WHY IS THE *DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE* IMPORTANT?

1. **It laid the foundation for a democratic government** – The Declaration states that the government was created by the people and the power of the government rests in the hands of the people.

2. **It inspired equality** - The phrase “All men are created equal” has served as a goal for American society, even though throughout our history not all Americans have been treated equally.

3. **It influenced the Constitution** – The rights guaranteed by the Constitution were based on the ideas written in the Declaration of Independence.

4. **It impacted revolutions in other parts of the world** – The ideas in the Declaration were used by people in France and Latin America who felt oppressed (put down) by their governments.