

Tom Paine

- **Born:** 29 January 1737
- **Birthplace:** Thetford, England
- **Died:** 8 June 1809
- **Best Known As:** The author of *Common Sense*

Thomas Paine emigrated from England to Philadelphia in 1774. Two years later he published *Common Sense*, a popular pamphlet that argued for complete independence from Britain. He returned to England in 1787, and in 1791 Paine published *The Rights of Man*, which opposed the idea of monarchy and defended the French Revolution. To escape being tried for treason, he fled to Paris, where he wrote *The Age of Reason*. In 1802 he returned to America, only to find himself outcast and poverty-stricken in his final years.

For more information visit Wikipedia at: <http://www.answers.com/Tom%20Paine>.