

# FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

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## **What is a founding document?**

A founding document is a written way to establish an organization. The founding documents we are focused on are what established the United States of America as a country and government!

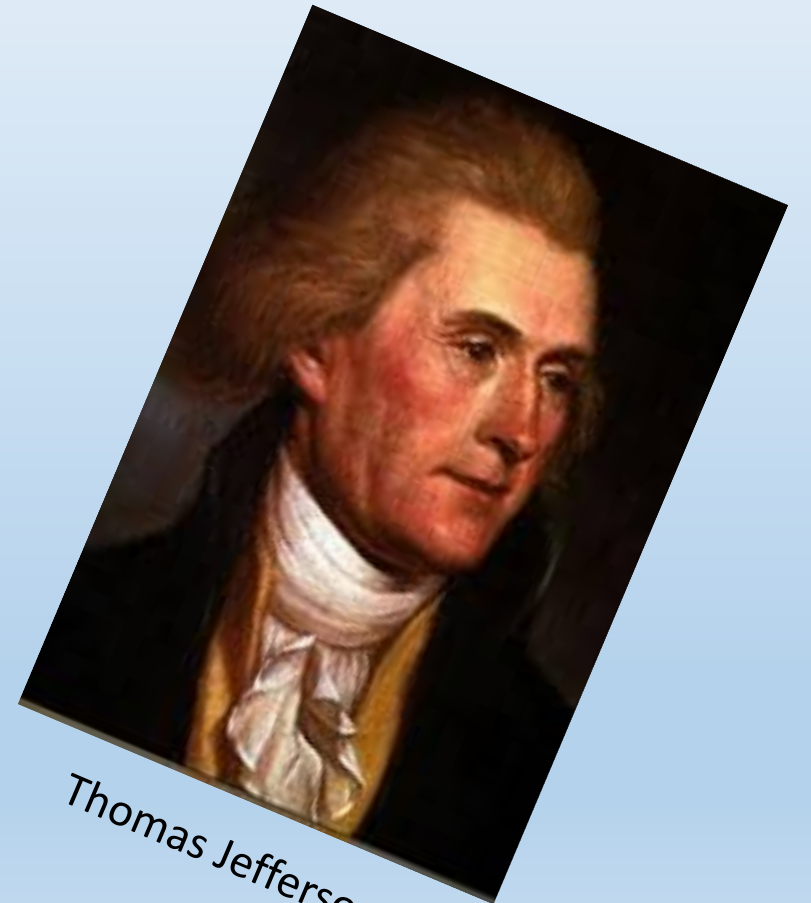


# The Declaration of Independence



# What is the Declaration of Independence?

The Declaration of Independence was written by Thomas Jefferson with the help of several other Founding Fathers! It was signed on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1774. This document is how the colonies declared independence, or becoming their own country, from Britain!



Thomas Jefferson

# Time for Freedom!

The colonies were upset with how Great Britain's king and government were treating them! They created the Declaration of Independence as a way to list the grievances, or problems, with the way they were being treated and why they should become their own country.



# U.S. Constitution



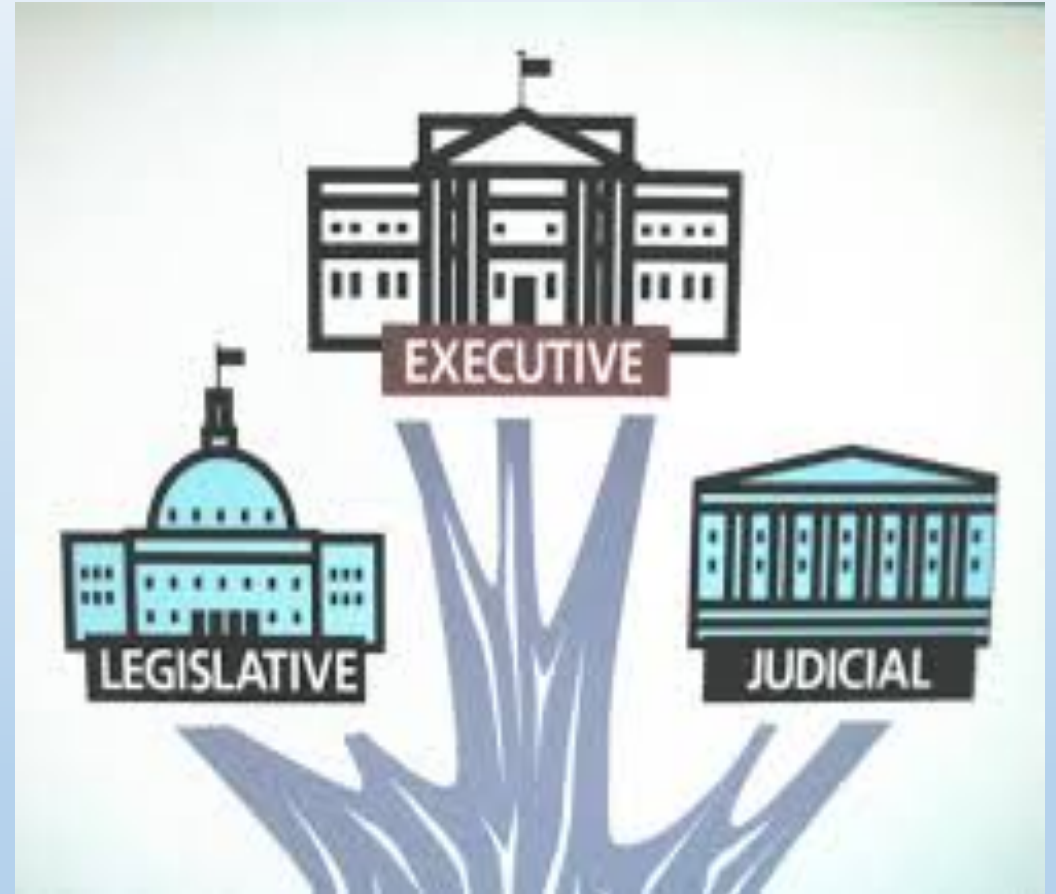
# What does the Constitution do?

The United States Constitution was a founding document that was made to establish how our government works. The United States Constitution set up the different branches of the government and different laws that the new country would have to follow!



# Balance of Power?

The Constitution not only created the laws for everyone to follow but also how the government would operate. It set up the three different branches: executive, judicial, legislative. The executive branch is the President. The judicial is the Supreme court, and the legislative branch is made up of our lawmakers!





# Bill of Rights



# **You have a right to your rights!**

The Bill of Rights was created in 1791 as an addition to the Constitution. It includes the first 10 amendments, or changes, to the Constitution. Those amendments gave every U.S. citizen 10 basic rights that no law could change! The Bill of Rights still ensures those 10 rights for you!



# Why should you care about these old documents?

Just because they were created a few centuries ago does not mean that they do not affect you today. These founding documents still protect you and all other citizens by making sure that everyone follows the rules, and that the rules are all fair!

