

Documents: Proclamation of War

Name: _____

Time: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Analyze the document and answer the questions.

Background: After the skirmishes between militia and British soldiers at Lexington and Concord, King George III had enough. As far as he was concerned, Britain needed a military solution to its problems with the colonies.

**By the King,
A PROCLAMATION.
For Suppressing Rebellion and Sedition.**

Whereas many of our subjects in divers parts of our Colonies and Plantations in North America, misled by dangerous and ill designing men, and forgetting the allegiance which they owe to the power that has protected and supported them; after various disorderly acts committed in disturbance of the publick peace, to the obstruction of lawful commerce, and to the oppression of our loyal subjects carrying on the same; have at length proceeded to open and avowed rebellion, by arraying themselves in a hostile manner, to withstand the execution of the law, and traitorously preparing, ordering and levying war against us . . . by and with the advice of our Privy Council, to issue our Royal Proclamation, hereby declaring, that not only all our Officers, civil and military, are obliged to exert their utmost endeavours to suppress such rebellion, and to

bring the traitors to justice, but that all our subjects of this Realm, and the dominions thereunto belonging, are bound by law to be aiding and assisting in the suppression of such rebellion, and to disclose and make known all traitorous conspiracies and attempts against us, our crown and dignity. . . .

Given at our Court at St. James's the twenty-third day of August, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, in the fifteenth year of our reign.

GOD save the KING.

Printed by Charles Eyre and William Straban, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1775.

Central Ideas. A central idea is the overall topic of the entire piece. Main ideas are important topics that support the central idea.

1. What is the central idea of the Proclamation?
 - E. All Patriots to the Crown must work against the Loyalists.
 - H. All colonists are in a state of rebellion and must be stopped.
 - O. There is a rebellion in Massachusetts.
 - Y. All Loyalists to the Crown throughout the kingdom must work against the Patriots.

2. Name two main ideas found in the Proclamation. (circle two)
 - E. England has many realms throughout the world.
 - H. Some of the colonists are in rebellion against British authority.
 - O. All loyalists to the British government must help in stopping the rebellion.
 - Y. The Proclamation was given at the court of St. James.

Words in Context. Define words based upon how they are used in the writing.

“[colonists] have at length proceeded to open and avowed rebellion, by arraying themselves in a hostile manner, to withstand the execution of the law, and traitorously preparing, ordering and levying war against us...”

3. What does the word “levying” mean as it is used in the quote above?

- D. collecting a tax
- I. putting a tax on something such as a paper product
- R. a debt that must be paid
- W organizing soldiers for military use

“all our subjects of this Realm, and the dominions thereunto belonging, are bound by law to be aiding and assisting in the suppression of such rebellion, and to disclose and make known all traitorous conspiracies and attempts against us”

4. What does the word “traitorous” mean as it is used in the quote above?

- D. incompetent; stupid
- I. working against the government
- R. evil actions
- W violent

Facts vs. Opinions.

Fact: A conclusion that can be proven true and/or is absolutely accurate to all people involved.
Opinion: Belief or preference about something that cannot be proven or accepted by all people.

Charles Eyre and William Straban printed the document.

5. Identify the statement above as fact, opinion, or reasoned judgment.

- A. fact
- N. opinion

Textual Evidence. Find evidence from the document and circle all that apply.

6. What evidence does King George III give of a rebellion in the colonies?
- E. There have been several disorderly acts that have disrupted the public peace.
 - H. Colonists have made threats against Parliament.
 - O. Some colonists have been preparing and waging war against Britain.
 - Y. Some colonists have been disrupting business.