

Colonist Grievances Against Great Britain and King George

Activity

Directions: We have now discussed the American Revolution and the outcome of the war. We have spent a lot of time talking about the different perspectives of the conflict. It is now your turn to make your own observations based on the evidence provided.

What are you doing?

You will be analyzing the grievances listed by the colonist and determine what **THREE grievances** provide the most compelling evidence as to why the colonists needed to break away from Great Britain.

Why are we doing this?

Historically, I have had a classroom debate focusing on the idea of the colonists going to war again Great Britain. Students would analyze the perspectives of “Patriots” and “Loyalists” to determine who was more justified in their cause. However, since we are remote learning, I have modified this assignment and instead focused on the Declaration of Independence. This way, you can still examine the perspectives of the colonists and create a compelling argument as to why independence was needed based on the evidence that the colonists provide.

Format: You are to write a short essay (3 paragraphs, but you can write more if you choose) describing your three grievances and why you think they offer the most convincing evidence. You need to provide supporting evidence to solidify your argument. This means that you need to tie in historical events, people, or terms to your argument. You can use your notes to complete this assignment.

Grading Rubric	3	2	1	0
Grievances	3 grievances	2 grievances	1 grievance	No attempt to incorporate grievances
Paragraphs	3 paragraphs	2 paragraphs	1 paragraph	0 paragraphs
Sentences	4-5 per paragraph	2-3 per paragraph	1 per paragraph	0 sentences
Clarity	Ideas are clear with supporting evidence	Further clarification needed, missing necessary supporting evidence	Ideas are not clear, no supporting evidence	No response
Follows Directions	Follows Directions	n/a	n/a	Does not follow directions

Total Points possible 15/15= 100 (partial credit for some categories may be awarded)

Score: _____/15

Total Points: _____

Grievances

1. He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.
2. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.
3. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.
4. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.
5. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.
6. He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.
7. He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.
8. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.
9. He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.
10. He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.
11. He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.
12. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.
13. He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:
14. For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:
15. For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:
16. For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:
17. For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:
18. For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:
19. For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

20. For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:
21. For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:
22. For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.
23. He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.
24. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.
25. He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.
26. He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.
27. He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.