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Reading

► Read the selection and answer each question.

Thomas Jefferson Is Homesick

by Cynthia McKinley

- ¹ It is the summer of 1776—and unusually hot. Thomas Jefferson is not happy and would rather be home in Virginia than attending Philadelphia’s Continental Congress.
- ² Thomas Jefferson knew he had a job to do. Important men throughout the American colonies were meeting in Philadelphia to discuss and debate the war with Great Britain. The colony of Virginia sent Thomas Jefferson to Philadelphia. But Jefferson wasn’t happy. He wasn’t much of a debater.

Back in Virginia

- ³ Jefferson wanted to be home that hot summer of 1776. He missed his wife, Martha; she hadn’t been feeling well when he left, and he worried about her.
- ⁴ Jefferson was certain more important and exciting things were taking place in Virginia. The Continental Congress in Philadelphia spent hours discussing daily events—worthwhile but not dramatic. Virginia was writing a constitution, forming its own rules of government. If something historic was going to happen over the summer, Jefferson was convinced it would be in Virginia.

Jefferson Begs to Go Home

- ⁵ Jefferson knew this was a chance to create a new form of government. He wrote to the Virginia Convention that a state constitution would be “a work of the most interesting nature,” one that “every individual would wish to have his voice in.” He begged the Convention to let him come home—to help create the constitution—but he was told to stay in Philadelphia.
- ⁶ Jefferson made the best of his situation. The men at the Continental Congress created many resolutions (opinions) and drafted many documents. Known as a good writer, Jefferson was busy penning declarations. But in his spare time, he worked on his version of the Virginia constitution. If he couldn’t be a part of history back home, he could contribute to it in Philadelphia.
- ⁷ On June 7, 1776, fellow Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee stood up at the Congress and announced that “these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States.” Jefferson probably knew what was coming next—another resolution to debate, and whenever there was a resolution, there was a declaration.

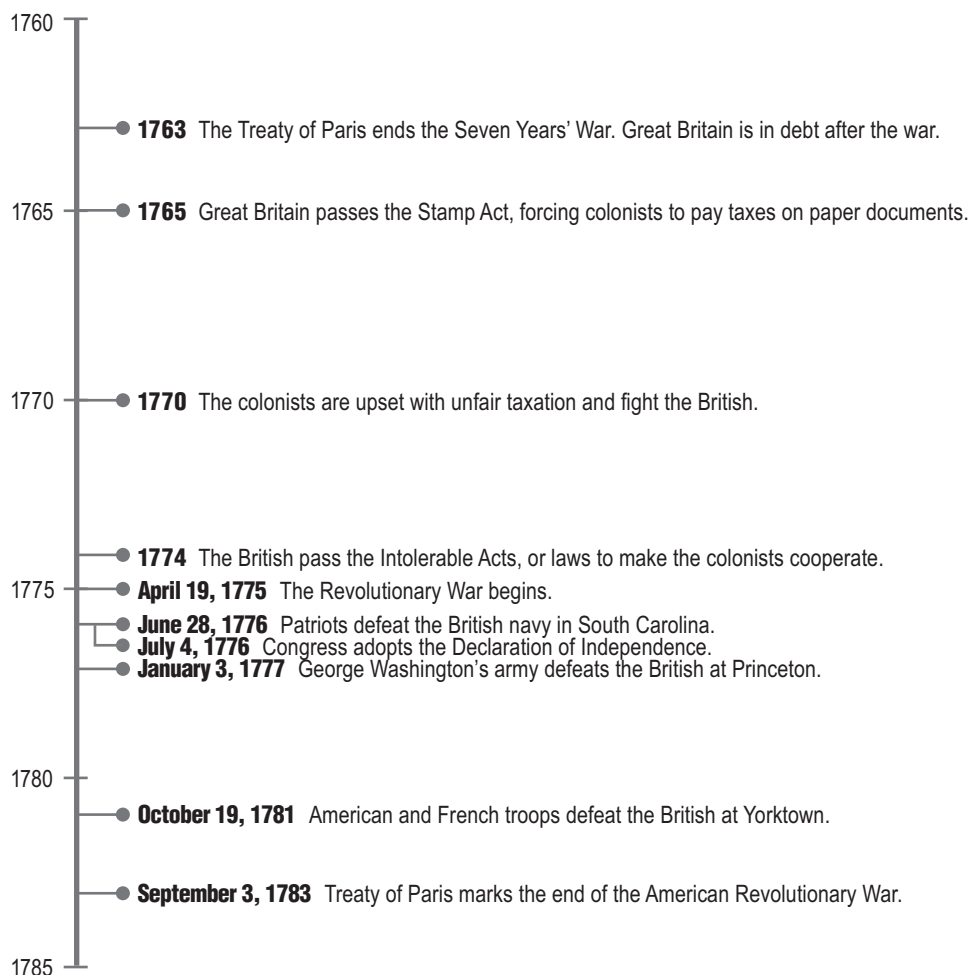
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Jefferson Stays Put

- ⁸ The American colonies had been at war with Great Britain for more than a year, but surprisingly, the colonies had not formally announced their independence. So the Congress appointed a five-man committee to create a document proclaiming America's independence. And the committee chose Thomas Jefferson, the man with the "masterly Pen," to write it.
- ⁹ Jefferson knew he was to list the unfair things Great Britain had done to the colonies, then declare American independence. It was a simple task—like the many other declarations he had written. But Jefferson kept thinking about his Virginia constitution. Maybe he could add his ideas of a perfect government to this paper. It would take time, but it would be worth staying in Philadelphia.
- ¹⁰ For days and days, Jefferson wrote and rewrote about the king and his unfair laws. About independence. About freedom. He borrowed ideas from other political writers, but he wrote these thoughts in words that all people could understand. He wanted his ideas to be shared with everyone.
- ¹¹ And they were. The Continental Congress voted to adopt the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. On July 8, it was read out loud to a cheering crowd. No one knew who the author was, but they knew what the Declaration stood for—independence and liberty for all.
- ¹² Still, Thomas Jefferson dreamed of home. In late July he begged Richard Henry Lee to replace him in Congress. "I am under a sacred obligation to go home," he wrote. Jefferson had promised his wife he would return soon.
- ¹³ In September, Jefferson's dream finally came true, and he traveled home.
- ¹⁴ Since then, the words Thomas Jefferson wrote during that hot Philadelphia summer have inspired people throughout the world. Thank goodness Jefferson didn't go home. He had a job to do, and he did it!

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Timeline of the American Revolutionary War



- 1 Read the sentences from paragraph 2.

Important men throughout the American colonies were meeting in Philadelphia to discuss and debate the war with Great Britain. The colony of Virginia sent Thomas Jefferson to Philadelphia. But Jefferson wasn't happy. He wasn't much of a debater.

What does debater mean as it is used above?

- (A) a person who dislikes travel
- (B) a person who is easily angered
- (C) someone who argues about a subject
- (D) someone who works in the government

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- 2 Based on the information in the passage, what caused Jefferson to be unhappy about going to Philadelphia? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

- 3 Read the sentences from paragraph 8.

The American colonies had been at war with Great Britain for more than a year, but surprisingly, the colonies had not formally announced their independence. So the Congress appointed a five-man committee to create a document proclaiming America's independence.

Think about the Latin root *gress*. What is the meaning of Congress as it is used above?

- (A) a group of delegates who represent the thirteen colonies
 - (B) the branch of government that makes laws
 - (C) the act of building a nation
 - (D) a group of legal experts
- 4 What was an effect of Jefferson staying in Philadelphia?
- (A) He wrote a state constitution.
 - (B) He was asked to return home.
 - (C) He wrote the Declaration of Independence.
 - (D) He was invited to the Virginia Convention.
- 5 What caused Jefferson to include his ideas about a perfect government in the Declaration of Independence?
- (A) the suggestions from other delegates
 - (B) his work on the Virginia constitution
 - (C) the resolutions of fellow congressmen
 - (D) his knowledge of the British government

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- 6 Read paragraph 12.

Still, Thomas Jefferson dreamed of home. In late July he begged Richard Henry Lee to replace him in Congress. "I am under a sacred obligation to go home," he wrote. Jefferson had promised his wife he would return soon.

What is the meaning of obligation as it is used above?

- Ⓐ treaty
 - Ⓑ journey
 - Ⓒ interruption
 - Ⓓ responsibility
- 7 Based on the information in the passage and the timeline, why did Jefferson write the Declaration of Independence?
- Ⓐ to help end the American Revolution
 - Ⓑ to convince King George to stop unfair taxation
 - Ⓒ to convince the colonists to fight the British Army
 - Ⓓ to help the thirteen colonies become free from British rule

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Writing

► Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Salvador wrote a report about his brother's guitar playing. Read the first part of the report and look for any changes he should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

My Older Brother, the Guitar Player

(1) My brother, Antonio, has played the guitar since he was a small boy. (2) When we were growing up, he always seemed to have some kind of musical instrument in his hands. (3) One moment he would be shaking a tambourine, and the next he would be strumming a ukulele. (4) Eventually, he settled on the guitar as him primary instrument.

(5) I remember asking him one day, "Did anything teach you how to play the guitar so beautifully?"

(6) He answered, "Believe it or not, I am self-taught."

(7) I shook my head in disbelief and asked, "Then what taught you all of those neat songs you know how to play?"

1 What change should be made in sentence 4?

- (A) Change *him* to **his**.
- (B) Change *him* to **my**.
- (C) Change *him* to **your**.
- (D) No change is needed.

2 Read sentence 5 from the report.

I remember asking him one day, "Did anything teach you how to play the guitar so beautifully?"

What is the correct way to write the underlined part of the sentence?

- (A) everybody
- (B) everyone
- (C) someone
- (D) nobody

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- 3 Read sentence 7 from the report.

I shook my head in disbelief and asked, "Then what taught you all of those neat songs you know how to play?"

What is the correct way to write the underlined part of the sentence?

- Ⓐ which
- Ⓑ whose
- Ⓒ whom
- Ⓓ who

Answer Key: Module 7, Week 1 Assessment

Item Number	Correct Answer	Module, Week, Program Skill	Depth of Knowledge
READING			
1	C	M7W1: Comprehension: Content-Area Words	2
2	See rubric on p. R1.	M7W1: Comprehension: Text Structure	3
	Sample two-point response: Jefferson was unhappy about going to Philadelphia because he wanted to be with his wife and write a Virginia constitution. Jefferson was concerned about his wife's illness. The passage doesn't tell us just how sick she was, but the passage does suggest that Jefferson was worried and wanted to stay at home in Virginia with her. Also, Jefferson believed the drafting of the Virginia constitution was likely to be more important than any work he would be doing for the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. However, as the passage states, it is a good thing that Jefferson did not remain in Virginia since working in Philadelphia led him to write the Declaration of Independence.		
3	A	M7W1: Generative Vocabulary: Latin Roots <i>tract</i> , <i>chrono</i> , <i>gress</i>	2
4	C	M7W1: Comprehension: Text Structure	1
5	B	M7W1: Comprehension: Text Structure	2
6	D	M7W1: Vocabulary Strategy: Context Clues	2
7	D	M7W1: Comprehension: Text and Graphic Features	2
WRITING			
1	A	M7W1: Grammar: More Kinds of Pronouns	2
2	C	M7W1: Grammar: More Kinds of Pronouns	1
3	D	M7W1: Grammar: More Kinds of Pronouns	2

Constructed-Response Rubric

Points	Description
2	2 points <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response provides a complete and correct explanation of, or answer to, the question.• Response includes clear and specific explanations, interpretations, and opinions of the text based on effective comprehension, inference, analysis, evaluation, and/or comparison.• Response is supported with details from the text.
1	1 point <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response provides a partially complete and correct explanation of, or answer to, the question.• Response attempts to include explanations, interpretations, and opinions of the text, but they may be unclear or unsubstantiated, and they show limitation in comprehension, inference, analysis, evaluation, and/or comparison.• Response is supported with limited details (in quantity or quality) from the text.
0	0 points <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response is incorrect, irrelevant, or not provided.