

Name: _____

Date: _____

Declaration of Independence

Period: _____

Common Sense and the Declaration of Independence

Directions: Read the following excerpt from *Common Sense*, by Thomas Paine and answer the following questions.

...whenever a war breaks out between England and any foreign power, the trade of America goes to ruin, because of her connection with Britain.

As to government matters, it is not in the power of Britain to do this continent justice: the business of it will soon be too weighty (much) and difficult to be managed by a power so distant from us, and so very ignorant (not knowledgeable) of us... To always be running three or four thousand miles with a tale (story) or petition (request), waiting four or five months for an answer, which when obtained (received) requires five or six more to explain it, will in a few years will be looked upon as folly (foolish) and childishness... Now is the proper time to cease (stop).

Everything that is right and reasonable pleads (begs) for separation. The blood of the slain (fallen), the weeping voice of nature cries " 'TIS TIME TO PART."

~ Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* 1776

1. According to Thomas Paine and the excerpt above, what two problems does he describe with being British colonies.

- If war breaks out between England + any foreign power, America's trade goes to ruin
- England is too far away and is so ignorant of the US

2. What does Thomas Paine say the Colonies should do now?

- Time for America to become its own nation.