
Sample Item Set
Key Ideas Leading to Independence
Grade 7

Standard 2 – Revolution and the New Nation: Students analyze the impact of key events, ideas, and people on the economic, political, and social development of the United States from 1763–1800.

GLE 7.2.1 Identify and describe the impact of key events, ideas, and people that led to the American Revolution

Use the three sources and your knowledge of social studies to answer questions 1–4

Source 1

Excerpt from *The Rights of the Colonists*
by Samuel Adams, November 20, 1772

Among the natural rights of the Colonists are these: first, a right to life; secondly to liberty; thirdly to property; together with the right to support and defend them in the best manner they can. Those are evident branches of, rather than deductions from, the duty of self-preservation, commonly called the first law of nature.

All men have a right to remain in a state of nature as long as they please. And in case of intolerable oppression, civil or religious, to leave the society they belong to, and enter into another.

Source 2

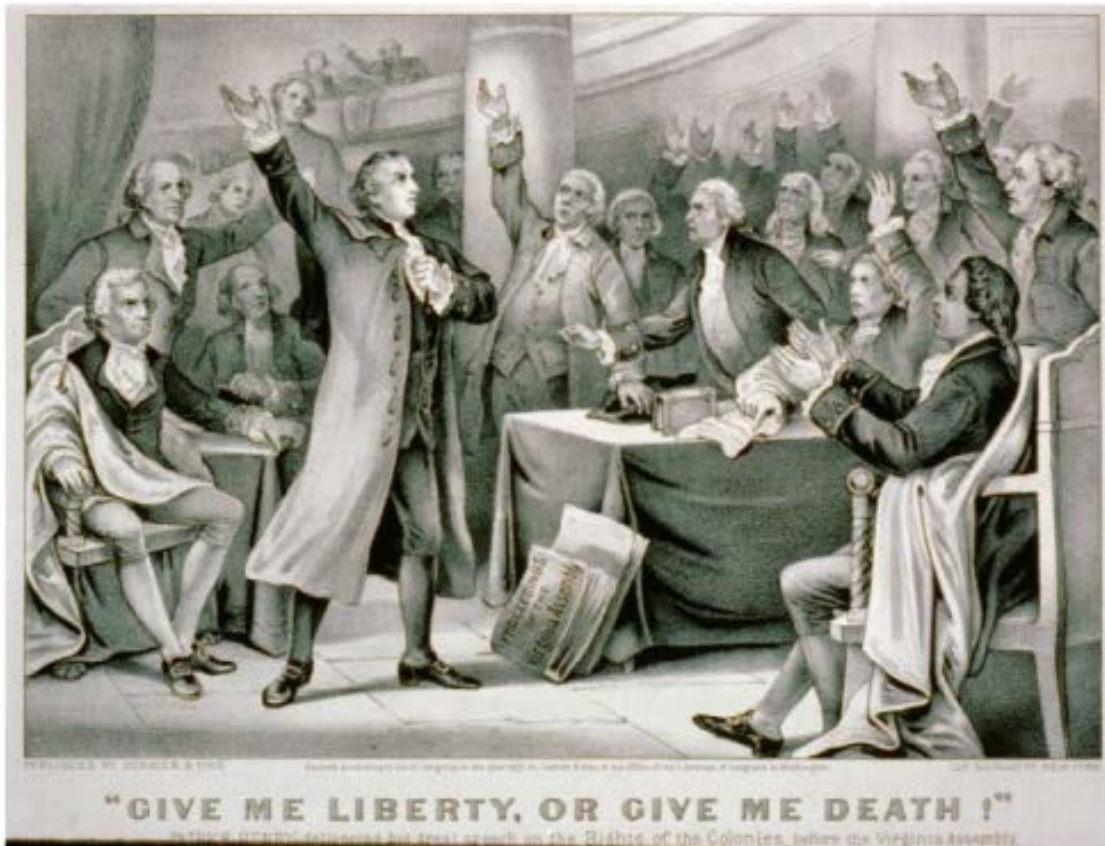
Excerpt from *Boston Massacre Oration*
by John Hancock, March 5, 1774

What tenderness, what regard, respect, or consideration has Great Britain shown . . . for the security of the persons or properties of the inhabitants of the Colonies? Or rather what have they omitted doing to destroy that security? They have declared that they have always had, and should always have, full power to make laws to bind the Colonies in all cases whatever. They have exercised this pretended right by imposing a tax upon us without our consent. And in case we show some reluctance at parting with our property, her fleets and armies are sent to enforce their mad claims.

Source 3

Patrick Henry in the Virginia Assembly

Patrick Henry delivered his speech on the rights of the colonies before the Virginia Assembly, convened at Richmond, Virginia, on March 23, 1775. He concluded with the sentiment that became the war cry of the revolution—"Give me liberty, or give me death!"



Source: Library of Congress.

Item 1: Multiple Choice

Which phrase from Source 1 or Source 2 is **most closely** associated with the rights that colonists believed they were guaranteed as citizens?

- A. “they have always had, and should always have, full power to make laws to bind the Colonies in all cases whatever” (Source 2)
- B. “exercised this pretended right by imposing a tax upon us without our consent” (Source 2)
- C. “a right to life; secondly to liberty; thirdly to property; together with the right to support and defend them” (Source 1)
- D. “evident branches of, rather than deductions from, the duty of self-preservation” (Source 1)

Item 2: Multiple Select

Which acts by the British government caused discontent among the colonists?

Select the **two** correct answers.

- A. requiring the colonies to join a confederation
- B. quartering of soldiers in private homes
- C. placing import duties on certain goods
- D. offering rewards for capturing suspected rebels
- E. encouraging farming of crops like tobacco
- F. taxing the colonies without their approval

Item 3: Technology Enhanced Item

The American colonists and the British shared many common principles about government. However, by 1775 some of these principles differed. Based on the sources and your knowledge of social studies, categorize the principles held by the American Colonial Assemblies and the principles held by the British government.

Drag each principle to the correct category. Each principle will be used once.

All citizens share in the costs of defending the British Empire.

The people should not be taxed without representation.

Citizens must obey the laws made by the government without question.

There are certain natural rights that belong to all citizens.

Citizens should attempt to change the government when the rights of the people are infringed.

Principles of American Colonial Assemblies	Principles of the British Government

Correct Answers:

Principles of American Colonial Assemblies
The people should not be taxed without representation.
There are certain natural rights that belong to all citizens.
Citizens should attempt to change the government when the rights of the people are infringed.

Principles of the British Government
All citizens share in the costs of defending the British Empire.
Citizens must obey the laws made by the government without question.

Item 4: Constructed Response

Based on the sources and your knowledge of social studies, describe **two** actions taken by the colonists in response to the violations of rights by the British.

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Scoring Information	
Score Points	Description
2	Student's response correctly describes two actions taken by the colonists in response to the violations of rights by the British.
1	Student's response correctly describes one action taken by the colonists in response to the violations of rights by the British.
0	Student's response does not correctly describe two actions taken by the colonists in response to the violations of rights by the British.

Scoring Notes:

The actions taken by colonists in response to the violations of rights by the British:

- Protest
 - Boston Tea Party
 - Speeches such as those made by Hancock, Adams, and Henry in the sources
- Rebel and form an independent government
 - American Revolution
 - "all men have a right...to leave the society they belong to, and enter into another"
 - "Give me liberty, or give me death!"
- Accept any other reasonable answer