

6th

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* The founding fathers were those political leaders who were part of the American Revolution and the founding of the new nation after independence was won. They were a group of strong and independent men who were interested in the future of this country and its ability to stand alone. Some of the names of the founding fathers are: John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, John Jay and Alexander Hamilton. These men signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776. There were a total of 56 men to sign this document. In this document they outlined the way that a government should treat its people and the rights of the American citizens.

Thomas Jefferson was elected the 3rd President of the United States of America and he was the youngest member of congress when he traveled to Philadelphia to be a delegate to the second Continental Congress. Thomas Jefferson helped America achieve the liberty and freedoms we have now. One reason is that he wrote the Declaration of Independence. It is a famous document for many reasons. It declared the colonies independent from Great Britain and it states basic rights and liberties for Americans. Jefferson didn't use any books when writing the Declaration of Independence. As Jefferson wrote the declaration, he linked many of these ideas. In the first part, he wrote that all men have rights. These included "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness. He drafted a section attacking the slave trade and described slavery as the "most sacred rights of life and liberty, but Congress could not agree therefore, all language against slavery was taken out of the declaration.

<http://classroom.monticello.org/kids/resources/profile/6/Jefferson-and-the-Declaration-of-Independence/>).

Thomas Jefferson helped Patrick Henry persuade James Madison to create the Bill of Rights. His words "all men are created equal" grew across the Northern states were used to free slaves. Abraham Lincoln used "equal rights" to justify the civil war, and when Martin Luther king Jr.

stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial he also used the "all men are created equal" in his speech. These are just a few of the reasons how Thomas Jefferson helped with the freedom we have today.

In conclusion, some of the sacrifices Thomas Jefferson and our other founding fathers made were; some were killed fighting the British War, some of them were taken to prison, some of them lost their cattle. For their sacrifices we now have the right to vote, freedom of speech, attend public schools, attend public restaurants, we worship together and anyone can now run for public office. They served in the military giving their lives, time, heart and soul. They signed and pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. They gave you and me a free and independent America. Some were soft spoken men of means and education. They all had security but they valued liberty more.