

Name _____

The Minds Behind the Declaration: Authors and Drafters

Short Answer Key

1. Answer: Key figures in the drafting process included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston.
2. Answer: John Adams played a crucial role in advocating for independence and the declaration. He nominated Thomas Jefferson to write the document and played a pivotal role in building support for independence among fellow delegates.
3. Answer: The Committee of Five was responsible for drafting the Declaration of Independence. They brought diverse perspectives and backgrounds to the process, ensuring a well-rounded document that represented the interests of the colonies.
4. Answer: The drafting process began with Thomas Jefferson's initial draft. It was reviewed, edited, and debated by the Committee of Five and later by the entire Continental Congress. After revisions, the final version was adopted on July 4, 1776.
5. Answer: The Declaration of Independence is an enduring symbol of freedom, equality, and the pursuit of happiness. It laid the foundation for the United States and its democratic principles, influencing the nation's values and identity.

