

Name _____

The Minds Behind the Declaration: Authors and Drafters

Open-Ended Response Questions

1. Explain the roles and contributions of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston in the drafting process of the Declaration of Independence, besides Thomas Jefferson's primary authorship.
2. Describe the significance of the Committee of Five in the creation of the Declaration of Independence. How did their diverse backgrounds and perspectives influence the document?
3. Trace the key steps in the drafting process of the Declaration of Independence, from Thomas Jefferson's initial draft to its adoption by the Continental Congress. What debates and revisions occurred along the way?
4. Reflect on the enduring significance of the Declaration of Independence in American history. How has it influenced the nation's values and identity, and why is it celebrated today?

