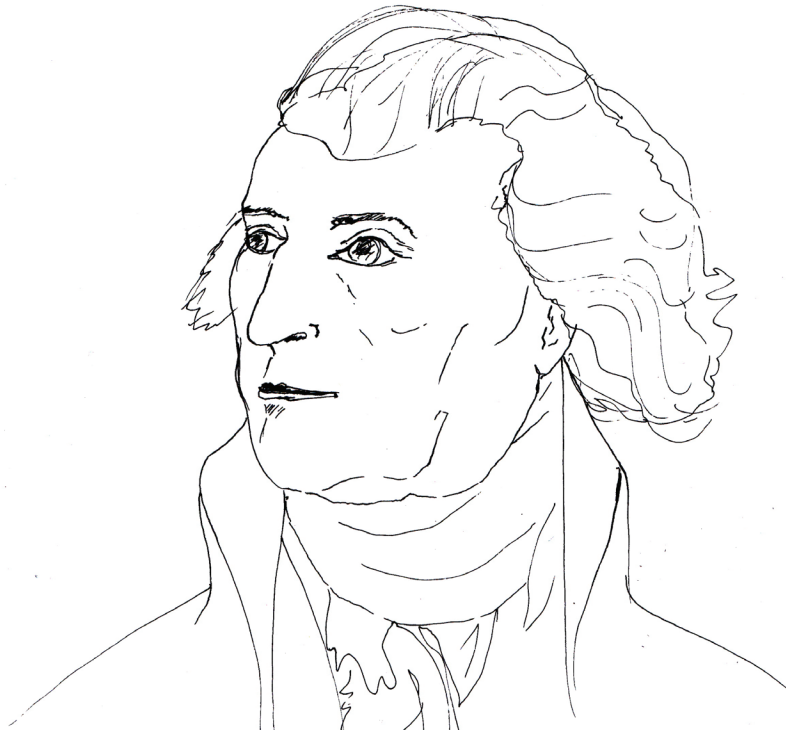


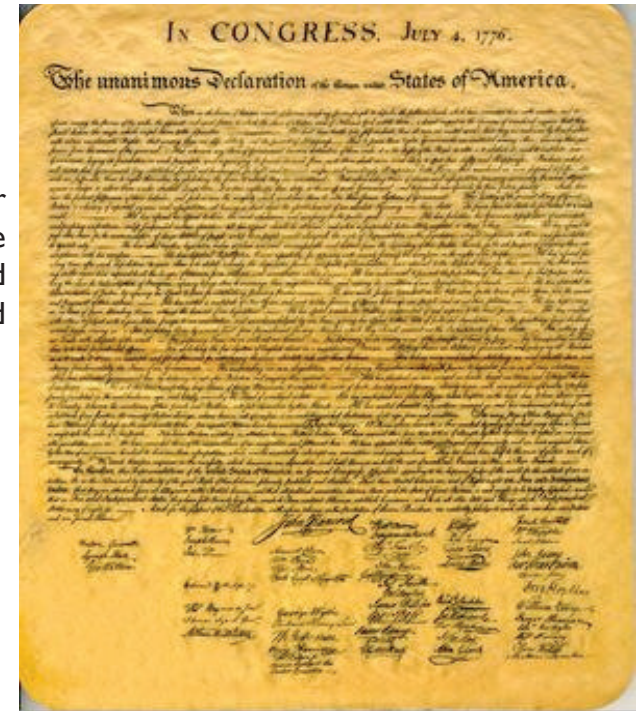
The Declaration of Independence

In 1776, founding father Thomas Jefferson sat down to begin writing a *formal* declaration of our *burgeoning* country's break from the British Empire, and to establish the ideals the U.S. would be built upon. This document became the Declaration of Independence, and the statements in it would go on to inform all the laws our leaders make, ensuring that they uphold the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The Declaration of Independence is in the National Archives.



Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.

1. The Declaration of Independence guarantees all U.S. citizens "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". Provide examples of each of these values in your own life.
2. Can you think of any laws that uphold these values? Can you think of any that don't?



The original Declaration of Independence at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Vocabulary

formal: official. "We are reviewing your formal request for tastier snacks in our vending machines, and we will respond with our decision next week."

burgeoning: growing quickly. "Sarah and Pete's burgeoning family needed more room, so they moved into a two-story house."