

CONSTITUTION 101

Module 2: Principles of the American Revolution
2.4 Video Reflection

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

In this activity, you will identify the intellectual sources of the Declaration of Independence—the very thinkers that Jefferson mentioned in his letter. You will also explore the root of the principles—such as natural rights, the social contract, popular sovereignty, and the rule of law—that influenced the American Revolution and led to the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

After you watch the video, answer the following questions. Be on the lookout for concepts from the Declaration of Independence and the Preamble to the Constitution as you watch.

Where in the Declaration do you see one of the following key principles: popular sovereignty, natural rights, or the rule of law?

How is that key principle defined?

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What other principles are mentioned?

How does the Preamble to the Constitution reflect these key principles?