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*The Founding: From Colonies to the United States: SS.7.CG.1.6*

***Declaration of Independence***

**READING #5**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***SS.7.CG.1.6 Benchmark Clarification 5****:* Students will recognize the connection between specific grievances in the Declaration of Independence and natural rights violations.

Several complaints listed in the **Declaration of Independence** are responses to specific actions taken by the English government that denied the colonists their **natural rights**.

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| **Specific Grievance** | **Natural Rights Violation**  **(life, liberty, pursuit of happiness)** |
| “He has refused to assent to laws…” | Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws  of immediate and pressing importance…” | Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “Has has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right  of Representation in the Legislature…” | Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant  …for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into  compliance with his measures.” | Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “He has dissolved Representative Houses  repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people…” | Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “He has refused …after such dissolutions, to  cause others to be elected…” | Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “He has obstructed the Administration of  Justice…” | Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “He has made judges depending on his well  alone…” | Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “He has erected a multitude of New Offices,  and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people…” | Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing armies without the Consent of our  legislatures.” | Liberty |
| “He has combined with others to subject us to a  jurisdiction foreign to our constitution…” | Liberty |
| “For Quartering large bodies of armed troops  among us:” | Liberty |
| “For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:” | Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:” | Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:” | Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:” | Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “For abolishing the free System of English Laws  in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government…” | Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering  fundamentally the Forms of our Government:” | Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “For suspending our own Legislatures,…” | Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “He has abdicated Government here,…by declaring us out of his Protection and waging  War against us.” | Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “He has plundered our seas, ravaged our  Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people” | Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny,…” | Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country,…” | Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “He has excited domestic insurrections  amongst us,…” | Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |
| “Our repeated Petitions have been answered  only by repeated injury…” | Pursuit of Happiness |
| “We have warned them from time to time of  attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us.” | Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness |

**Declaration of Independence** - a document written in 1776 that listed the basis for democratic government and the grievances of the colonists

**liberty** - an individual’s right to be free

**natural rights** - the belief that individuals are born with basic rights that cannot be taken away by governments

**pursuit of happiness** - whatever an individual defines as making them happy