

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Signers of the Declaration of Independence and Their Consequences

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 individuals, including John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Hancock. Their prominent status and willingness to take significant risks by signing the document symbolized their dedication to the principles of liberty and self-determination. They believed in the cause of American independence and were willing to stake their reputations and lives on it.
2. The majority of signatures on the Declaration of Independence were affixed on August 2, 1776, marking a significant moment in the American Revolutionary War. At this point, the American colonies had declared their independence from Britain, solidifying their commitment to the cause. The timing was crucial in uniting the colonies and sending a clear message to the British.
3. The signers of the Declaration of Independence faced potential consequences such as loss of property, imprisonment, and execution for openly defying British authority. These risks reflected their unwavering dedication to the cause of American independence and their willingness to make personal sacrifices to achieve it.
4. Despite the risks and hardships they faced, the signers of the Declaration of Independence left a lasting legacy. Their commitment to the principles of liberty, equality, and self-determination laid the foundation for American democracy. Their actions inspired future generations and played a pivotal role in shaping the United States as a nation founded on these principles.

