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Grade level: 5

Primary Source Citation: Engrossed copy of the *Declaration of Independence, August 2, 1776*; Miscellaneous Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789; Records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses and the Constitutional Convention, 1774-1789, Record Group 360; National Archives. From "Our Documents: 100 Milestone Documents from the National Archives."

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=2#>.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the document located at the above link while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level I: Description

1. Does this document look new or old? How can you tell?
2. What is the date on this document?
3. Is there a signature that you recognize? Whose is it?

Level II: Interpretation

1. What do you notice about the signatures and print on this document?
2. What the purpose of this document?
3. How can you tell this is a very old document?

Level III: Analysis

1. Why do you think this document has been kept for all these years?
2. If you were in charge of this document, how would you protect it? Why?
3. If you were there at the signing of this document, would you have signed it? Why or why not?