

Declaration and Resolves of the FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

Facts and Concepts

1. In your own words, list five grievances presented by the colonists in the first and second paragraphs of this document. **Any five: 1. the British had claimed the right to legislate in all matters in the colonies, the British had imposed direct taxes the British had imposed indirect taxes, the British had created a board of commissioners with unconstitutional powers, The British had extended the jurisdiction of admiralty courts, judges in the colonies were made dependent on the king for their salaries, standing armies had been kept in the colonies during peacetime, and some colonists accused of crimes had been forced to go to England for their trials**
2. What do the colonists protest in the third paragraph? **In the third paragraph, the colonists protest the passage of four unjust and unconstitutional statutes against the American colonies**
3. What two grievances are listed in the paragraph that begins, "And whereas, Assemblies..."? **The two grievances listed in this paragraph are as follows: colonial assemblies had been repeatedly dissolved, and colonial petitions to the king had been treated with contempt (disgust)**
4. What three sources of their rights do the colonists list in the paragraph beginning, "That the inhabitants..."? **Three sources of rights that the colonists list are: the laws of nature, the English constitution, and the charters or compacts of the individual colonies**
5. What do the colonists claim in Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the paragraph that begins, "Resolved, N. C. D."? **In these sections, the colonists claim the right to life, liberty, and property; that their ancestors were entitled to full rights as English citizens at the time they emigrated to the colonies; and that their ancestors did not forget these rights, but kept them and passed them on their descendants**
6. Read Section 4 under the paragraph that begins, "Resolved, N. C. D." and answer the following questions.
 - a. What basic right is outlined in this section? **The basic right outlined in this section is the right of people to participate in government**
 - b. In what governing body were the colonists not represented, according to this section? **According to this section, the colonists are not represented in the British Parliament.**
 - c. Since the colonists cannot be represented in this body, what right do they claim? **Since the colonists cannot be represented in Parliament, they claim the right to have "free and exclusive power of legislation" in their colonial assemblies**
 - d. What control would the king have over colonial laws? **The King would have the right to veto colonial laws.**
 - e. What type of laws passed by the British Parliament were the colonists willing to honor? **The colonists were willing to honor laws to regulate external trade to the commercial advantage of England.**

- f. The colonists denied that Parliament had the right to pass what types of law without the consent of the colonists? **The colonists denied that Parliament had the right to pass laws of taxation without the consent of the colonists.**
7. What rights did the colonists claim in Sections 5 through 8 of the paragraph that begins, “resolved, N. C. D.”? **In these sections, the colonists claimed the right to follow common law of England, the right to be tried by their peers, the benefit of established laws at the time of colonization; all privileges granted by royal charters or provincial laws the right to peaceably assemble; and the right to petition the king.**
8. Read Section 10 under the paragraph that begins, “Resolved, N. C. D.” What condition is described in the first half of this section as necessary to good government? **The separation of branches of government is described as necessary to good government**
9. In your own words, summarize the resolution of the paragraph that begins, “Resolved, that the following...” **This paragraph resolves that the acts of Parliament to be listed next must be repealed in order to restore good relations between Great Britain and the colonies.**
10. What violations of their rights did the colonists find in the laws named in the paragraph that begins, “The several acts...” ? **Extending with powers of the admiralty courts beyond their ancient limits, depriving Americans of trial by jury, protecting the prosecutor in a trial from damages for which he might ordinarily be liable, and demanding excessive payment from people claiming ships and goods that have been seized.**
11. What three acts by the British do the colonists protest in the paragraph that begins, “Also the three acts...” **The colonists protest the act for stopping the port and blocking the harbor of Boston, the act for altering the charter and government of Massachusetts, and the act “for the better administration.**
12. Read the last paragraph of the document and answer the following questions.
- a. What do the colonists hope the British will do about the laws named in this document? **the colonists hope that the British will revise the laws.**
- b. Explain in your own words the three actions the colonists decided to take to protest these laws. **To protest these laws, the colonists decided to enter into an agreement not import British goods or export their goods to Britain. They also decided to prepare an address to the British people and an address to the British king.**

For Further Understanding

13. The first line of this document contains the phrase “since the close of the last war.” What war are the authors talking about? **the French and Indian War**
14. What name did the colonists give to the group of laws passed by Britain which caused them to convene the First Continental Congress and to write these resolutions? **the Intolerable Acts**
15. Who is the “Geo. 3” after whom the laws cited in this document are named? **King George III of England**
16. Were the actions taken by the colonists successful? Explain your answer **The actions taken by the colonists described in this document were not successful. The British did not change the laws, the colonists became more dissatisfied with British rule, and even actually the revolutionary war broke out.**