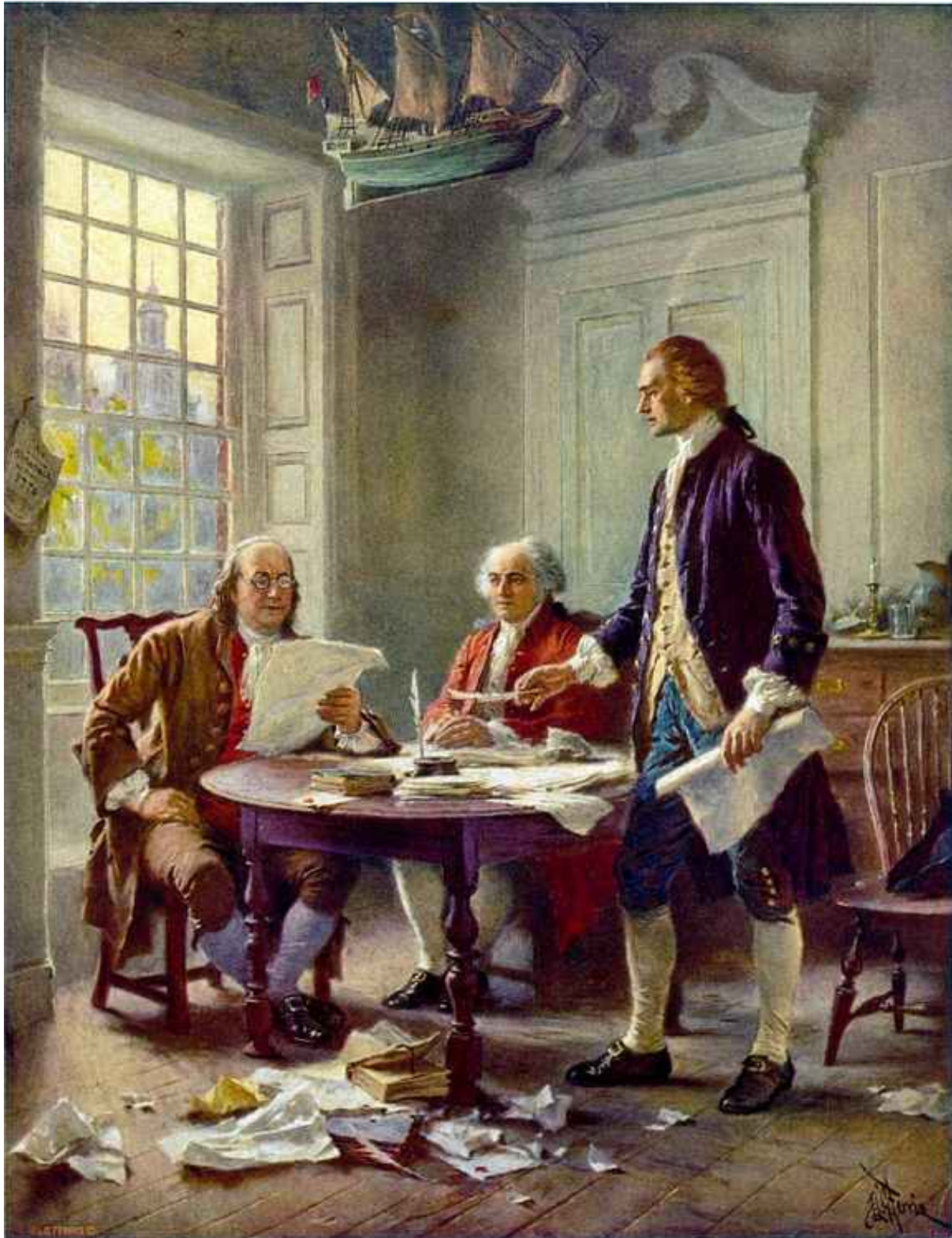


## Our Founding Fathers, Hard at Work



Artist: Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1863–1930)

In the painting: Thomas Jefferson (right), Benjamin Franklin (left), and John Adams (center)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Our Founding Fathers, Hard at Work

Describe Jean Leon Gerome Ferris' famous picture on the attached page.  
Tell who is pictured and explain what is going on in the scene.

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Does this scene take place before or after July 4, 1776. How do you know?

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What is on the floor? Why?

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What do you imagine Mr. Franklin is thinking?

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What do you imagine Mr. Jefferson is saying?

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## ANSWER KEY

# Our Founding Fathers, Hard at Work

Describe Jean Leon Gerome Ferris' famous picture.  
Tell who is pictured and explain what is going on in the scene.

The scene shows Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin reviewing a draft of the Declaration of Independence.

Does this scene take place *before* or *after* July 4, 1776. How do you know?

This scene takes place before July 4, 1776. The three men are still in the drafting stage of the writing process. On July 4, the final copy was signed.

What is on the floor? Why?

There are many wrinkled scraps of paper on the floor. Jefferson probably had to re-write many parts of the Declaration, and he made changes based on their discussions.

What do you imagine Mr. Franklin is thinking?

Answers will vary.

What do you imagine Mr. Jefferson is saying?

Answers will vary?