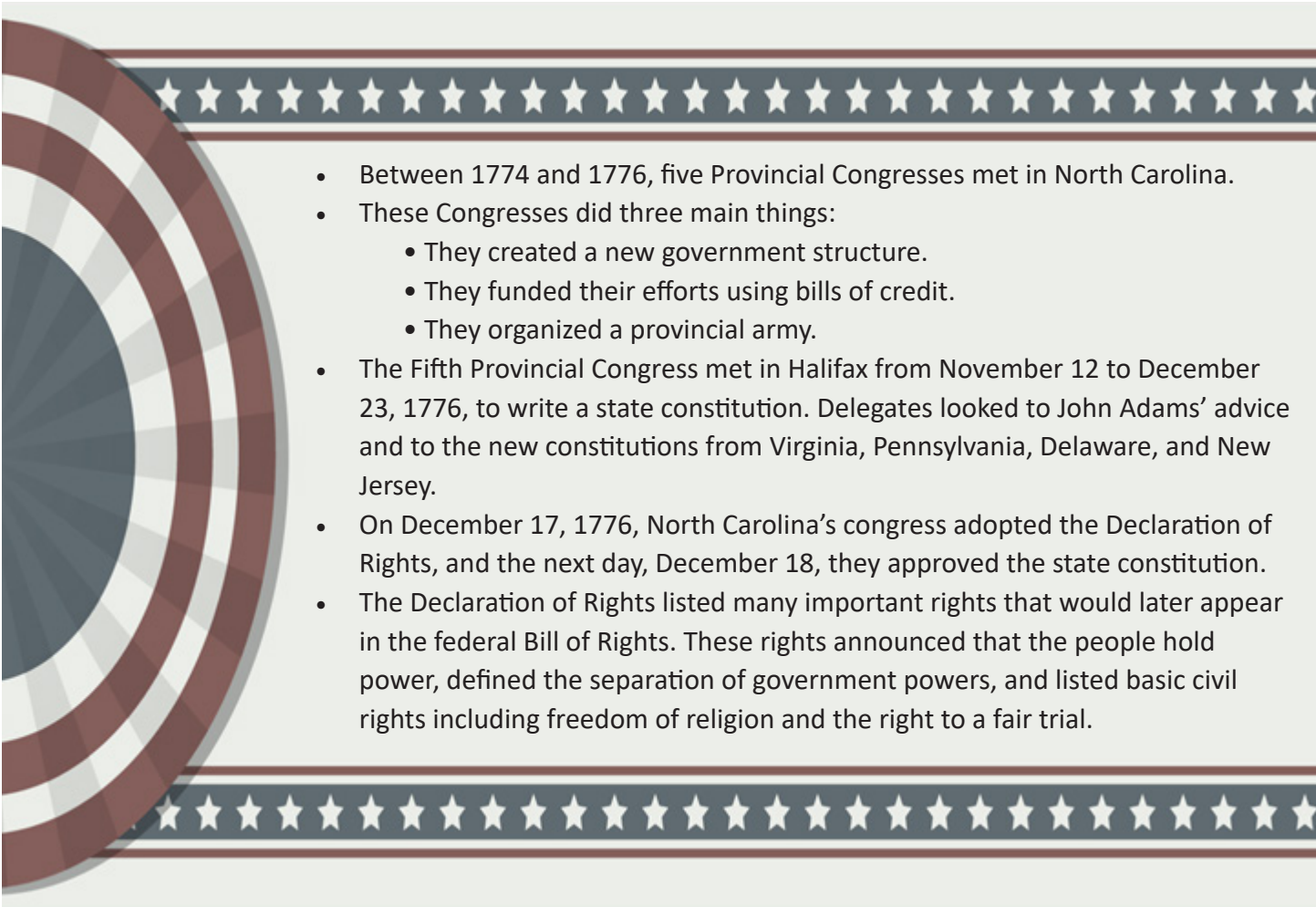


Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_



## BACKGROUND: 1776 Declaration of Rights

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- Between 1774 and 1776, five Provincial Congresses met in North Carolina.
  - These Congresses did three main things:
    - They created a new government structure.
    - They funded their efforts using bills of credit.
    - They organized a provincial army.
  - The Fifth Provincial Congress met in Halifax from November 12 to December 23, 1776, to write a state constitution. Delegates looked to John Adams' advice and to the new constitutions from Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey.
  - On December 17, 1776, North Carolina's congress adopted the Declaration of Rights, and the next day, December 18, they approved the state constitution.
  - The Declaration of Rights listed many important rights that would later appear in the federal Bill of Rights. These rights announced that the people hold power, defined the separation of government powers, and listed basic civil rights including freedom of religion and the right to a fair trial.

### Quick Fact Check

1. Where did the 5<sup>th</sup> Provincial Congress meet to write the state constitution in 1776?
2. Which Founding Father offered his advice on creating a new government?
3. North Carolina's Declaration of Rights closely resembles which founding U.S. Document?
4. Name two states' constitutions the writers used as examples when writing the North Carolina Constitution.

# ACTIVITY: Comparing Documents

## The U.S. Bill of Rights (1791) and the Declaration of Rights (1776)

The Bill of Rights was written following the adoption of the federal Constitution in 1787. At the time, many felt the U.S. Constitution needed to better clarify the rights of citizens. Fifteen years earlier, in 1776, the drafters of North Carolina's Constitution felt the same way. The Bill of Rights reflects many of the principles laid out in North Carolina's Declaration of Rights. Some of the ideas have been condensed and combined.

*Look closely... Can you spot how they match up?*

| <b>The U.S. Bill of Rights</b><br>Adopted December 15, 1791   | <b>The N.C. Declaration of Rights</b><br>Adopted December 17, 1776  |
|---|---|
| <i>Examine</i> the wording of the Bill of Rights Amendments below and then <i>compare</i> them to North Carolina's Declaration of Rights.   | <i>Match</i> the numbered rights in the Declaration of Rights to the Amendments below. (NOTE: in some cases, more than one applies). <i>Explain</i> the importance of each of these rights. |
| <b>Amendment I</b><br>Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.  |   |
| <b>Amendment II</b><br>A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.  |   |
| <b>Amendment IV</b><br>The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.   |   |
| <b>Amendment VI</b><br>In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense. |   |