

Lesson Plan:

Delaware and the Intolerable Acts

Content Standards:

Delaware History Standards

History Anchor Standard Two: Students will gather, examine, and analyze historical data [Analysis].

6-8a: Students will master the basic research skills necessary to conduct an independent investigation of historical phenomena.

6-8b: Students will examine historical documents, artifacts, and other materials, and analyze them in terms of credibility, as well as the purpose, perspective, or point of view for which they were constructed.

9-12a: Students will develop and implement effective research strategies for investigating a given historical topic.

9-12b: Students will examine and analyze primary and secondary sources in order to differentiate between historical facts and historical interpretations

History Anchor Standard Four: Students will develop historical knowledge of major events and phenomena in world, United States, and Delaware history [Content].

Common Core Standards

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term or terms over the course of a text (e.g., how Madison defines *faction* in *Federalist* No. 10).

Primary Documents:

Letter of support for Boston

Grade Level: 9-12

Procedure:

Warmup: Make one copy of the document for every 2 students. Randomly cut the document into pieces and place in an envelope. Do this to each document. Each pair of students will receive an envelope with the pieces of the document inside. The two students will try to put the document together by reading each of the pieces, like a jigsaw puzzle. Circulate the room to assist students and provide hints if necessary.

Procedure: Students will read the document and answer the top half of the document analysis worksheet without the use of the internet. After answering those questions and using a computer, students should answer the questions about specific lines in the document.

When complete the teacher should lead a class discussion using the following questions. Questions could be placed into a nearpod or peardeck.

1. What is the entire document referring to? **The Intolerable Acts**
2. What were the intolerable acts in response to? **Boston Tea Party**
3. What is context and why is it important?
4. What is the first paragraph of the document discussing? **Grievances**
5. Are the grievances real or imagined on the part of the Americans? **Answers will vary**
6. How do those who wrote this refer to themselves? **British Subjects**
7. What is the tone of the document? **Answers will vary**
8. What do you think Delaware did in response to this letter? **Answer will vary**
9. Do you think the letter was justified? Why or why not? **Answer will vary**
10. What further questions do you have about the document? **Answers will vary**

To the Gentlemen, Freeholders, and others, in the County of New-Castle, upon Delaware, who have a vote in the election of Representatives in General Assembly.

The several Acts of Parliament made for these ten years past, relating to the British Colonies in North America, and their operations upon the property, liberty and lives of the good people of this country are too well known, and too severely felt, to require any enumeration or explanation-suffice it to mention, that they have taken away the property of the Colonies without their participation or consent; that they have introduced the odious and arbitrary power of excise into the customs; that they have made all revenue causes triable without jury, and under the decision of a dependent party Judge; that they have taken away from the Assemblies all freedom of debate and determination in the instance of suspending the legislative power of New York; that they have extended the obsolete and arbitrary Act of thirty-five Henry the Eight, for trial of treason and misprison of treason, the depriving the subjects of a fair trial in the proper country, and exposing him to the most grievous exertions of tyranny and injustice; that they have maintained a standing army in time of peace, above the control of civil authority; and that they have not only declared that they can make laws to bind us in all cases whatsoever, but, to Crown all, have actually deprived the great and lately flourishing town of Boston, of all trade whatsoever, by shutting up their port and harbor with a formidable fleet and army; and, it is not doubted, have new-moulded the Charter of the Province of Massachusetts Bay; and virtually indemnified all officers of the customs, the navy and army, and others acting by their command, from all murders and other crimes which they may commit upon the loyal, brave and free people of that Province. These are no phantoms arising from a heated brain, but real facts, not exaggerated.

It is impossible that any people, impressed with the least sense of constitutional liberty, should ever patiently submit to these enormous grievances, and accordingly we find our brethren and fellow-subject in most of the Colonies are deliberating and resolving upon such measures as are thought to be most likely to recover or lost rights and privileges.

Shall the people of this large and wealthy country, heretofore the foremost on many occasions, particularly in the time of the detestable Stamp Act, to oppose all attempts to deprive them of their personal security and private property, be now inactive and silent? Forbid it liberty, let humanity forbid it.

You are therefore most earnestly requested to meet together at the Court House, in the town of New-Castle, on Wednesday, the 29th inst., at two o'clock in the afternoon, to consider of the most proper mode of procuring relief for our dear countrymen, and brethren of Boston, the redressing the beforementioned grievance, the restoring and securing our invaded property and existing liberties-and establishing, on a constitutional bottom, the wonted, and by us so much desired, peace, friendship, and love between Great Britain and these Colonies. It is expected that none who have a due regard to their country, posterity, or themselves, will be absent.

A. Freeman

June 17, 1774

To the Gentlemen, Freeholders, and others, in the County of New-Castle, upon Delaware, who have a vote in the election of Representatives in General Assembly.

The several Acts of Parliament made for these ten years past, relating to the British Colonies in North America, and their operations upon the property, liberty and lives of the good people of this country, are too well known, and too severely felt, to require any enumeration or explanation - suffice it to mention, that they have taken away the property of the Colonists without their participation or consent; that they have introduced the odious and arbitrary power of excise into the customs; that they have made all revenue causes triable without jury, and under the decision of a dependent party Judge; that they have taken away from the Assemblies all freedom of debate and determination in the instance of suspending the Legislative power of New York; that they have extended the obsolete and arbitrary Act of thirty-five Henry the Eighth, for trial of treason and misprison of treason, to the depriving the subjects of a fair trial in the proper country, and exposing him to the most grievous exertions of tyranny and injustice; that they have maintained a standing army in time of peace, above the control of civil authority; and that they have not only declared that they can make laws to bind us in all cases whatsoever, but, to Crown all, have actually deprived the great and lately flourishing town of Boston, of all trade whatsoever, by shutting up their port and harbour with a formidable fleet and army; and, it is not doubted, have new-moulded the Charter of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay; and virtually indemnified all officers of the customs, the navy and army, and others acting by their command, from all murders and other crimes which they may commit upon the loyal, brave and free people of that Province. These are no phantoms arising from a heated brain, but real facts, not exaggerated.

It is impossible that any people, impressed with the least sense of constitutional liberty, should ever patiently submit to these enormous grievances, and accordingly we find our brethren and fellow-subjects in most of the Colonies are deliberating and resolving upon such measures as are thought to be most likely to recover our lost rights and privileges.

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A Freeman.

June 17, 1774.

Amer. Archives vol. 1 4th series. 419.

Analysis Worksheet

Using just the document answer the four questions below.

Who is the audience for the Document?
What is the Date of the Document?
What is the Document asking for?
Who is the person/people who wrote the document? (Not a specific name)

Use a computer and answer these questions. Do not use AI.

“, have actually deprived the great and lately flourishing town of Boston, of all trade whatsoever, by shutting up their port and harbor with a formidable fleet and army” What is this line referring to, please list the specific law or action of the British?
“they have taken away from the Assemblies all freedom of debate and determination in the instance of suspending the legislative power of New York” What is this line referring to, please list the specific law or action of the British?
“for trial of treason and misprison of treason, the depriving the subjects of a fair trial in the proper country, and exposing him to the most grievous exertions of tyranny and injustice” What is this line referring to, please list the specific law or action of the British?