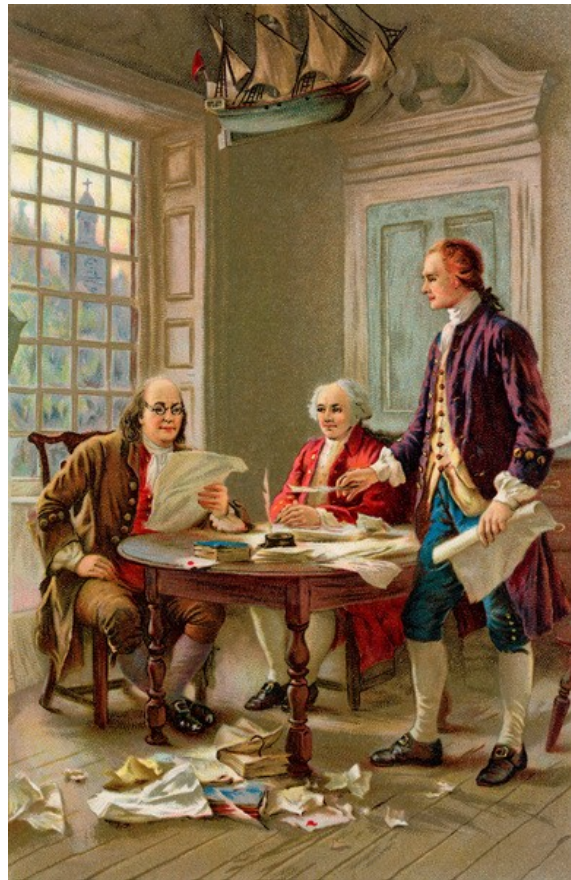


The Declaration of Independence: The Cost Copywork Notebook

Designed For
3rd-12th Grade



Designed by
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of Knowledge Box Central

C-DI



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*****What is “copywork,” and how do I use it in my child’s education?***

Copywork is a great way to teach your children. By copying passages from Great Works of literature or history, children learn many areas of Language Arts. Children have the opportunity to be exposed to great writers or historical events, while learning Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar, Vocabulary, and Creative Writing from the “Masters.” Most Classical Education programs recommend copywork as an intricate part of educating your children, quite often in place of many of the traditional Language Arts programs listed above.

By copying passages 2-3 days per week (or more), your children will come to learn and possibly even memorize some of the greatest literature from our history. While penmanship is important, the knowledge that they are gaining through the copywork is what is most important.

However, do encourage your children to take pride in their penmanship. Also, instruct them in the importance of the “art” of Spelling, Punctuation, Vocabulary, Grammar, and Creative Writing. With some practice, they will begin to “imitate” these in their own personal writing.

*****How do I use THIS notebook?***

Inside this book, you will find the entire text of the Declaration of Independence, in its original format. You will also find an article, from an unknown author, which discusses “What happened to the signers of the Declaration of Independence.” The purpose of including this article is so that your child will really consider the magnitude of this document and what it cost the signers. The document is broken into 32 “bite-sized” pieces so that there is a section to copy at each session. Also, there are many other interesting facts and definitions throughout the notebook. Your child is not required to copy that portion (but he can!). These tidbits are merely for deeper understanding of the document and its signers. Have your child/children read each section, and think about/discuss what it means. Have your child/children copy that section, using his or her best penmanship. At twice per week, this notebook will last for 16 weeks. At three times per week, it will last a little more than 10 weeks. Many parents choose to have their children do copy work daily, in which case, this notebook will last for 32 school days.

Taken from the Public Domain documents: www.archives.gov

Original spelling and punctuation is unchanged and may appear strange compared to modern English. Please accept it as a historical document, worthy of study.

About this document:

The Declaration of Independence: We all know the phrase, and most know that it was signed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 4th of 1776. But how many of us know these facts: The original signing of the document on July 4th, 1776 was signed ONLY by John Hancock of Massachusetts (as President of the Continental Congress) and Secretary Charles Thomson. It was amended, resigned on August 2, 1776 by most members of congress, and others would sign later with Thomas McKean being the last to sign January 18, 1777.

What we hope you will glean from this copywork is the magnitude of this document. We desire to share the incredible cost associated with its signing, but equally important is the substance. While doing the copywork, we hope to stimulate your own thoughts and feelings about the reason for the document. What were the causes that brought about this great rebellion to the British Crown? Why do we look upon this rebellion with respect, and yet fear the thought of a modern day rebellion? The signers pledged to one another, and thus to the people of The Colonies, their Lives, their Fortunes and their Sacred Honor.

As you read, copy, and learn from this copying adventure, hold close to your thoughts the following article written by an unknown author regarding the cost of our forefathers. When you postulate our government and that of other countries, remember what it takes to free a nation, and remember the motivation of these otherwise ordinary men. We need to contemplate our own beliefs and make decisions about what it would take for us to sign such a document. Please read this with sincerity and gravity. Consider your own home, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers and friends...

The Article is as follows:

Fifty-six American leaders in the Continental Congress stepped forward to sign the final document, at enormous personal risk.

Tragically, many Americans today have no idea of the great sacrifices that were made by the Founders to win their freedom.

What Happened to the Signers?

Five signers were captured by the British and brutally tortured as traitors. Nine fought in the War for Independence and died from wounds or from hardships they suffered. Two lost their sons in the Continental Army. Another two had sons captured. At least a dozen of the fifty-six had their homes pillaged and burned.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-five were lawyers or jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers or large plantation owners. One was a teacher, one a musician, and one a printer. These were men of means and education, yet they signed the Declaration of Independence, knowing full well that the penalty could be death if they were captured.

In the face of the advancing British Army, the Continental Congress fled from Philadelphia to Baltimore on December 12, 1776. It was an especially anxious time for John Hancock, the President, as his wife had just given birth to a baby girl. Due to the complications stemming from the trip to Baltimore, the child lived only a few months.

William Ellery's signing at the risk of his fortune proved only too realistic. In December 1776, during three days of British occupation of Newport, Rhode Island, Ellery's house was burned, and all his property destroyed.

Richard Stockton, a New Jersey State Supreme Court Justice, had rushed back to his estate near Princeton after signing the Declaration of Independence to find that his wife and children were living like refugees with friends. They had been betrayed by a Tory sympathizer who also revealed

Stockton's own whereabouts. British troops pulled him from his bed one night, beat him and threw him in jail where he almost starved to death. When he was finally released, he went home to find his estate had been looted, his possessions burned, and his horses stolen. Judge Stockton had been so badly treated in prison that his health was ruined and he died before the war's end. His surviving family had to live the remainder of their lives off charity.

Carter Braxton was a wealthy planter and trader. One by one his ships were captured by the British navy. He loaned a large sum of money to the American cause; it was never paid back. He was forced to sell his plantations and mortgage his other properties to pay his debts.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he had to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Continental Congress without pay, and kept his family in hiding.

Vandals or soldiers or both looted the properties of Clymer, Hall, Harrison, Hopkinson and Livingston. Seventeen lost everything they owned.

Thomas Heyward, Jr., Edward Rutledge, and Arthur Middleton, all of South Carolina, were captured by the British during the Charleston Campaign in 1780. They were kept in dungeons at the St. Augustine Prison until exchanged a year later.

At the Battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the family home for his headquarters. Nelson urged General George Washington to open fire on his own home. This was done, and the home was destroyed. Nelson later died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis also had his home and properties destroyed. The British jailed his wife for two months, and that and other hardships from the war so affected her health that she died only two years later.

"Honest John" Hart, a New Jersey farmer, was driven from his wife's bedside when she was near death. Their thirteen children fled for their lives. Hart's fields and his grist mill were laid waste. For over a year he eluded capture by hiding in nearby forests. He never knew where his bed would be the next night and often slept in caves. When he finally returned home, he found that his wife had died, his children disappeared, and his farm and stock were completely destroyed. Hart himself died in 1779 without ever seeing any of his family again.

Such were the stories and sacrifices typical of those who risked everything to sign the Declaration of Independence. These men were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged:

"For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

Author: Unknown

The Declaration of Independence:
The Cost

Copywork Notebook

Name: _____

Date Started: _____

Date Completed: _____

#2 We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.-

"I hold it that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical. . . . It is a medicine necessary for the sound health of government. "

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), U.S. president. Letter, 30 Jan. 1787, to statesman James Madison, speaking of Shays' Rebellion.