

The American Idea
(Thursday 7/3/14)

Introduce the ideology of America's call for independence:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Ask: What do these words mean?

- Translate as needed.

Ask: How do most countries form?

- Summarize/paraphrase how countries form: People with similar geographical and ethnic background come together and set boundaries on the land.

How did the US form? Schoolhouse Rock video? Explain where these videos come from.

- [The melting pot?](#) We are not melting away who we are. Instead, we are all combining to make the US.

Why do people come to America?

- [Watch this video of a woman from Iraq who explains how she became American.](#)
 - Students take Cloze notes on [this page, which needs to be printed in the HOPE Book](#).

Watch the video all the way through the first time. Then, they watch again--we pause the video to explain and check for understanding with the help of the peer tutors--and fill in the Cloze notes.