

SELECTIONS & QUESTIONS:

Resolutions of the First Provincial Congress

We his Majesty's most dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the deputies from the several Counties and Towns, of the Province of North Carolina, impressed with the most sacred respect for the British Constitution, and resolved to maintain the succession of the House of Hanover, as by law Established, and avowing our inviolable and unshaken Fidelity to our sovereign, and entertaining a sincere regard for our fellow subjects in Great Britain viewing with the utmost abhorrence every attempt which may tend to disturb the peace and good order of this Colony, or to shake the fidelity of his Majesty's subjects resident here, but at the same time conceiving it a duty which we owe to ourselves and to posterity, in the present alarming state of British America, when our most essential rights are invaded by powers unwarrantably assumed by the Parliament of Great Britain to declare our sentiments in the most public manner, lest silence should be construed as acquiescence, and that we patiently submit to the Burdens which they have thought fit to impose upon us.

What is the "duty...to posterity" that the delegates felt?

To declare their thoughts; to protect essential rights.

Do you feel one or more? If so, what?

Answers will vary by student.

Is silence acquiescence? Can you think of any similar phrases in recent political protests?

Answers will vary by student.

Could include "silence is violence."

2. Resolved, That we claim no more than the rights of Englishmen, without diminution or abridgement, that it is our indispensable duty and will be our constant endeavour, to maintain those rights to the utmost of our power consistently with the loyalty which we owe our sovereign, and sacred regard for the British Constitution.

How do the delegates identify themselves as citizens?

Englishmen.

3. Resolved, That it is the very essence of the British Constitution that no subject should be taxed but by his own consent, freely given by himself in person or by his legal representatives, and that any other than such a taxation is highly derogatory to the rights of a subject and a gross violation of the grand charter of our liberties.

Are they asking for independence?

No.

Underline phrases that support your answer.

5. Resolved, That the duties imposed by several acts of the British Parliament, upon Tea and other articles consumed in America for the purpose of raising a revenue, are highly illegal and oppressive, and that the late Exportation of tea by the East India Company to different parts of America was intended to give effect to one of

Why was the tax "illegal?"

Because the colonists didn't consent to that tax and so it was against the British Constitution.

the said Acts and thereby establish a precedent highly dishonorable to America and to obtain an implied assent to the powers which Great Britain had unwarrantably assumed of levying a tax upon us without our consent.	What was the most notable trade good taxed? Tea.
6. Resolved, That the inhabitants of the Massachusetts province have distinguished themselves in a manly support of the rights of America in general and that the cause in which they suffer is the Cause of every honest American who deserves the Blessings which the Constitution holds forth to them. That the Grievances under which the town of Boston labours at present are the Effect of a Resentment levelled at them, for having stood foremost in an Opposition to Measures which must eventually involve all British America in a state of abject Dependence and Servitude.	Why support Massachusetts? NC colonists were feeling solidarity with the Massachusetts colony and realized that they shared a fate and were also victimized by new taxes.
7. Resolved, That we will not directly or indirectly after the first day of January 1775 import from Great Britain any East India Goods, or any merchandize whatever, medicines excepted, nor will we after that day import from the West Indies or elsewhere any East India or British Goods or Manufactures, nor will we purchase any such articles so imported of any person or persons whatsoever, except such as are now in the Country or may arrive on or before the first day of January 1775.	What day does the boycott begin? Jan. 1, 1775. What is the exception for the boycott? Why? Medicines. Answers may vary but could include perhaps they wanted to avoid causing direct harm to citizens with a political stance.
12. Resolved, That unless American Grievances are redressed before the first day of October 1775, We will not after that Day, directly or indirectly, export Tobacco, Pitch, Tar, Turpentine, or any other Article whatsoever, to Great Britain, nor will we sell any such Articles as we think can be exported to Great Britain, with a Prospect of Gain, to any Person or Persons whatever with a Design of putting it in his or their Power to export the same to Great Britain...	What is Great Britain's deadline to fix the problem? Oct. 1, 1775. What top commodities will N.C. stop exporting if the problem isn't fixed? Tobacco, pitch, tar, and turpentine.
13. Resolved, That we will neither import any Slave or Slaves, nor purchase any Slave or Slaves, imported or brought into this Province, by others, from any Part of the World after the first day of November next. 14. Resolved, That we will not use, nor suffer East India Tea to be used in our Families, after the Tenth Day of September next; and that we will consider all Persons in this Province not complying with this Resolve, to be Enemies to their Country.	Given that the 1 st Provincial Congress wrote these resolves on August 25, 1774, why were deadlines for importing, exporting, and use so varied? Answers will vary but may include to give citizens and planters time to find alternatives, to stock up on tea, etc.

<p>16. Resolved, That we approve of the Proposal of a General Congress to be held in the City of Philadelphia on the 20th of September next, then and there to deliberate upon the present State of British America, and to take such Measures as they may deem prudent, to effect the Purpose of describing with Certainty the Rights of Americans...</p> <p>17. Resolved, That Williams Hooper, Joseph Hewes, and Richard Caswell...be Deputies to attend such Congress; and they are hereby invested with such Powers as may make any Acts done by them, or Content given, in Behalf of this Province, obligatory in Honour upon every Inhabitant thereof...</p>	<p>Do the delegates want independence from Britain yet? Concern with rights, independence as a secondary goal.</p> <p>If you were another N.C. citizen, would you be concerned about the power of the 3 delegates? Answers will vary.</p>
<p>19. Resolved, That Liberty is the Spirit of the British Constitution, and that it is the Duty, and will be the Endeavour of us as British Americans, to transmit this happy Constitution to our Posterity, in a State, if possible, better than we found it, and to suffer it to undergo a Change which may impair that invaluable Blessing, would be to disgrace those Ancestors, who, at the Expence of their Blood, purchased those Privileges, which their degenerate Posterity are too weak, or too wicked, to maintain inviolate.</p>	<p>What did the delegates want to preserve and improve upon? The British Constitution.</p> <p>Why? They believed it was an important foundation for individual rights.</p>
<p>23. Resolved,...That should the British Parliament continue to exercise the Power of levying Taxes and Duties on the Colonies,... such laws must be highly unconstitutional, and oppressive to the Inhabitants of British America, who have not, and from their local Circumstances cannot have a fair and equal Representation in the British Parliament, and that these Disadvantages must be greatly enhanced by the Misrepresentations of designing Men inimical to the Colonies...the Ears of the Administration have been shut against every Attempt to vindicate a People who claimed only the Right of being heard in their own Defence.</p>	<p>Why couldn't British Americans have fair representation in Britain? The distance was too great.</p> <p>What other complaints do the delegates have? Dishonest men in government taking advantage of the colonies' lack of voice/power.</p>
<p>Edenton Resolves, October 25, 1774.</p> <p>As we cannot be indifferent on any Occasion that appears nearly to affect the Peace and Happiness of our Country, and as it has been thought necessary, for the publick Good, to enter into several particular Resolves, by a Meeting of Members deputed from the whole Province, it is a Duty which we owe, not only to our near and dear Connections, who have concurred in them, but to ourselves, who are essentially interested in their Welfare, to do every Thing as far as lies in our Power to testify our sincere Adherence to the same...</p>	<p>What is most important to the Edenton women? Peace, happiness, and loyalty to their patriot friends and relatives.</p> <p>Do they also pledge a boycott? They pledged to support the Provincial Congress resolves but did not specifically mention a boycott.</p>