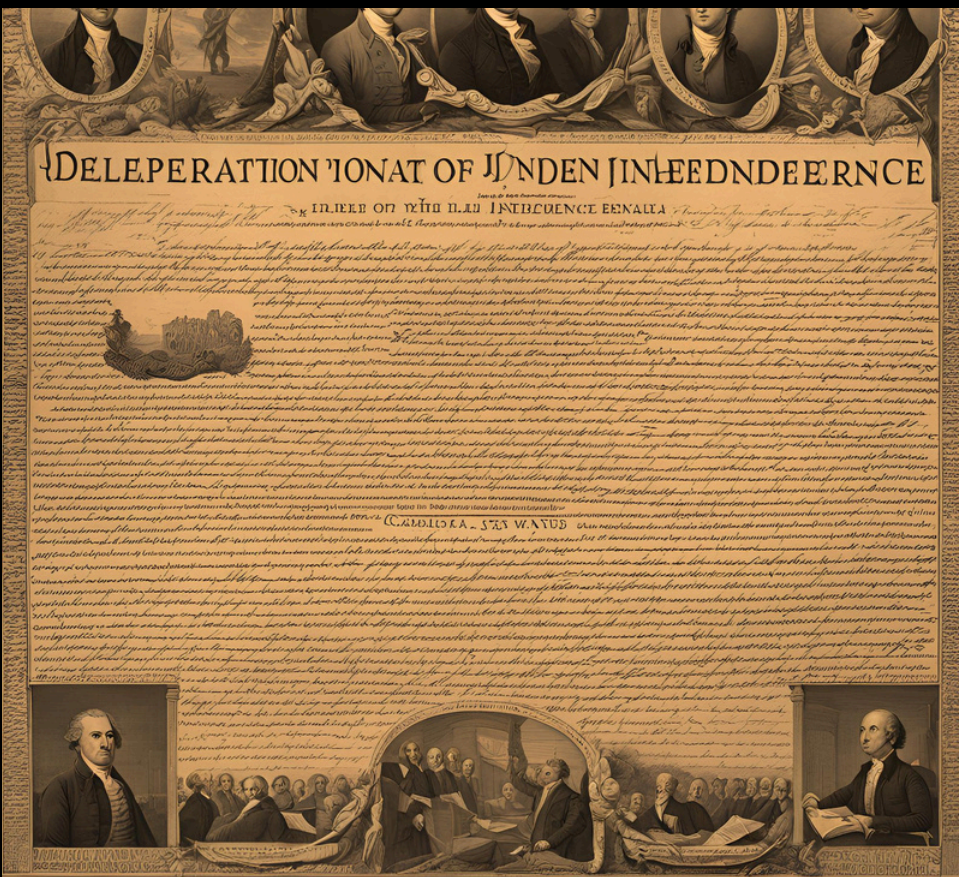


Deconstructing the Declaration of Independence

SCUSG.1.ER & SCUSG.1.IN



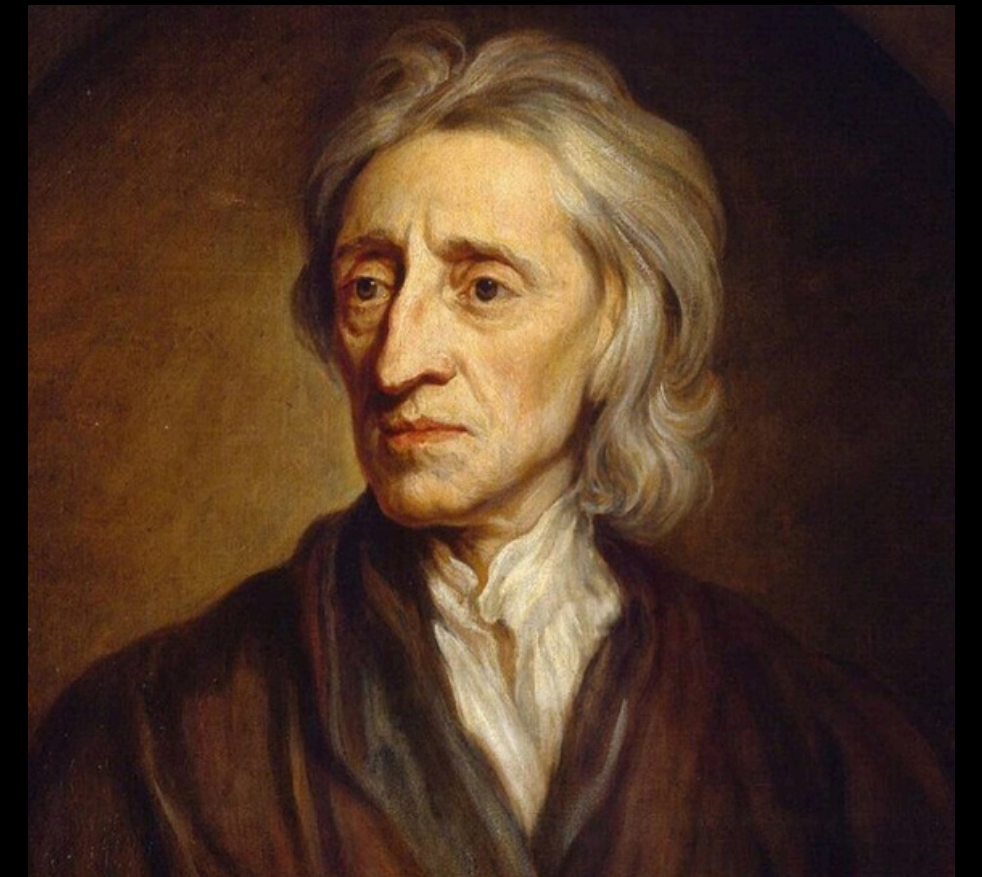
Scene 1: The Historian's Craft
Attempt to read the Preamble of the original draft of the Declaration and transcribe from the original cursive

What words or letters were hard to decipher?
What themes and ideals jump out?
Who is the intended audience?



Scene 2: Hobbes' Influence
Hobbes most notably advocated for the Social Contract theory & natural, inalienable rights

Read an Excerpt of Hobbes on the social contract & Natural Rights
What connections can you make to the Declaration?



Scene 3: Locke's Influence
Watch the video on Locke's ideology
What did Locke think about the rights & abilities of the governed?

While Locke agreed with Hobbes on a social contract, Locke advocated for the ouster of an inefficient and overbearing government



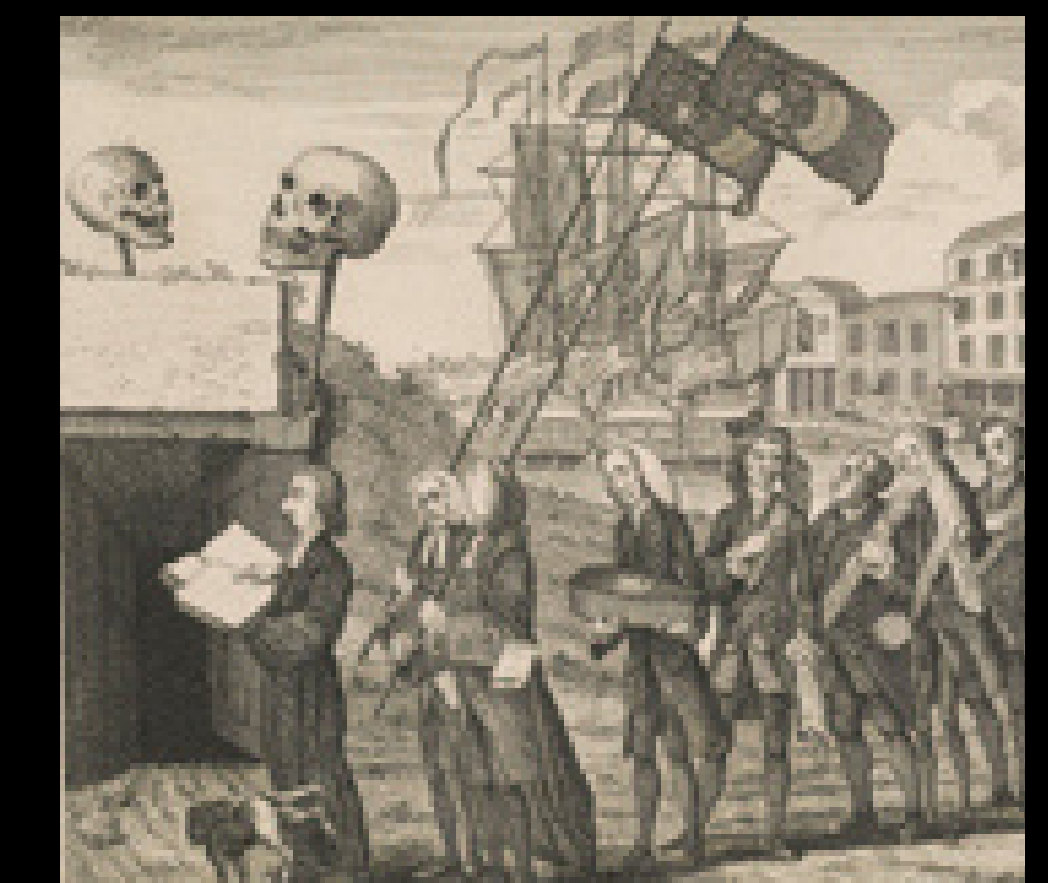
Scene 4: Jefferson's Influence
The Declaration was largely penned by Thomas Jefferson, and was not his first screed against the tyranny of the British crown. In his "Summary View of the Rights of British America", many of the same complaints found in the Declaration were on full display

Read the Summary View
What themes of complaints do you see on display here?

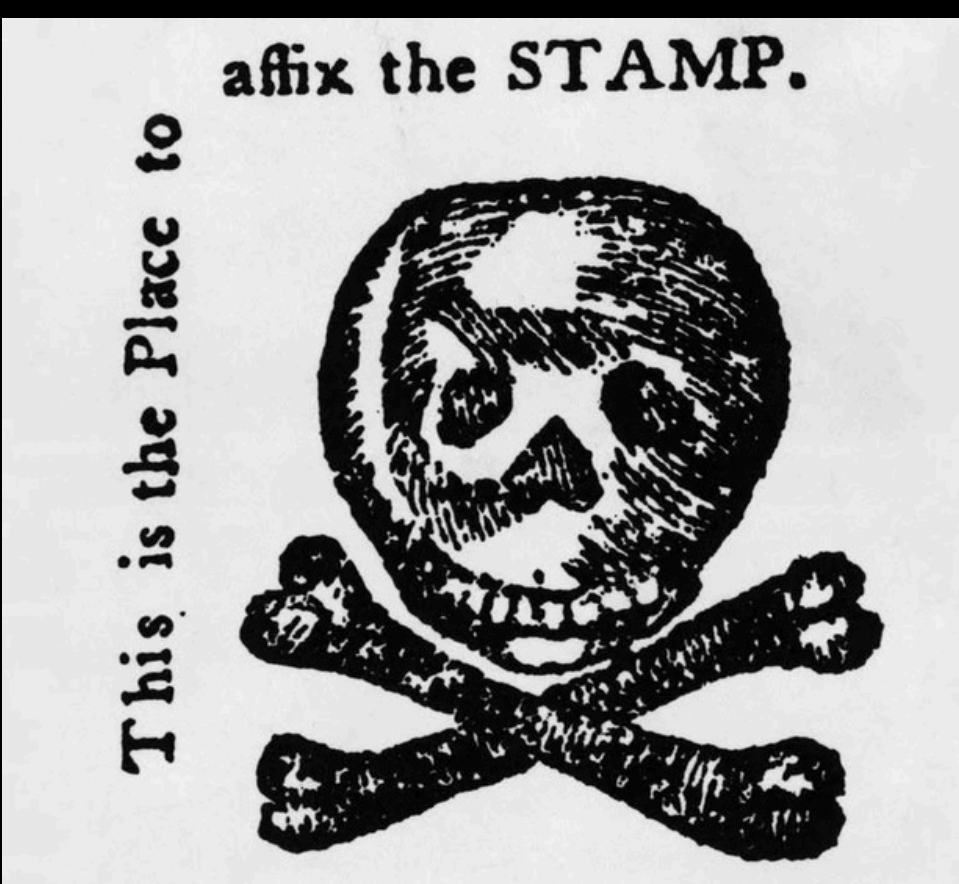


Scene 5: Intolerable Acts
The Coercive, or Intolerable acts, included:
Boston Port Act
Quartering Act
Massachusetts Government Act
Administration of Justice Act

These various acts would make their way into the Declaration as grievances against the King



Scene 6: Non-Representation
Without adequate representation in the British Parliament, the Colonists felt they were left without a voice in their own governance, effectively unable to participate in the very legislation that they became beholden



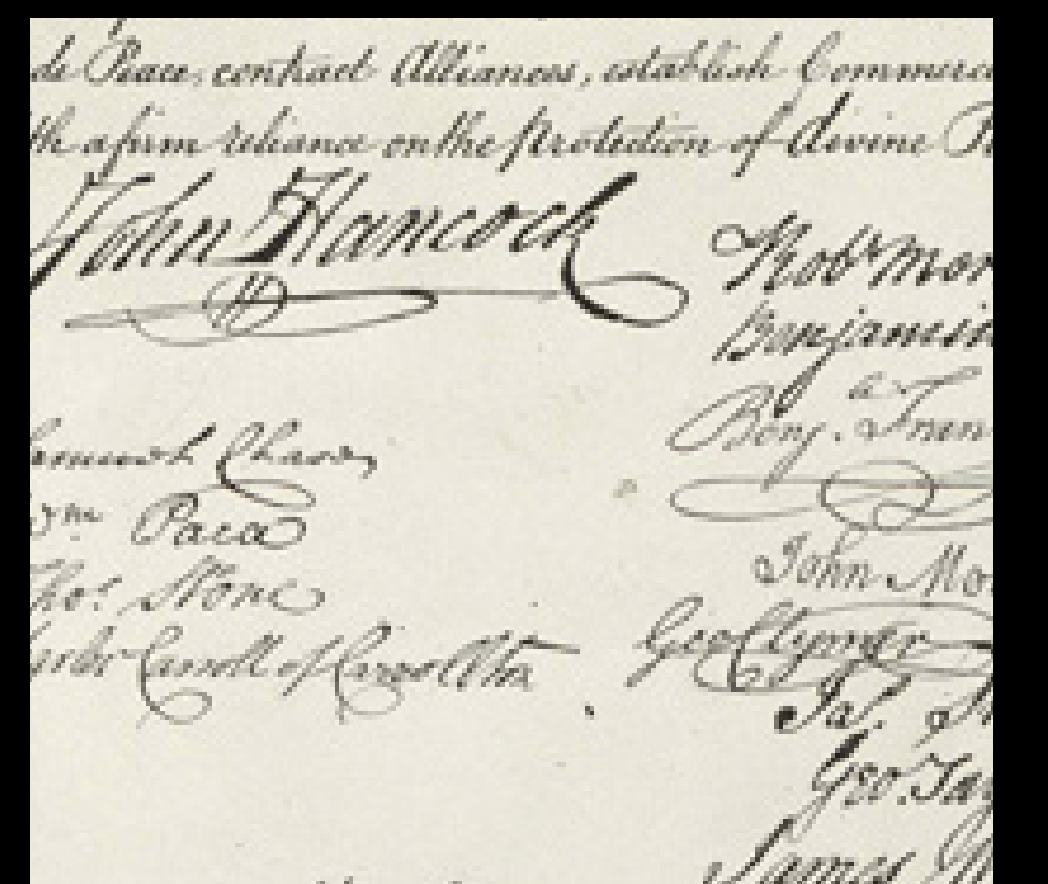
Scene 7: Taxation
A series of taxes led to colonial upset and embitterment:

Sugar Act
Stamp Act
Tea Act
Townshend Act

These would later be found in the Declaration as grievances levied against King George



Scene 8: Political Propaganda
Click on the cartoon above and with a partner do the following:
1. Analyze the cartoon. What is happening here? Who are the central figures? How do you know?
2. What message or argument do you think the cartoonist is attempting to make here?
3. Is this an effective piece of propaganda? Explain.



Scene 9: Official Separation
"...We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America affirm that the thirteen colonies are free and independent states."

What do you think was the impact of this incredible statement?
What did it portend for the future?

THEMATIC QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT INFLUENCES HELPED TO SHAPE THE DECLARATION?
2. HOW WAS THE DECLARATION STRUCTURED?
3. HOW WAS PERSUASION USED IN THE DECLARATION?

Citations

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