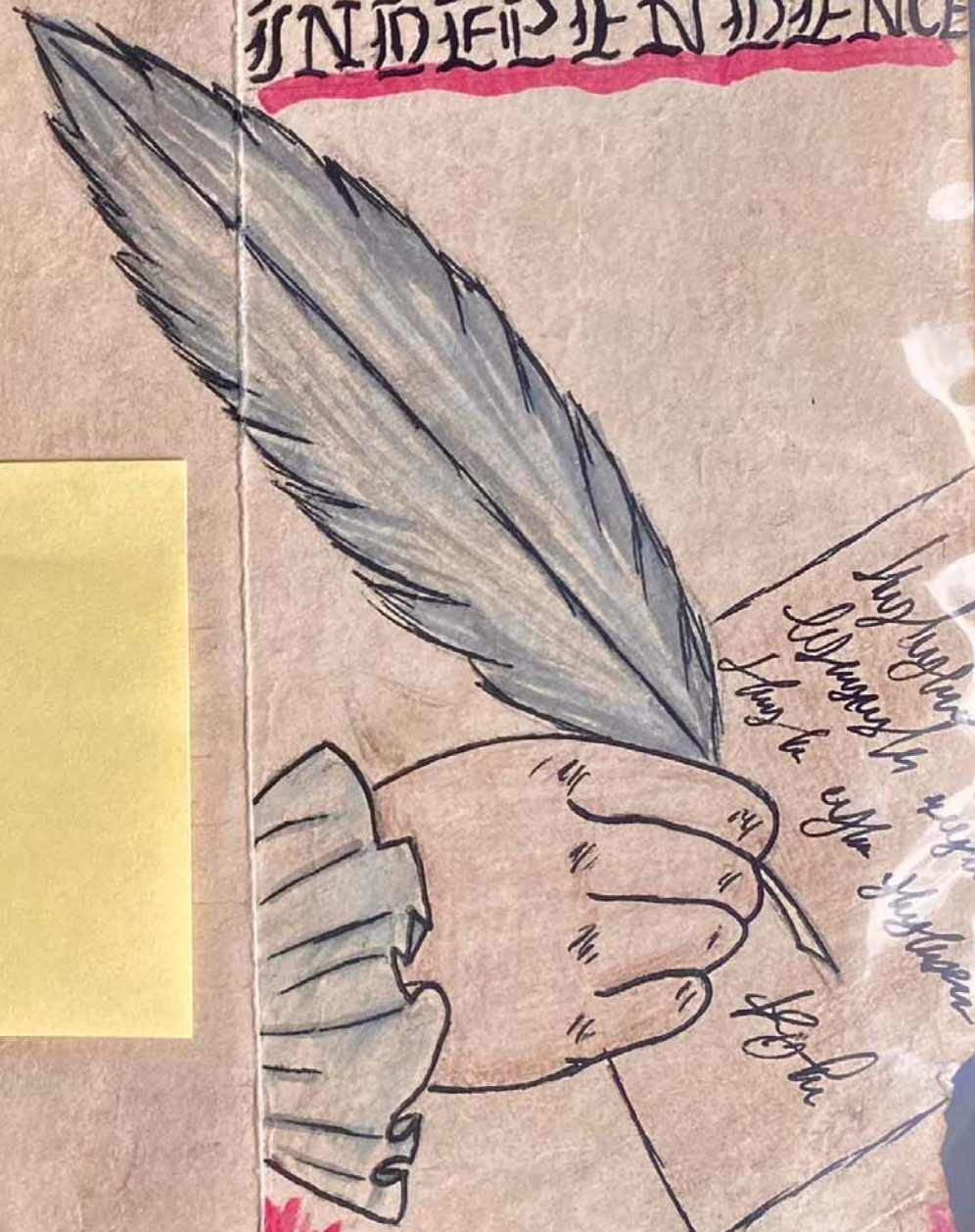


1776



THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS UNITED THE COLONIES, AND IN 1776 THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS ADOPTED

DECLARATION
OF
INDEPENDENCE



A DOCUMENT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

The Declaration of Independence, adopted on July 4, 1776, is one of America's most important documents. Written mainly by Thomas Jefferson, it announced that the thirteen colonies were breaking away from Great Britain to form a new nation. The Declaration explains why independence was necessary and describes the natural rights all people have, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Its ideas about freedom, equality, and government by consent still shape America today. The Declaration also shows that freedom takes courage. The colonists risked everything because they believed no government can take away basic rights.



THE LESSONS THE DECLARATION TEACHES OUR NATION

The Declaration of Independence teaches us that freedom takes courage. The colonists risked their safety, property, and even their lives to stand up to a powerful empire. They believed that all people have rights no government can take away, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The Declaration also shows the importance of equality, justice, and government serving the people. It reminds us that when a government becomes abusive, citizens have the right to demand change. These lessons still matter today. The Declaration encourages Americans to speak out, participate in democracy, and protect their freedoms.



WHY THE DECLARATION STILL SHAPE AMERICA TODAY

The Declaration of Independence teaches us that that freedom requires courage, a belief that helped shape the events that followed. The Declaration of Independence changed history by creating the foundation for a nation built on democratic ideas. Its adoption led to the Constitution. Its ideas have inspired movements for civil rights, equality, and justice throughout American history. The signers were motivated by their belief in self-government and that all people deserve basic rights. If I lived then, I believe I could have joined this movement because freedom and fair are worth the risk. The Declaration still shapes America today and reminds us that our strength comes from liberty.

