

Additional titles  
from **film ideas, Inc.**  
in the  
**SYMBOLS OF AMERICA**  
*7 PART SERIES*

The U.S. Flag

Uncle Sam

The White House

The American Bald Eagle

Images of Liberty  
(The Statue of Liberty & The Liberty Bell)

The U.S. Capitol Building

The Declaration of Independence



**film Ideas, Inc.**

308 North Wolf Rd. Wheeling, IL 60090  
TEL: 1-800-475-3456 or 847-419-0255  
FAX: 847-419-8933 E-MAIL: [filmid@ais.net](mailto:filmid@ais.net)  
WEB SITE: [www.filmideas.com](http://www.filmideas.com)

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A collage of American symbols including the Liberty Bell, the Statue of Liberty, the American flag, Uncle Sam, and a scroll of the Declaration of Independence. The text "Symbols of America 7 Part Series" is overlaid on the collage. Below the collage, the title "The DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE" is written in large, bold, serif font. At the bottom, a black banner contains the text "INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**Symbols  
of America**  
*7 Part Series*

The  
**DECLARATION OF  
INDEPENDENCE**

**INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE**

## INTRODUCTION TO SERIES

The purpose of this video series is to acquaint young children to the importance of American symbols. It is designed to teach how symbols are objects or pictures that represents a much larger idea. Throughout American history symbols have played a significant role in how ideas have become an influential fabric of our culture. American symbols represent and communicate who we are and what we value as a society. As children learn the importance of symbolism they will understand their contribution to American history and how symbols have evolved to help shape and define a nation – The United States of America.

As a complementary device with each video, an instructional guide suggests exercises to help aid teachers, parents and students. These interactive exercises will reinforce and further develop a child's level of comprehension about the importance of symbols and the joy of learning.

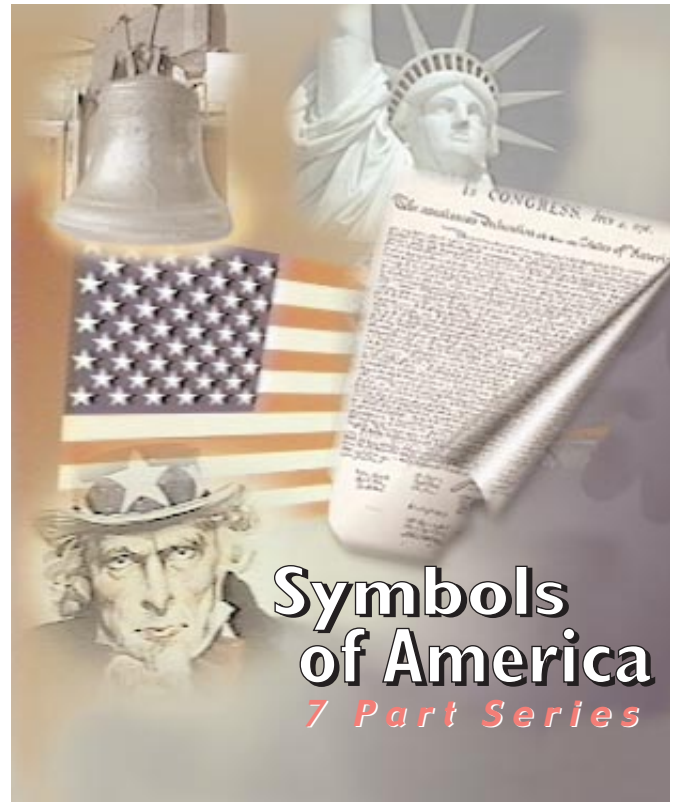
The instructional guide provides:

Child-friendly **exercises!** ✓

Fun-to-do **follow-up activities!** ✓

Easy-to-learn **reinforcement Q & A!** ✓

E-Guides available at  
[www.filmideas.com](http://www.filmideas.com)



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE  
CONSIDER VISITING THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

<http://www.archives.gov>  
<http://www.thedeclarationofindependence.org/>

Permission granted to copy the  
exercises provided in this guide.  
For educational use ONLY.

After students successfully complete the exercises chosen in this guide, have them cut out The Declaration Of Independence and frame it. Perhaps they can hang it on their bedroom wall to remind them of the great freedoms we enjoy throughout this nation.



## The Declaration Of Independence

Young viewers will enjoy learning the intent, meaning, and importance of our country's founding document, the Declaration of Independence. This early symbol of America is the cornerstone for our ideals of life, liberty and the personal pursuit of happiness. Combined with the role of a responsible government to its citizens, the Declaration Of Independence is the very foundation of our democratic nation.

Drafted by its primary author Thomas Jefferson between June 11 and June 28, 1776, the Declaration Of Independence includes five distinct parts: The introduction; the preamble; the body, which can be divided into two sections; and a conclusion. Each part has its own unique purpose which eloquently explains the Colonists views for becoming free and independent states. Although its main purpose was to declare freedom the document also gives evidence of the abuses, most notably taxation without representation, imposed upon them by England's King George III.

On July 4, 1776 the Declaration Of Independence was first read publicly and in effect became the birth certificate of a newly declared nation. Today, the Declaration Of Independence continues to uphold the principles of liberty and freedom and all the ideals which provide the framework for an enduring democracy and nation – The United States of America.

### Program Objectives

After viewing the program, children should understand:

- what symbols are and what "The Declaration Of Independence" represents.
- the history of "The Declaration Of Independence".
- the important people and events involved with the origins and writing of "The Declaration Of Independence".
- why "The Declaration Of Independence" was written.

## VOCABULARY:

**Boston Tea Party:** An event which happened in 1773 whereby the members of the Sons of Liberty, dressed like Native Americans, boarded British ships and dumped tea into Boston Harbor. This action was in protest against Britain's tax on tea.

**Continental Congress:** The representatives from each colony who met to discuss matters concerning the relationship between the Colonies and England.

**“Right”:** Something to which everyone is entitled i.e. the right to a trial by jury, the right to express opinions, right to choose the kind of work etc.

**Sam Adams:** A colonist who became the leader of a secret society known as the Sons of Liberty. The main purpose of this society was to oppose all forms of British taxes.

**Thomas Jefferson:** The person chosen to become the primary author for the Declaration Of Independence.

**French & Indian War:** A war between France and England during the 1760's. After England won this war it went into debt and this caused the English government to heavily tax the colonists living in the New World.

**Symbol:** An object or picture that represents a much larger idea.

**The Declaration Of Independence:** A document adopted by the Continental Congress to proclaim the separation of the 13 original colonies from Britain and declared the colonies right to be free and independent states. Its primary author was Thomas Jefferson.

## Reinforcement Q&A:

Review the video to answer the following questions:

- 1) What happened during the Boston Tea Party?
- 2) Why was the Declaration Of Independence written?
- 3) What country angered the colonists by imposing high taxes?
- 4) What country did the Colonists fight during the Revolutionary War? What country helped the Colonists win the Revolutionary War?
- 5) Who was the primary author of the Declaration Of Independence?

- (1) Colonists dressed like Native Indians, dumped British tea into Boston Harbor to protest the high tax on tea.
- (2) To proclaim to the world that the 13 colonies officially dissolve their relationship with England and they have the "right" to become a free and independent nation.
- (3) England
- (4) England / France
- (5) Thomas Jefferson

### Follow-Up Activities:

1) The Declaration Of Independence is one of America’s most historic documents. Have the children write a short biography about the history of this important American symbol and the freedoms it upholds—use the internet to help.

2) Have the children tour your school or community and document the symbols they see. After writing them down on a piece of paper, have the children research the symbol using resources like the internet to describe what each symbol represents. During their research, perhaps have them write a short historical perspective on the origins of the symbol.

3) As mentioned in the video a symbol represents a much larger idea. Have the children discuss a problem in your school or community. For example, is there confusion in the lunch room cafeteria as to how the children should line up and be served for food and beverages; or is there miscommunication about where certain school supplies should be stored; are certain rooms and school yard areas properly marked for student safety etc. After discussing the problem evaluate whether the problem can be solved by the children creating posters which effectively communicate ideas through symbols.

### Exercise #1:

Have the students study the vocabulary list on page 2. Then write the number of the vocabulary word on the solid black line next to its definition.

#### Vocabulary List:

- |                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) Thomas Jefferson | 3) French & Indian War         |
| 2) “Right”          | 4) Declaration Of Independence |

\_\_\_\_\_ *A conflict which left England in heavy debt.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *A document adopted by the Continental Congress to proclaim the separation of the 13 original colonies from Britain and declared the colonies right to be free and independent states.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *The primary author of the Declaration Of Independence.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Something to which everyone is entitled i.e. the right to a trial by jury.*

**Exercise #2:**

The members of the Declaration Committee are shown in the picture below. Study the names and the states they represent on pg. 4. Then turn to page 5 and write the names and states they represent on the solid black line.



- 1) THOMAS JEFFERSON of Virginia
- 2) ROGER SHERMAN of Connecticut
- 3) BENJAMIN FRANKLIN of Pennsylvania
- 4) ROBERT LIVINGSTON of New York
- 5) JOHN ADAMS of Massachusetts



- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_