

Name _____

The Declaration of Independence - A Bold Gamble Answer Key

1. Possible answers:

- Britain imposed taxes and laws without the colonists' consent
- The British government refused to address colonial grievances and used military force

2. Enlightenment ideas, such as those from John Locke, promoted the idea of natural rights and that government should protect these rights. The Declaration reflects this in its claim that people have rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," and can overthrow governments that violate those rights.

3. The signers risked being executed for treason if the revolution failed. They moved forward because they believed independence was necessary for freedom and unity.

4. Sample Answer: The phrase meant that all free white men were equal under the law, though it excluded women, enslaved people, and others. Today, people critique this phrase because it did not apply to everyone at the time.

5. Example quote: "All men are created equal..." - This supports the idea that the Declaration was not just political but also a philosophical argument for basic human rights.

6. Sample Answer: It means the Declaration helped clarify why the colonies were fighting - not just to protest taxes, but to achieve full independence and self-rule. I agree because it united the colonies and also helped gain international support like from France, as the passage explains.