

Name _____

Changes and Edits in the Declaration of Independence: From Draft to Final Copy

Short Answer Key

1. The members of the committee responsible for drafting the Declaration of Independence were Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston. They played a significant role in reviewing and revising the initial draft of the declaration to improve its clarity and impact.
2. The removal of anti-slavery language from the initial draft of the Declaration of Independence was significant because it was done to secure the support of Southern delegates who objected to those sections. They believed that condemning slavery would undermine the unity of the colonies and jeopardize the declaration's approval.
3. The Continental Congress contributed to the creation of the Declaration of Independence by debating and making additional changes to the document to improve it. They reviewed and discussed various sections, leading to further revisions to ensure its acceptance by all thirteen colonies.
4. The final adoption of the Declaration of Independence took place on July 4, 1776. John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, and other delegates signed the document on that date, officially proclaiming American independence. This act marked a crucial moment in the colonies' struggle for freedom.
5. Thomas Jefferson played a crucial role in drafting the initial version of the Declaration of Independence, articulating the colonists' grievances against King George III and their intent to declare independence. His contributions include the eloquent expression of key principles such as individual rights and government by consent, which became the foundation of the final document adopted on July 4, 1776.

