

Part III – Complaints

To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

1. ***He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.***

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.

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.

1. ***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.***

1. ***He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.***

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.

He has endeavored 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.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

2. ***He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.***

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

2. ***He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.***

2. ***He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.***

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:

3. ***For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:***

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

3. ***For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:***

3. ***For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:***

4. ***For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:***

4. ***For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences.***

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring 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:

4. ***For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:***

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate

for us in all cases whatsoever.

5. He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

5. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete 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.

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.

5. He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored 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.

Student Activity Sheet: Investigating the Declaration of Independence

Grievances: Group 1

Directions:

1. Read the complaints assigned to your group.
2. Discuss each complaint with your group, and then answer the questions below.
3. Select recorder, readers (2-3), and a presenter.
A recorder writes up the notes from the group discussion and hands them to the presenter. (Group should discuss notes before being presented.)
The readers read the original complaints aloud to the class.
The presenter will read the groups responses to the class.
All members of the group will participate and give their ideas as the group discusses the complaints.

To Prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

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.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.

2. Who is “He” that the colonists refer to in the grievances?

3. Who are the colonists blaming for their grievances? Why do you think they are blaming him?

Student Activity Sheet: Investigating the Declaration of Independence

Grievances: Group 2

Directions:

1. Read the complaints assigned to your group.
 2. Discuss each complaint with your group, and then answer the questions below.
 3. Select recorder, readers (2-3), and a presenter.
- A recorder writes up the notes from the group discussion and hands them to the presenter. (Group should discuss notes before being presented.)
The readers read the original complaints aloud to the class.
The presenter will read the groups responses to the class.
All members of the group will participate and give their ideas as the group discusses the complaints.

To Prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.

2. Who is “He” that the colonists refer to in the grievances?

3. Who are the colonists blaming for their grievances? Why do you think they are blaming him?

Student Activity Sheet: Investigating the Declaration of Independence

Grievances: Group 3

Directions:

1. Read the complaints assigned to your group.
2. Discuss each complaint with your group, and then answer the questions below.
3. Select recorder, readers (2-3), and a presenter.
A recorder writes up the notes from the group discussion and hands them to the presenter.
(Group should discuss notes before being presented.)
The readers read the original complaints aloud to the class.
The presenter will read the groups responses to the class.
All members of the group will participate and give their ideas as the group discusses the complaints.

To Prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has combined with others to subject us...to their Acts of pretended legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our consent:

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.

2. Who is “He” that the colonists refer to in the grievances?

3. Who are the colonists blaming for their grievances? Why do you think they are blaming him?

Student Activity Sheet: Investigating the Declaration of Independence

Grievances: Group 4

Directions:

1. Read the complaints assigned to your group.
 2. Discuss each complaint with your group, and then answer the questions below.
 3. Select recorder, readers (2-3), and a presenter.
- A recorder writes up the notes from the group discussion and hands them to the presenter. (Group should discuss notes before being presented.)
The readers read the original complaints aloud to the class.
The presenter will read the groups responses to the class.
All members of the group will participate and give their ideas as the group discusses the complaints.

To Prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has combined with others to subject us...to their Acts of pretended legislation:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.

2. Who is “He” that the colonists refer to in the grievances?

3. Who are the colonists blaming for their grievances? Why do you think they are blaming him?

Student Activity Sheet: Investigating the Declaration of Independence

Grievances: Group 5

Directions:

1. Read the complaints assigned to your group.
2. Discuss each complaint with your group, and then answer the questions below.
3. Select recorder, readers (2-3), and a presenter.
A recorder writes up the notes from the group discussion and hands them to the presenter.
(Group should discuss notes before being presented.)
The readers read the original complaints aloud to the class.
The presenter will read the groups responses to the class.
All members of the group will participate and give their ideas as the group discusses the complaints.

To Prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He has excited domestic insurrection amongst us, and has endeavored 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.

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.

2. Who is “He” that the colonists refer to in the grievances?

3. Who are the colonists blaming for their grievances? Why do you think they are blaming him?
