

Name _____

The Declaration of Independence: Catalyst for the American Revolution

Short Answer Key

1. The key philosophical principles articulated in the Declaration of Independence that provided a moral basis for the American Revolution include the idea that individuals possess unalienable rights (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness), the concept that governments exist to secure these rights, and the assertion that when a government violates these rights, the people have the right to alter or abolish it. These principles justified the colonists' rebellion by highlighting their moral duty to resist oppressive British rule.
2. The Declaration of Independence served as a unifying force among the American colonists during the revolution by providing a clear statement of purpose and shared ideals. It inspired a sense of commitment to the cause of independence and rallied people from various backgrounds and regions around a common goal. The document's powerful rhetoric resonated with many, fostering unity and determination.
3. The list of grievances against King George III in the Declaration of Independence served several purposes. It documented the colonists' specific complaints against British rule, provided evidence of British tyranny, and justified their decision to seek independence. By listing these grievances, the document made a compelling case for the necessity of armed conflict to secure their rights and freedom.
4. The international impact of the Declaration of Independence during the American Revolution was significant. It inspired sympathizers in Europe and other countries who shared similar ideals of individual rights and self-determination. This support helped the American colonies secure vital alliances and resources, ultimately contributing to their success in the revolution. The document served as a symbol of hope and inspiration beyond American borders.
5. The Declaration of Independence is considered the ideological and moral foundation of the American Revolution because it provided a powerful justification for the colonies' separation from British rule, based on the principles of unalienable rights and government by consent. Its articulation of grievances against King George III and its assertion of the right to alter or abolish oppressive government galvanized the colonists and gained vital international support.

