



Name: _____

Date: _____ Class: _____

EXHIBIT A: Mecklenburg Resolves, May 31, 1775

1. That all Commissions, civil and military, heretofore granted by the Crown, to be exercised in these Colonies, are null and void, and the Constitution of each particular Colony wholly suspended.
2. That the Provincial Congress of each Province, under the Direction of the Great Continental Congress, is invested with all legislative and executive Powers within their respective provinces; and that no other Legislative or Executive does or can exist, at the Time, in any of these Colonies.
3. As all former Laws are now suspended in this Province, and the Congress have not yet provided others, we judge it necessary, for the better Preservation of good Order, to form certain Rules and Relations for the internal Government of this Country, until Laws shall be provided for us by the Congress...
18. That these Resolves be in full Force and Virtue, and Instructions from the General Congress of this Province, regulating the Jurisprudence of the Province, shall provide otherwise, or the legislative Body of Great Britain resign its unjust and arbitrary Pretensions with Respect to America.

"Charlotte Town May 31, 1775...Resolves," North-Carolina Gazette, June 16, 1775, p. 3, State Archives of N.C.

Write each resolve in your own words on a separate sheet of paper.

EXHIBIT B:

Article, “Declaration of Independence”

J.M. Alexander was the clerk, or secretary, of the May 1775 meetings of Mecklenburg local government leaders. He kept a record book. In 1800, his house burned down, destroying his notes. Some time later, he wrote notes of the proceedings from memory. He gave some copies of those notes to colleagues and saved one, which his son inherited. The notes listed the date of the resolves as May 20, 1775. His son published them in a Raleigh newspaper in 1819.

1. Resolved, that whosoever directly or indirectly abetted or...countenanced the unchartered and dangerous invasion of our rights, as claimed by Great-Britian, is an enemy to this Country—to America—and to the inherent and inalienable rights of man.
2. Resolved, That we the citizens of Mecklenburg County do hereby dissolve the political bands which have connected us to the Mother Country, and hereby absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British Crown, and abjure all political connection, contract or association with that Nation, who have wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties--and inhumanely shed the innocent blood of American patriots at Lexington.
3. Resolved, That we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent People, are and of right ought to be, a sovereign and self-governing Association, under the control of no power other than that of our God and the General Government of the Congress; to the maintenance of which independence, we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual cooperation, our lives, our fortunes, and our most sacred honor.

J.McKnitt Alexander, Jr., “Declaration of Independence,” *Raleigh Register*, p. 1, April 30, 1819, UNC collection.

On a separate sheet of paper, write each resolve in your own words. Then make notes about how the resolves in both documents are alike and how they are different.