

The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence was a document written to declare

Independence from England. It is thought of as the founding document of the United States of America. It was

written because the New England colonies felt that Great Britain (England) had too much control over the colonies and they wanted to break free and be a country of their own. Here is a section from the Declaration of Independence:



“All men are created equal and there are certain unalienable rights that governments should never violate. These rights include the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. When a government fails to protect those rights, it is not only the right, but also the duty of the people to overthrow that government. In its place, the people should establish a government that is designed to protect those rights. Governments are rarely overthrown, and should not be overthrown for trivial reasons. In this case, a long history of abuses has led the colonists to overthrow a tyrannical government.”

Questions:

1. Why was the Declaration of Independence written?
2. Who did the colonist feel had too much control over the colonies?
3. What rights does the document give to each citizen?
4. If a government does not protect the citizens right what is the duty of the people?