

1. Read "The Declaration of Independence" in the textbook beginning with page 122.
2. Now, read this simplified "translation" of the document and figure out the missing words. You won't find the answers by simply scanning the document. You will need to use your brain on this one.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Sometimes one group of people decide to split off from another group, and to become an independent country, as the laws of (1) _____ and of God say that they can. But when this happens, if they want other people to (2) _____ them, they should explain why they are splitting off.

We think these things are obviously true:

- That all men are created (3) _____
- That all men have some (4) _____ given to them by God
- That among these rights are life, (5) _____, and the pursuit of happiness.

So whenever any government is getting in the way of these rights, people have the right to change it or get rid of it, and to make a new government, in whatever way seems most likely to make them (6) _____ and (7) _____.

People should not change their government without a good (8) _____, so people usually suffer as long as they can under the government they have, rather than change it. But when there have been a lot of problems for a long time, it is their right and their duty to throw off that government, and to set up a better (9) _____.

We here in America have suffered for a very long time, and now we should change our government. The king of England has done many bad things to us - here is a list:

- He won't let us pass (10) _____ we need for everybody's good.
- Even when we do pass laws, he won't sign them so they can go into effect.
- He tried to force men to give up their right to make laws.
- He calls men together to make laws in the most (11) _____ times and places, so that they won't be able to go discuss the new laws.
- He won't let new settlers come to America, and he won't let the settlers take over new land from the (12) _____
- He won't let us choose our own (13) _____, and instead he chooses them all himself, so they're all on his side.
- He sends lots of new government officials that we don't want, and he makes us pay for them.
- He sends lots of English (14) _____ here when there isn't even a war, and makes us let them live in our own houses.

- He tells us these soldiers can do whatever they want and don't have to obey the law.
- He won't let us buy and sell things from wherever we want. We can only buy things from (15) _____.
- He makes us pay all kinds of (16) _____ without asking us about it.
- He won't let us have a (17) _____ for our trials, only a judge.
- He sends people accused of (18) _____ far away to England for their trials.
- He tries to get people to revolt and tries to get the "Indian Savages" to attack us.

When we ask him to stop, he just keeps on doing more bad things. We have tried to talk to the other people who live in England. We asked them to stop these crimes against us, but they have acted as though they were deaf. So we have to separate from England, and they will be our (19) _____ during the war, though we hope they'll be our friends when there is peace.

So we think that God will see that we are doing the right thing when we declare that the United States are now completely independent of the King of England. We have no more (20) _____ connection to England at all. And as independent states, we say that each state has the right to make war, to make peace, to make alliances with other countries, trade with other countries, and do everything else that countries do. And we promise that we will fight for our independence with the help of God - we promise by our lives, our property, and our sacred honor.