**INDEPENDENCE TIMELINE**

- **JUNE 11, 1776**
  - John Adams and four others are appointed by Congress to a committee to draft a declaration of independence. The committee requests that Thomas Jefferson write the declaration.

- **JULY 2, 1776**
  - Congress votes on a resolution in favor of independence (as the British army and navy arrive in New York). The final language of the formal declaration is still being debated.

- **JULY 3, 1776**
  - Congress continues to debate and revise the Declaration of Independence.

- **JULY 4, 1776**
  - Congress approves the Declaration of Independence. (Independence Day)

- **JULY 4, 1776**
  - Independence Day (Celebration of the Declaration of Independence)