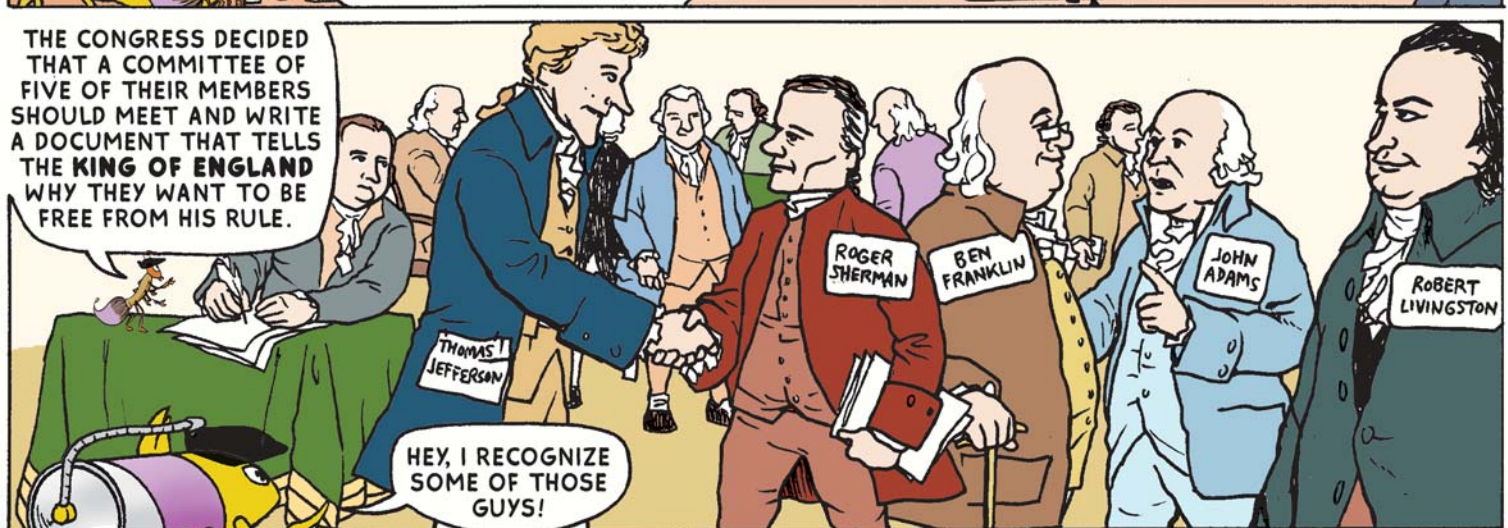




WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE BUILDING!

THAT IS **INDEPENDENCE HALL**, WHERE THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS MET TO DISCUSS INDEPENDENCE FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

THE CONGRESS DECIDED THAT A COMMITTEE OF FIVE OF THEIR MEMBERS SHOULD MEET AND WRITE A DOCUMENT THAT TELLS THE **KING OF ENGLAND** WHY THEY WANT TO BE FREE FROM HIS RULE.

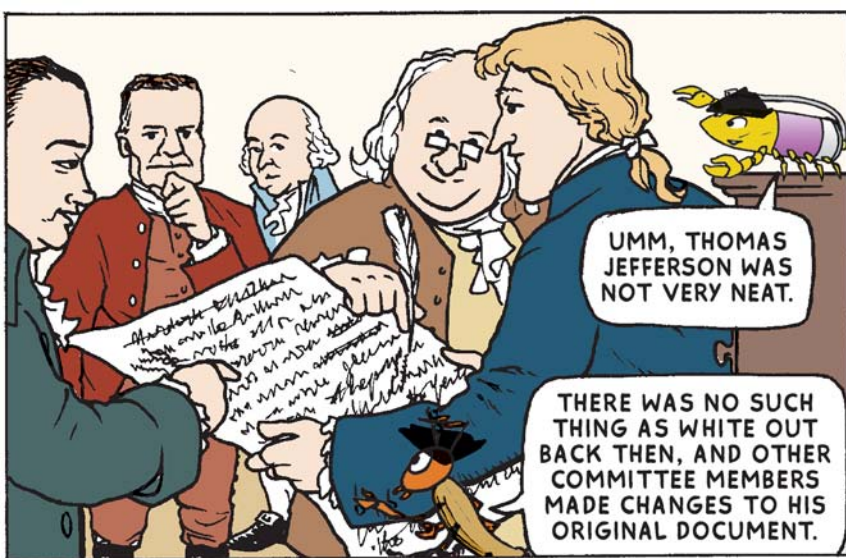


HEY, I RECOGNIZE SOME OF THOSE GUYS!

THE COMMITTEE DECIDED **THOMAS JEFFERSON** SHOULD WRITE THE DRAFT OF THIS DOCUMENT, SINCE HE WAS A GREAT WRITER.



WOW, JEFFERSON HAD IT TOUGHER THAN I DO. AT LEAST I GET A SPELL-CHECKER.



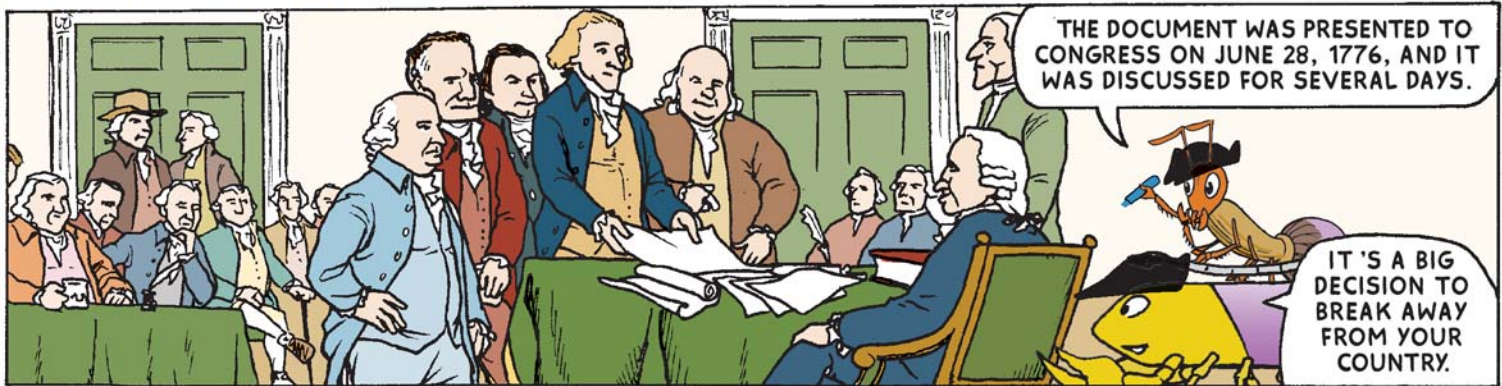
UMM, THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS NOT VERY NEAT.

THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS WHITE OUT BACK THEN, AND OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS MADE CHANGES TO HIS ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.



JEFFERSON REWROTE THE DOCUMENT WITH THE CHANGES AND MADE PREPARATIONS TO PRESENT IT TO THE ENTIRE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

PEOPLE CORRECTED JEFFERSON?! WOW, I GUESS I SHOULDN'T FEEL SO BAD WHEN MY TEACHER CORRECTS MY PAPERS.



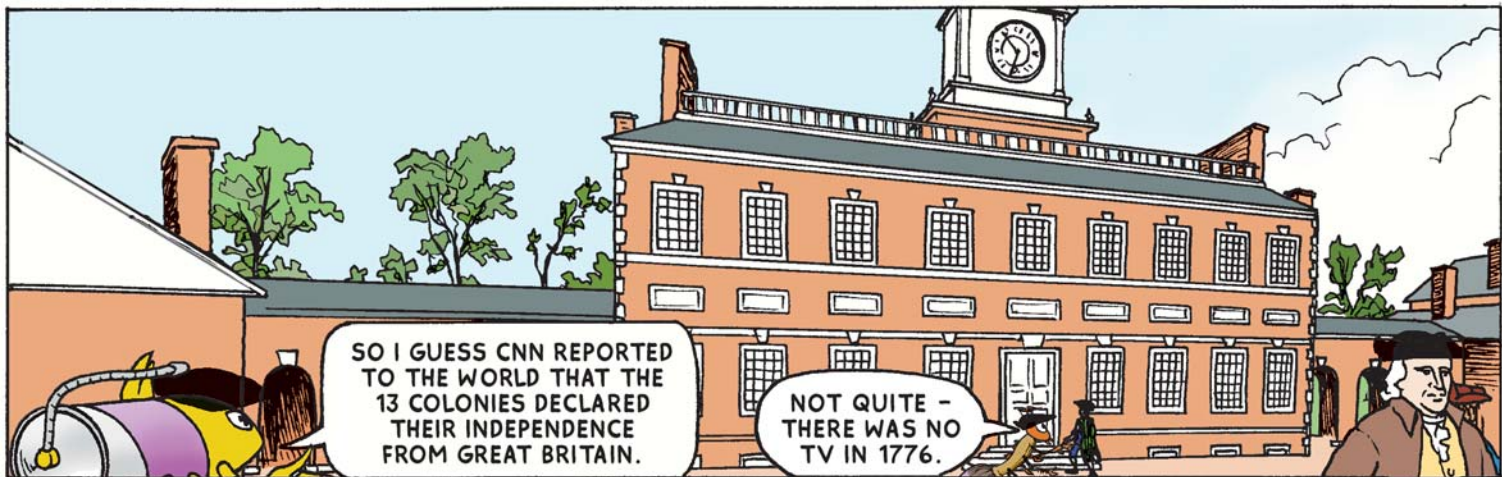
THE DOCUMENT WAS PRESENTED TO CONGRESS ON JUNE 28, 1776, AND IT WAS DISCUSSED FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

IT'S A BIG DECISION TO BREAK AWAY FROM YOUR COUNTRY.



IT WAS APPROVED BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ON JULY 4, 1776. BECAUSE THIS DOCUMENT DECLARED OUR FREEDOM FROM BRITAIN, IT BECAME KNOWN AS THE **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**.

SO THAT'S WHY JULY 4TH IS INDEPENDENCE DAY!



SO I GUESS CNN REPORTED TO THE WORLD THAT THE 13 COLONIES DECLARED THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

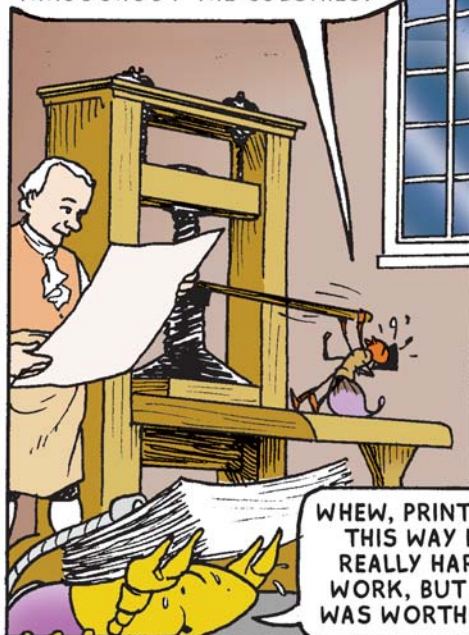
NOT QUITE - THERE WAS NO TV IN 1776.

JOHN HANCOCK, THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, SENT THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT TO JOHN DUNLAP'S PRINT SHOP SO THAT MORE COPIES COULD BE MADE AND DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE COLONIES.

PRINT SHOPPE

AH, NO SWEAT! THE COPY MACHINE AT SCHOOL MAKES HUNDREDS OF COPIES IN NO TIME!

REMEMBER, SCORPY, THIS IS 1776. WE DON'T HAVE ELECTRICITY YET! THE WORKERS AT MR. DUNLAP'S SHOP WORKED THROUGH THE NIGHT TO MAKE ABOUT 200 COPIES. THESE WERE CALLED "DUNLAP BROADSIDES" AND WERE DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE COLONIES.

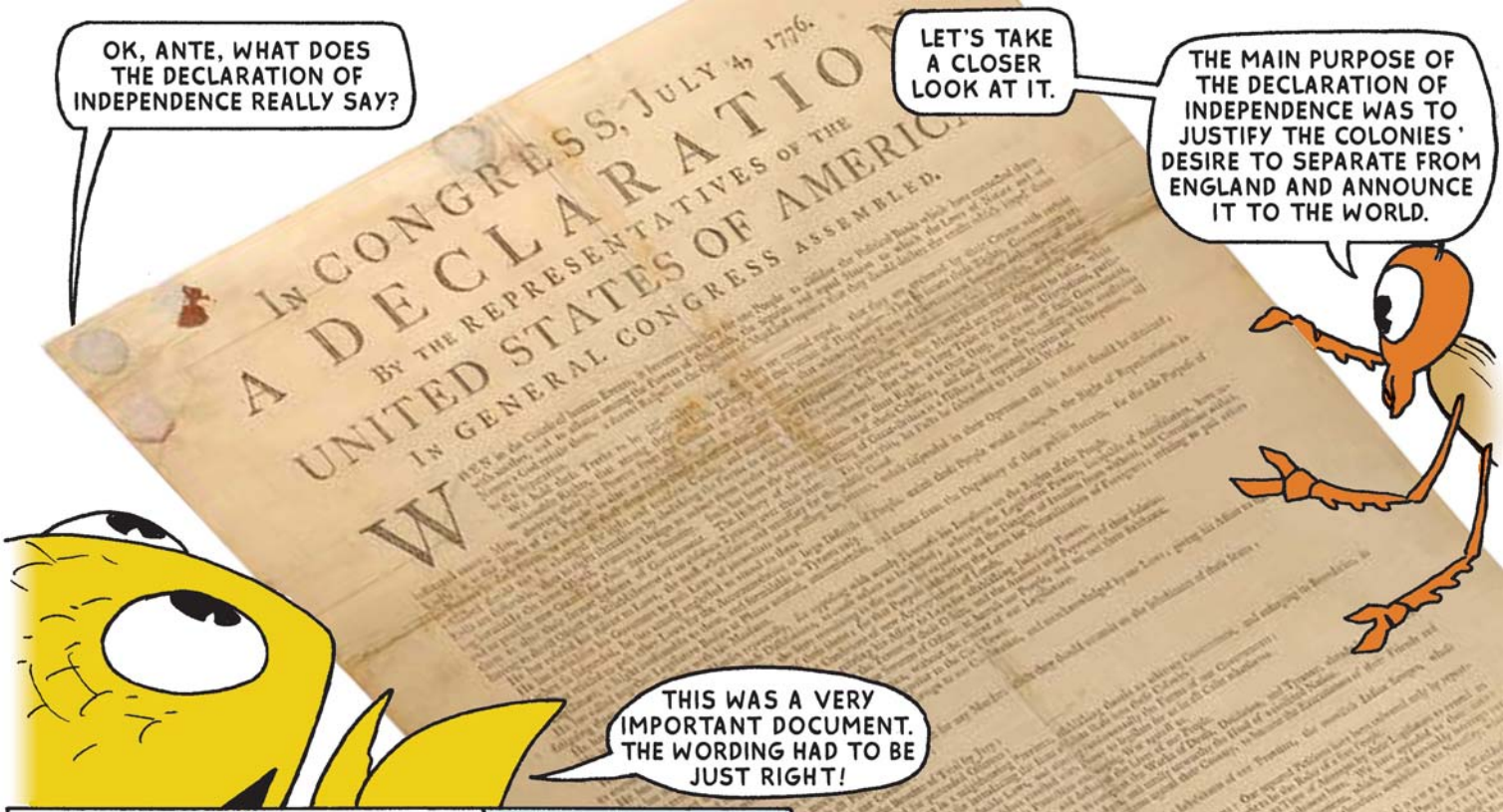


WHEW, PRINTING THIS WAY IS REALLY HARD WORK, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT!

A COPY WAS SENT TO **GEORGE WASHINGTON**, THE COMMANDER OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY, TO READ IN THE FIELD TO INSPIRE HIS MEN.



WOW, HE SURE INSPIRED ME!!



OK, ANTE, WHAT DOES THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE REALLY SAY?

LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT IT.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS TO JUSTIFY THE COLONIES' DESIRE TO SEPARATE FROM ENGLAND AND ANNOUNCE IT TO THE WORLD.

THIS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT DOCUMENT. THE WORDING HAD TO BE JUST RIGHT!

BASICALLY THE DOCUMENT INCLUDED THE RIGHTS PEOPLE ARE GUARANTEED AS WELL AS THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT. IT ALSO LISTED GRIEVANCES AGAINST THE KING AND REASONS THE COLONISTS FELT JUSTIFIED IN DECLARING THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND CHANGING THEIR GOVERNMENT.



ONE ORIGINAL COPY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IS ON DISPLAY HERE AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

WOW, THOSE SIGNATURES ARE OVER 200 YEARS OLD! NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL PERMANENT INK!