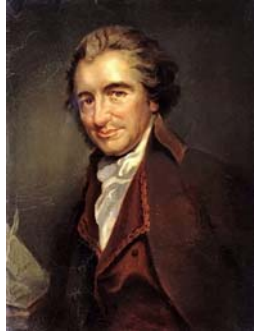


## Web Quest

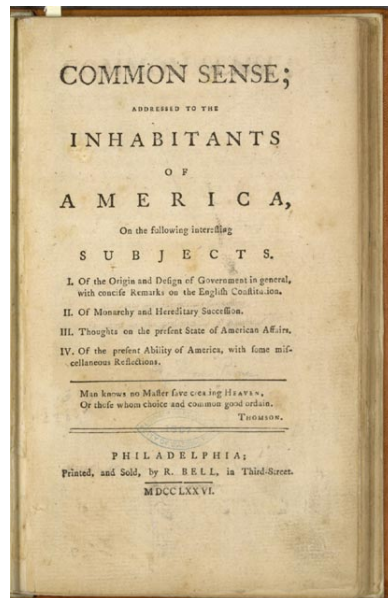


### Thomas Paine and Common Sense

As late as early 1776 many Americans were still hoping that war and a break with England could be avoided. The difficult job of the patriots in the colonies was to mobilize public opinion and move it in the opposite direction toward separation and independence. The patriots had no better propagandist than Thomas Paine. In this web quest you will read the listed biography of Thomas Paine's life, then read *Common Sense*. Finally, you will answer the attached questions concerning Paine's pamphlet.

#### Brief biography of Thomas Paine

<http://www.historyguide.org/intellect/paine.html>



#### Common Sense

<http://www.ushistory.org/paine/commonsense/index.htm>

#### Document Analysis Worksheet

**1. Type of Document (Check one) (1 point)**

- Letter
- Diary
- Memoir
- Telegram
- Advertisement
- Newspaper
- Report
- Government document
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Date(s) of documents FIRST PUBLICATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 point)

**3. For what audience was the document written? (1 point)**

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**4. In the section of the pamphlet labeled, *Thoughts on the Present State of American Affairs* Paine gives many reasons why the colonies should sever their political ties with England. List three reasons Paine believes it was time for the break. (3 points )**

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**5. In the section labeled, *Of the Present Ability of America: with some Miscellaneous Reflections*, relate in your own words the 4 “*strong and striking reasons...given to show that nothing can settle our affairs so expeditiously as an open and determined declaration for independence.*” (4 points)**

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6. List two things the document tells you about life in the English colonies in North America at the time it was written. (2 points)

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7. Quote the passage from Paine’s pamphlet that you believe presents his strongest argument for separation. Explain why you believe this is his strongest argument. (2 points)

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**Words and Terms to Define and Know:**

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|----------------|----------------|
| origin         | ineffectual    |
| tumult         | precariousness |
| concise        | manifesto      |
| succession     | prepossession  |
| advocate       | divest         |
| reconciliation | usurpation     |