

# 9

# THE COLONIES DECLARE INDEPENDENCE

By Maely Herrera

As Royal and rebel forces continue to clash up and down the American coastline, the general population increases its calls for independence. The change from Royal government to independent community happens locality by locality. In June 1776, the Patriots in the Continental Congress finally have the votes to ask Thomas Jefferson to write a Declaration of Independence.



1770

1771

1772

1773

1774

1775

1776

Boston Tea Party

The First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia

The Battles of Lexington and Concord





THE KING  
DOESN'T  
SPEAK FOR  
VIRGINIA!



SPRING  
1776

VIRGINIA WAS DIVIDED.

THOMAS PAINE'S **COMMON SENSE** SPREAD SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE.

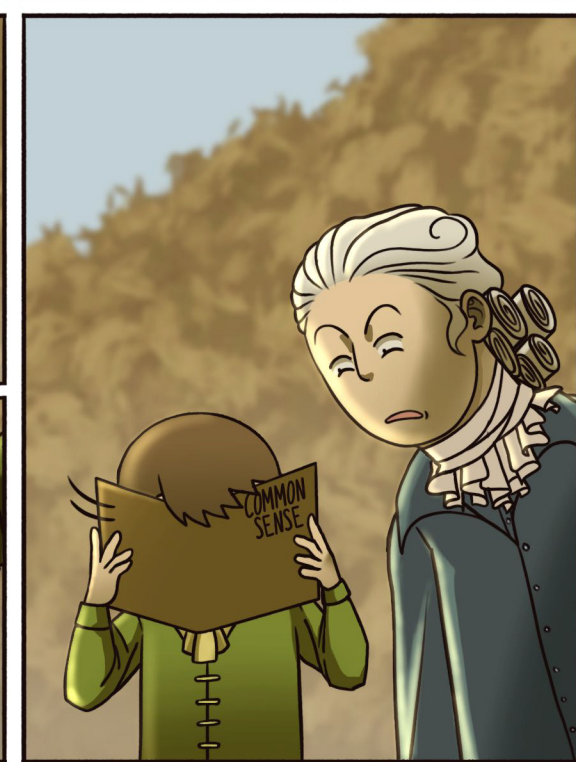


NO MORE  
KINGS!

BUT, ISN'T  
THAT  
TREASON?



TAKE A  
LOOK,  
FOLKS.



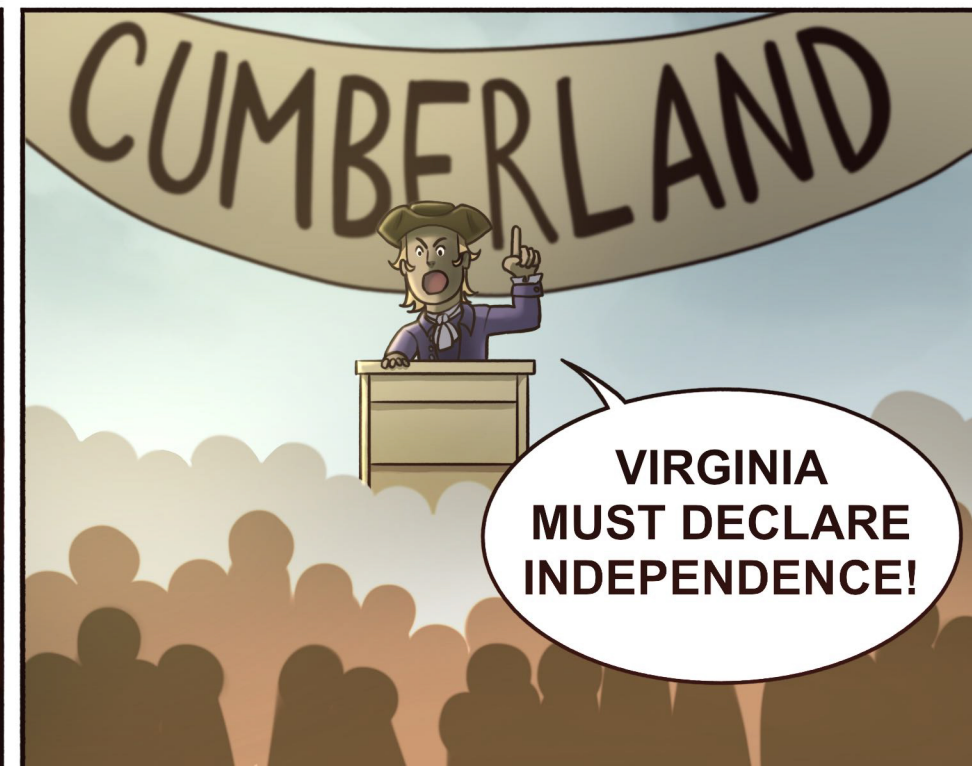
NOW  
THAT'S  
MORE  
LIKE IT!



SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE  
SPREAD ACROSS VIRGINIA.



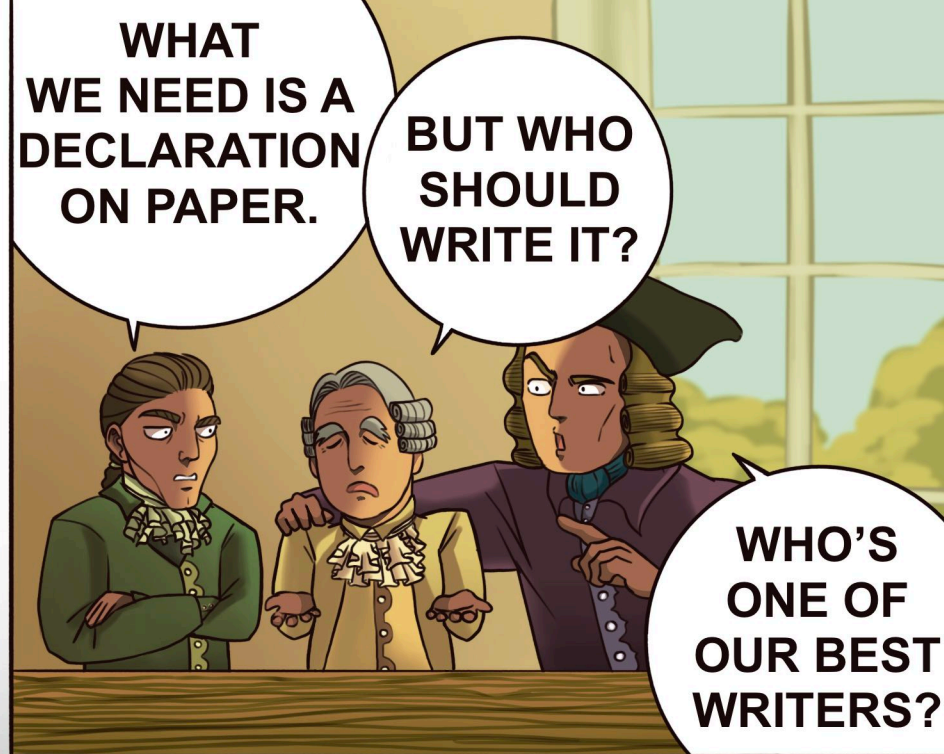
WE NEED  
TO PUT  
AN END  
TO THIS!



VIRGINIA  
MUST DECLARE  
INDEPENDENCE!



PHILADELPHIA,  
PENNSYLVANIA  
JUNE 1776



WHAT  
WE NEED IS A  
DECLARATION  
ON PAPER.

BUT WHO  
SHOULD  
WRITE IT?

WHO'S  
ONE OF  
OUR BEST  
WRITERS?



JEFFERSON,  
YOUR WORDS  
CAN MAKE  
OUR CASE.

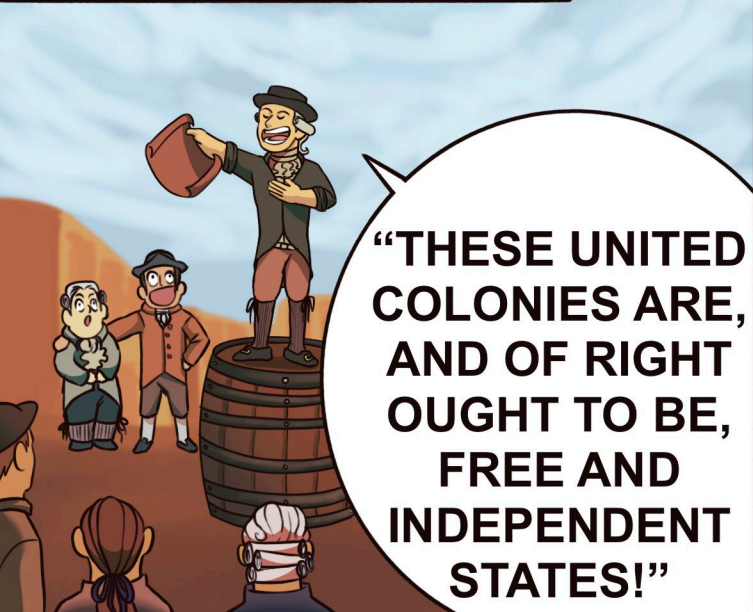
ME?

THOMAS JEFFERSON WROTE THE  
FIRST DRAFT OF THE DECLARATION  
OF INDEPENDENCE.



COPIES WERE CARRIED  
THROUGHOUT THE  
COLONIES.

PEOPLE GATHERED TO  
HEAR IT READ ALOUD.



"THESE UNITED  
COLONIES ARE,  
AND OF RIGHT  
OUGHT TO BE,  
FREE AND  
INDEPENDENT  
STATES!"



YEAH!!!



DO  
YOU  
THINK  
WE'LL  
WIN?

WE  
HAVE  
TO.

AND SO, THE FIGHT  
FOR INDEPENDENCE  
CONTINUED.



## Questions to Consider

1. What was the most important point of this chapter?
2. The Declaration of Independence was written in Philadelphia. Where is that in relation to your home?
3. Why do we celebrate July 4 today?
4. Who was the main author of the Declaration of Independence?
5. Why was the Declaration of Independence significant?

## Learn More

-  [“Who inspired Jefferson’s words in the Declaration of Independence? Shakespeare,” by Randy Walker, Cardinal News](#)
-  [“Jefferson gets the acclaim for independence but it was another Virginian who proposed a formal break from Britain,” by Dwayne Yancey, Cardinal News](#)
-  [“Jefferson wanted to condemn slavery in the Declaration of Independence. Congress said no,” by Dwayne Yancey, Cardinal News](#)
-  [“Dispatch from 1776: Four events have made us independent,” by Dwayne Yancey, Cardinal News](#)
-  [“The first newspaper to report on the Declaration of Independence published in German,” by Dwayne Yancey, Cardinal News](#)