**The Declaration of Independence Activity**

Throughout this unit, we have explored similarities and differences between the Puritanical and Rationalist Movements. The Declaration of Independence is a document that truly illustrates the fundamental beliefs of the Rationalists and the ideas present during the Enlightenment.

**Directions:** Choose **one** option from the list below. You can complete a **second** option for **extra credit** (maximum 15 points will be awarded). Each option must illustrate your understanding of this document, while simultaneously incorporating the beliefs/characteristics of the Enlightenment and Rationalism.

1. **Write your own Declaration of Independence.** You live with your parents, and your parents usually have rules that you must follow. What kind of “freedom” would you want from your parents? Write and create a document that looks similar to the Declaration of Independence. Your declaration must be a minimum of **one page** in length, and it must include specific details that characterize Rationalism.
2. **Create a comic strip illustrating what may have happened while the Declaration of Independence was being written and/or signed.** Your strip must have a **minimum of ten picture boxes** that include dialogue. The dialogue should include philosophical beliefs, as described from our notes, about Rationalism.
3. **You are a reporter interviewing one famous person who signed the document.** Ask, and respond to, a minimum of **fifteen questions**. Your answers should reflect the philosophical beliefs surrounding Rationalism.
4. **Create a newsletter about Independence Day.** Type **a one-page** newsletter describing the first Independence Day. How did people celebrate this event? Include at least **three details** from the Declaration of Independence that people found important to celebrate.
5. **Create a timeline that highlight the important events that lead up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.** Use the computer or white computer paper to identify important dates that lead up to the signing of this document. Your timeline should have a minimum of **ten dates** (include the month, date and year).

If you need further information, click on the links for further information on this topic:

* <http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/chronicle.html>
* <http://library.thinkquest.org/10966/doc.shtml>
* <http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/index.htm>