

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The committee responsible for drafting the Declaration of Independence included Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston. They played a pivotal role in shaping the document through their revisions and discussions. Jefferson was the primary author, while the others reviewed and made changes to improve its content, clarity, and impact.
2. The removal of anti-slavery language from the initial draft of the Declaration of Independence was a significant decision. It was made to secure the support of Southern delegates, particularly from South Carolina and Georgia, who objected to those sections. They believed that condemning slavery would jeopardize the unity of the colonies and hinder the declaration's approval.
3. The Continental Congress played a vital role in the creation of the Declaration of Independence. During the debate and discussion process, they reviewed and made additional changes to the document to ensure its acceptance by all thirteen colonies. They addressed various sections, leading to further revisions that improved the document's clarity and impact.
4. The final adoption of the Declaration of Independence occurred on July 4, 1776. On this day, John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, and other delegates signed the document, officially proclaiming American independence. This act held immense significance as it marked the colonies' determination to break away from British rule and forge a new path toward self-determination and freedom.

