In order of appearance in *Preparing for the Oath*, the Civics Test items covered in this theme are:

61. Why did the colonists fight the British?
   - because of high taxes (taxation without representation)
   - because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)
   - because they didn’t have self-government

8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?
   - announced our independence (from Great Britain)
   - declared our independence (from Great Britain)
   - said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)

62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
   - (Thomas) Jefferson

63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
   - July 4, 1776

99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?
   - July 4

9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
   - life
   - liberty
   - pursuit of happiness

70. Who was the first President?
   - (George) Washington

69. Who is the “Father of Our Country”?
   - (George) Washington
Overview
This Teacher Guide will take you through the Civics Test questions covered in the theme, *Establishing Independence*. The instructional steps provided here target ESL students at the high beginning level. Watch the video on the Help screen and take some time to familiarize yourself with the elements and navigation of *Preparing for the Oath* so that you are comfortable presenting it to your class.

Introduction
To start the lesson, open the theme and present the Introduction Screen. Read the introductory paragraph aloud and discuss it with the students.

On July 4, 1776, the 13 original colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence declared that the colonists were free from Britain. The colonists fought and won the War of Independence. They created a new nation, the United States of America.

Explore the Questions
These steps will help you guide your class through the theme, using an LCD projector:

1. Distribute the handout *Key Vocabulary—Establishing Independence* and review the definitions with the students.
2. Click on the Start button to begin the first video, *War of Independence*.
3. Play the video for the class with the captions on or off.
4. Pause the video where appropriate to discuss the vocabulary and images with the class.
5. Play the video again without pausing.
6. If there is a Practice activity available for this question, click on the “Practice” tab.
7. View and discuss the Practice activity.
8. Click on the “Try” tab.
9. Listen to the Civics Test item and have the students select the answer. Click on the “hear question” button to listen to the item repeatedly. After choosing the correct option, students can hear the answer aloud while they read along at the bottom of the screen.
10. Go through the rest of the videos in this theme, using the steps above.
11. Once the class has gone through all of the videos in this theme, wrap up this lesson with the handout, *Odd Man Out—Establishing Independence*, or assign it to the students for homework.
Key Vocabulary—Establishing Independence

**adopt**: to accept an idea, plan, or way of doing something

**battlegrounds**: places where people fight during a war

**celebrate**: to do something special because of a certain day or event

**citizen**: a person who legally belongs to a country and has the rights and protection of that country

**colonists**: people who lived in one of the original 13 British colonies before the United States became independent in 1776

**colony**: a country or geographic area controlled by another country

**create**: to make something new

**equal**: to be the same

**fireworks**: explosions that produce colorful lights in the sky

**force**: to make someone do something, even if they do not want to

**general**: a person with a high rank in the Army, Air Force, or Marines

**independent/independence**: free; not controlled by another person or country

**liberty**: freedom

**parades**: public celebrations with bands and decorated vehicles moving down the street

**picnics**: meals people eat in an outdoor area

**protect**: to keep something or someone safe

**pursuit of happiness**: seeking a happy life

**represent**: to make decisions for another person or group of people

**representatives**: elected members of a government group in the United States, such as in Congress

**right**: something you are morally or legally allowed to do

**self-government**: a government where the people make the laws

**separate**: to keep something or someone apart

**sign**: to write your name on a document to show that you approve

**symbol**: something that is used to represent an idea or organization

**term**: the period of time someone serves in a political office

**unfair**: to not treat people equally
Odd Man Out—Establishing Independence

Read the four words or phrases. Cross out the word or phrase that does not belong in that group.

Example: red  holiday  white  blue

1. first president  Father of Our Country  Benjamin Franklin  George Washington
2. liberty  pursuit of happiness  life  freedom of speech
4. national anthem  July 4  national U.S. holiday  Independence Day
5. high taxes  no self-government  state’s rights  British armies in colonists’ houses

Think about the information you learned in Establishing Independence. Write four sentences using some of the words from the list above. Share your ideas with the class.

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Visit http://americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship/index.html?theme=8 to go directly to the Establishing Independence theme.