

# Oath of Fidelity

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Read the oath and *summarize* each section in the box on the right.

I, A. B., do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm, that I will bear true Fidelity  
to the independent State of North Carolina, and to the Powers and Authorities  
which are or may be established for the good Government thereof;

and I do renounce any Fidelity to the present King of Great Britain, His Heirs  
and Successors;

and that I will disclose and make known to the Governor, some Member  
of the Council of State, Judge of the Superior Court, or Justice of the  
Peace, all Treasons, Conspiracies, or Attempts, committed or intended  
against the same, which shall come to my Knowledge.

*Why might citizens be asked to take this oath?*

# Oath of Fidelity

Name: ANSWER KEY

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

Read the oath and *summarize* each section in the box on the right.

I, A. B., do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm, that I will bear true Fidelity to the independent State of North Carolina, and to the Powers and Authorities which are or may be established for the good Government thereof;

and I do renounce any Fidelity to the present King of Great Britain, His Heirs and Successors;

and that I will disclose and make known to the Governor, some Member of the Council of State, Judge of the Superior Court, or Justice of the Peace, all Treasons, Conspiracies, or Attempts, committed or intended against the same, which shall come to my Knowledge.

Student answers will vary and should match the original statement in meaning, but they could resemble these:

I will be loyal to North Carolina and will support the NC government.

I will guard the NC government against King George III or anyone else who wants to hurt NC by any means. I will be a good and peaceful citizen.

If I find out that anyone is trying to hurt the NC government, I will tell someone in authority.

*Why might citizens be asked to take this oath?*

To mark them as being a Patriot and NC citizen and therefore trustworthy.

## *Moravian Petition Regarding the Oath*

### *Part 1*

Petition of the Moravians or United Brethren, presented to the General Assembly at Hillsborough, August 1778...

upon hearing of the great religious Liberty in America,...about 30 years ago, the Brethren Church received several Invitations to settle in...North Carolina... and they have since then in their Settlements, and also as private Settlers, lived very quiet and happy under the English Government;...until the breaking out of the present unhappy War.

It was then we began to be disturbed in our happy Rest, and we could nor would not act against our Privilege and our peaceable Principles upon which we settled in North Carolina. We wanted no more at the Change of Government, than to continue good Subjects and in our usual way...But now a late Act of Assembly has enjoined on us the Militia Duty, or else to pay heavy Fines...We humbly conceive from the Constitution formed for this State, & from the above Act of Parliament confirmed to us by the present Legislature, that we are still entitled to the same Benefit of the Privileges which induced us to come into this Land...

It is enjoined upon us by an Act of Assembly to take an Affirmation of Fidelity to this State, and to make a Renunciation of Fidelity to the King of Great Britian his Heirs and Successors, and by the said Act all who shall not take such Affirmation & Renunciation are liable to be sent out of the Country....

## *Moravian Petition Regarding the Oath*

### *Part 2*

For we have the highest Awe and Regard for an Oath or Affirmation, in remembrance of the Word of Christ. Let your communication be Yea, what is Yea, and No, what is No. If our Mouths should say Yea, and the Heart Nay, we should be Hypocrites and give false Witness..... the greater part of the United Brethren cannot nor will not take the Affirmation as prescribed, and it is against our Conscience, We humbly petition the Honourable Houses not to deny us our Constitutional Liberty.

Let not our Persons and our Properties lie open to the Invasion of Injury, except you find us guilty of treasonable Practices against this or the other States, which, by the Mercy of God, will never be the Case. ....

If any one singly, or several jointly, act or do anything against this Declaration, let them be tried and punished, as others, who have taken the Test and transgressd against it.

But our humble Request is, "That you may protect our Persons and Property against all Violence & Oppression and to grant us the Benefit of the Law."

Let us continue quiet and peaceable ....

We have no Arms, and will bear none against this State or the other States. We desire no Posts of Profit or Honour. ....

We the subscribers beg Leave to recommend this Petition ....

And your Petitioners with ever pray

## *Quaker Petition Regarding the Oath*

### *Part 2*

To the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina now Sitting. ~

The Address, and Petition of the People called Quakers from their Yearly Meeting Committee in Perquimans County, the 9th of the 1st Month 1779~

Humbly Sheweth,

That, notwithstanding we are in Duty bound Gratefully to acknowledge your Lenity, in suspending the Execution of the Act of Assembly requiring the Test of Fidelity and Abjuration and Altering the word Allegiance to Fidelity, to soften the former Act and make it easier to us, yet, we think it remains the same in Substance and being enjoined by our Peacable Principles to live as much as in us Lies a Quiet, Honest, and inoffensive Life, and, to Keep clear from Joining with any Party Engaged in disputes that are to be Determined by Military force. As our Reasons therefore doth not arise from the Least Intention or design of taking or Pursuing any steps against the State; If our Conscientious and [tender] Scruples in them respects should have a Tendency to bring great Sufferings upon us, and Terminate in the Ruin of many Honest Families, we Submit: But, ardently desire that you will not consider us as Enemies to our Country because we Scruple taking the aforesaid Test. And do Humbly request, that you would be pleased to Grant us the privileges that we have Hitherto enjoyed, until proof be made that our behavior Manifests us to be unworthy thereof. And we hope our conduct will always Demonstrate our Gratitude ~