DAILY Warm-Up 14

Name _____ Date _____

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America was signed. Fifty-six men put their names on the document. This act showed that the Colonies would not follow the rules of the English any more. This act changed the course of history.

These men did not agree with the rules of England. The Declaration listed 18 ways that the British had done a bad job. These men wrote clearly that the English did not pay attention to the things they needed. The English did not care about their feelings. They did not care about their wishes.

As a result, they wrote this declaration to say that they were going to be free from England. They felt it was important to have full power to make contracts with whomever they wanted. They wanted power to trade with whomever they chose, whenever they wanted to trade.

Lastly, they wanted full power to decide their future. These men wanted to make the choices that were best for themselves and the people who lived in the Colonies.

On July 4, 1776, all 56 men signed the declaration. They promised to give their lives for each other. They promised to share what they had with each other. They promised to respect each other.

These men wanted to be free. Free to choose. Free to speak. Free to live in the way they thought was best.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is another word for *rules* in this passage?
   a. freedom
   b. a piece of paper
   c. laws
   d. choices

2. Which words best describe the Colonists?
   a. had their minds made up to give their lives to make things better in the Colonies
   b. happy with the way things were
   c. sad because they did not have all the conveniences of the British
   d. angry because they could not build cabins and cities fast enough

3. What is one thing listed in the passage the Colonists wanted to change?
   a. They wanted to choose with whom they would play.
   b. They wanted to choose with whom they would trade.
   c. They wanted to choose what language to speak.
   d. They wanted to choose what food to eat.

4. Which statement is **TRUE** from the passage above?
   a. The Colonists agreed with British laws.
   b. The Colonists wanted to move back to England.
   c. The Colonists wanted to use laws from France.
   d. The Colonists wanted to make their own laws.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS