



Name _____

Date _____ Class _____



SELECTIONS & QUESTIONS: *Iredell Letter*

James Iredell was the Comptroller of Customs for the British government for Port Roanoke in Edenton. His younger brother Arthur remained in London.

London-Queen Square , Jan^y 31st , 1775

Dear Brother,

...Not having as yet heard that the American Congress have prohibited the correspondence of an English man, I am now sat down to extort from you...a long letter...Pray are you become patriotic? I see by the newspapers the Edenton ladies have signalized themselves by their protest against tea-drinking. The name of Johnston I see among others; are any of my sister's relations patriotic heroines? Is there a female Congress at Edenton too? I hope not, for we Englishmen are afraid of the male Congress...but if the ladies, who have ever, since the Amazonian Era, been esteemed the most formidable enemies, if they, Isay, should attack is, the most fatal consequence is to be dreaded. So dexterous in the handling of a dart, each wound they give is mortal; whilst we, so unhappily formed by nature, the more we strive to conquer them, the more are conquered! The Edenton ladies, conscious, I suppose, of this superiority on their side, by former experience, are willing, I imagine, to crush us into atoms, by their omnipotency; the only security on our side, to prevent the impending ruin, that I can perceive, is the probability that there are but few places in America which possess so much female artillery as Edenton...

What does this tell you about Arthur? About James?

Do you think Arthur is taking the Edenton Resolves seriously? Why?

Consider when and where this was written. How is that significant?



ANSWER KEY

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What does this tell you about Arthur? About James?

Considers himself an English man; finds humor in the situation.

Do you think Arthur is taking the Edenton Resolves seriously? Why?

No, he is making fun of it, similar to the London political cartoon.

Consider when and where this was written. How is that significant?

In London nearly 3 months after the Edenton Resolves appeared in a Virginia newspaper. Multiple London newspapers reprinted the resolves in January 1775. Arthur was commenting on news he had recently read.