

## PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS

# Key Declaration Excerpts

Rewrite each excerpt to complete the chart. Use the completed chart to answer the questions.

Declaration Excerpts:	Rewrite in your own words:
"We hold these truths to be <u>self-evident</u> , that all men are created equal, that they are <u>endowed</u> by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights..."	
"That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to <u>abolish</u> it, and to institute new Government..."	
"A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a <u>Tyrant</u> and is unfit to be the ruler of a free people..."	

- Look up the definition of the following words and write a synonym for each.  
A. self-evident      B. endowed      C. abolish      D. tyrant
- What truths are considered "self-evident" according to the first excerpt?
- What government is being described in the second excerpt?
- What can you infer about the colonists' opinion of King George III from the third excerpt?

## SUMMARIZING INFORMATION

# List of Complaints

*The Declaration of Independence was a formal announcement to King George III that the colonists were separating from Great Britain. The colonists included a list of 27 complaints against King George III to make clear the reasons for separation.*

**Ten of the colonists' major complaints are listed below. Read each complaint and use the chart to rewrite each complaint from the perspective of a colonist. Two examples have been given. Use a dictionary to look up unfamiliar words. Then answer the questions.**

1. For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us
2. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers
3. For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world
4. For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury
5. For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offenses
6. For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Government
7. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people
8. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people
9. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance... till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them
10. He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us

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1. Circle any words and phrases generally having a negative connotation.
  2. What can you infer about the colonists' opinion of King George III? What words and phrases support your conclusion?

#	What each complaint means to me
1.	The King put BRITISH soldiers in OUR homes!
2.	There is no justice under the King! He has dissolved our laws and courts.
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	