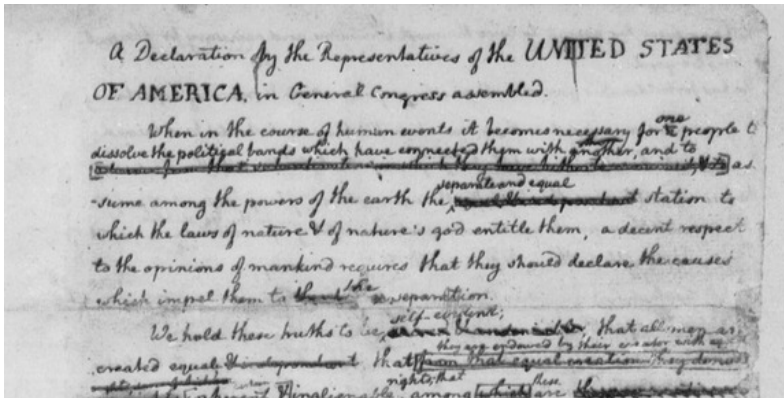


Learning about the Declaration of Independence



This photo shows a draft of the Declaration of Independence. The draft was written by President Thomas Jefferson. A draft is the first attempt at writing something. You can see that Thomas Jefferson crossed out ideas and rewrote them. There were a lot of drafts of the Declaration of Independence.



This is a painting of the Continental Congress. The Continental Congress was a series of meetings in the North American colonies. At one meeting, colonial representatives voted to approve the Declaration of Independence. The document said that America wanted to be free from England. The document declared that the colonies were now a brand new country!



In this drawing, colonists in New York are taking down a statue of King George. The colonists were very angry about the way the King treated them. As a result, the Declaration of Independence has a list of complaints against the king. The complaints were called "grievances." For example, one grievance was that the King closed Boston Harbor so that the colonists in Massachusetts could not sell their goods through trade.

Learning about the Declaration of Independence



This is a drawing that shows the Boston Massacre of 1770. The Boston Massacre was a fight between the colonists and British soldiers in Boston. The Boston Massacre was one of the reasons the colonists wanted to be free from England. Colonists were upset that the King sent soldiers to watch over them. As a result, they fought against the soldiers. In the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson included a grievance about how the King kept soldiers everywhere to watch them.



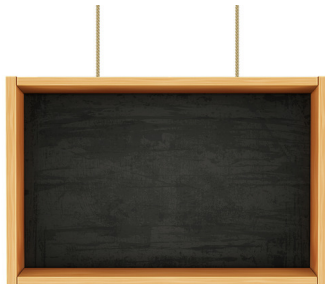
In this photo, a man is looking at the Declaration of Independence. Because the Declaration is such an important document, it is kept in a special case in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. An archive is a building that holds important papers. Because the Declaration is so popular, over 120 countries have created their own documents that are based on the Declaration of Independence.

New Museum Exhibit

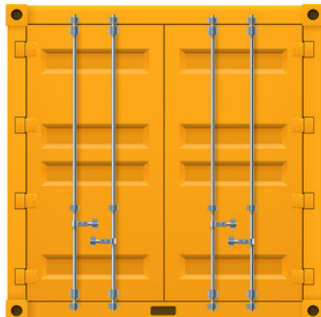
Your museum exhibit should have the following components:



A replica of the Declaration of Independence. The replica should look as realistic as possible.



A sign at the front of the exhibit that explains what the Declaration of Independence is and why it is important to protect.

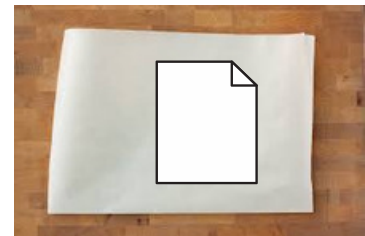
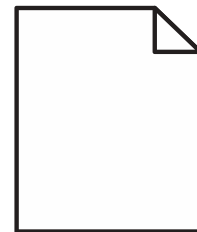
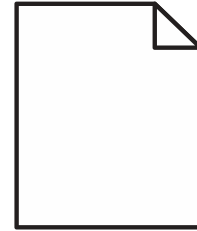


A storage system to make sure the Declaration won't get damaged if a fire, flood, or other emergency occurs. The storage system should also have alarms and locks on it to make sure someone cannot steal the document.

Steps to Create Your Exhibit

Step 1: Create a Replica of the Declaration of Independence

- Get a piece of white paper from your teacher.
- Look at the handout called "What the Declaration of Independence Looks Like." Then, draw the Declaration of Independence on your white piece of paper. You should include:
 - The date at the top.
 - At least 1 grievance listed.
 - Signatures at the bottom.
- Get a large sheet of wax paper or tinfoil from your teacher. Lay it on a table or desk in front of you. Place a your white piece of paper on top of your wax paper or tinfoil.
- Get a cup of tea and a paintbrush from your teacher. Carefully dip your paintbrush into the cup and paint the tea onto the paper. You should use as little tea as possible to cover the whole page.
- Next, get a cup of coffee grinds from your teacher. Sprinkle some coffee grinds on your paper. Use a paper towel to dab the paper. Remove extra coffee grinds using a paper towel.
- Make sure your document does not have too much liquid or or around it. If there is a lot of extra liquid, use a paper towel to absorb some of the liquid. Let your document dry over night.



Steps to Create Your Exhibit

Step 2: Creating a Sign for the Exhibit

You will create a sign to go in your museum exhibit. Your sign must meet the following requirements:

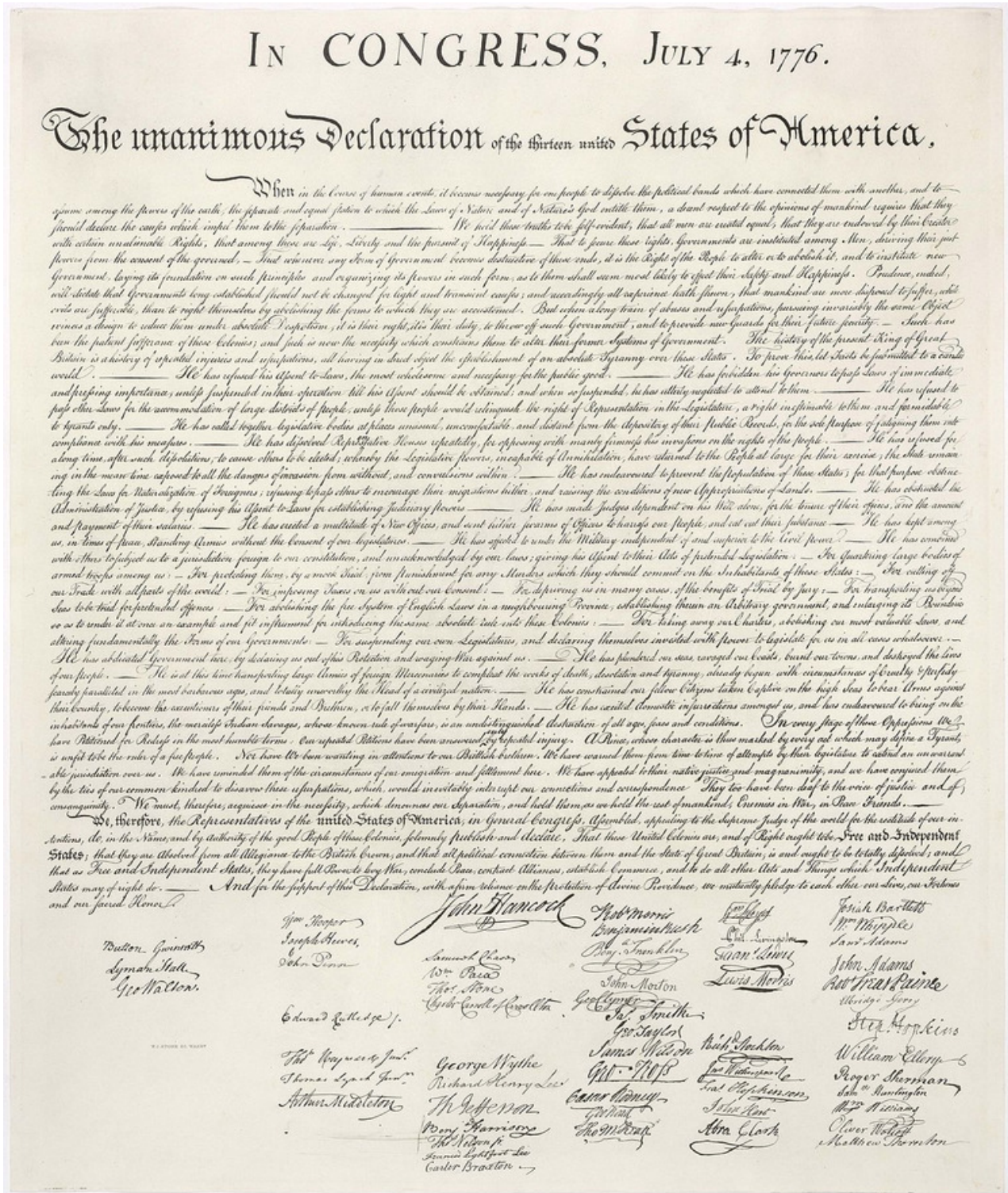
- Explain what the Declaration of Independence is.
- Explain why the Declaration of Independence was created.
- Explain why it is important to protect the Declaration of Independence.
- Include both words and pictures.

Step 3: Designing a Storage System

You will create a storage system for your Declaration of Independence. Your storage system must meet the following requirements:

- Completely cover the replica.
- Have a window in the storage device so people can look in and see the replica.
- Protect the replica from any water damage.

What the Declaration of Independence Looks Like



This image shows what the Declaration of Independence looks like. The document said that the colonists would not let the King rule the 13 colonies anymore. It said that the 13 colonies would now be a free country and make their own rules. There are 56 signatures at the bottom of the Declaration. The signatures were from men who represented all 13 colonies.