REVOLUTIONARY IDEALS

HISTORY

COMMONL

THE GREAT IN

The Regulators of North Carolina: Rebels with a Cause

GUIDING QUESTION:

What were the grievances of the Regulator Movement, and how did the Regulators hope to fix them?

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OVERVIEW

In the late 1760s, a group of North Carolina farmers banded together to petition their locally elected legislators for reforms. Having suffered injustices of over-taxation, extortion in clerical fees, and oppression, they lost their homes and land. They also objected to the Stamp Act and Townshend Acts, enforced by Governor William Tryon and the colonial legislature. Despite these grievances, the Regulators did not oppose the authority of the King but opposed the practices of the locally elected legislature. While this is clearly a form of resistance, is it revolutionary? In this lesson, students will analyze the grievances of the Regulators and learn how the government redressed their concerns.

► OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this activity, students will be able to:

- > Decipher the meaning and intentions of a song written about the movement;
- Understand the concepts of grievances and redresses; in modern terms;
- Analyze the grievances and redresses of the Regulator Movement; and
- Categorize the grievances and redresses of the 1769 petition based on similar themes.

► STANDARDS CONNECTIONS

CONNECTIONS TO COMMON CORE

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.
- > CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.6 Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose.

CONNECTIONS TO C3 FRAMEWORK

 D2.His.1.9-12. Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place as well as broader historical contexts.

DOCUMENTS USED

PRIMARY SOURCES

Petition by the Regulators concerning legal redress for grievances, 1768

Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, Documenting the South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.php/document/csr07-0336

Print, Edmund Fanning New York Public Library Digital Collections (8b4e1f00c559-012f-ea63-58d385a7bc34) <u>https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47df-a4e4a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99</u>

Regulators of Aniston County, The Regulators Petition, October 9, 1769 (excerpts) General Assembly Session Records, Documenting the South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill <u>https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll36/</u> id/2912/rec/9

https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/petitionfrom-regulators-of-north-carolina/

Song Lyrics, Rednal Howell, "When Fanning first to Orange came," c. 1765 "Songs of the Regulators," State Library of North

Carolina https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/songs-regulators

► TEACHER-CREATED MATERIALS

- > The Regulators and their Redress of Grievances
- The Regulators and their Redress of Grievances Answer Key

► ACTIVITY PREPARATION

- > Project the song lyrics, "When Fanning first to Orange came."
- > Make one copy of The Regulators and their Redress of Grievances worksheet for each student.
- > Print one copy of The Regulators and their Redress of Grievances Answer Key for teacher reference.
- Organize the class into groups of three to five students each. Mix groups to include students at different reading levels.

► PROCEDURE

ACTIVITY ONE (5 MINUTES)

- Project the song lyrics to "When Fanning first to Orange came." Ask students:
 - » Who was Fanning?
 - » What is the author of the song trying to say about Fanning?
 - » What do you think Fanning might have done to have his coat "laced with gold"?
- Review with or explain to students the concepts of grievance and redress of grievance.
- Explain to students that this song was written by a member of the Regulators in North Carolina named Rednal Howell. Tell students that they will analyze a petition this group made to the governor of the colony. The goal is to figure out what the Regulators grievances (or complaints) are and what redresses (or solutions) they wanted to see.

ACTIVITY TWO (15 MINUTES)

- > Project the 1768 Petition by the Regulators concerning legal redress for grievances. Give students time to read. Summarize the grievances and redresses in the source.
- > Distribute The Regulators and their Redress of Grievances worksheet to each student. Explain that the 1769 petition was more involved. Explain to students that as the movement increased in momentum, their writing also evolved, becoming more detailed in the reforms they were requesting of their colonial government.
- > Explain how students will read each bullet and re-write it in their own words.
- Review the bullets already filled in to give students an idea of how the chart works and some key background on the Regulators.
- Organize the class into groups to translate the remaining grievances and redress of grievances.
 - Teacher Tip: To assist with differentiation,
 - Grievances 5 and 6 and redresses 1, 3, 7, 15, and 16 would be appropriate for students with lower reading levels.
 - Grievance 4 and redresses 2, 8, 9, 10, and 17 would be appropriate for students with on-grade reading levels.
 - Grievance 1 and redress 6 would be appropriate for students with advanced reading levels.
- > Observe each group's interpretations as they work together to translate the source. Use the Answer Key as needed to assist or re-direct student groups.

ACTIVITY THREE (40 MINUTES)

- > Ask students to create three to five categories to synthesize the grievances and redresses.
- > Discuss what the Regulators were trying to accomplish.

ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

- > Collect The Regulators and their Redress of Grievances chart and categories list.
- > Ask students to write a justification for their category choices.

Students interested in this topic might be interested in researching the following for an NHD project:

- > Bacon's Rebellion (1676)
- > Pontiac's Rebellion (1763)
- > The Quartering Act (1765) or the Declaratory Act (1766)
- > The Boston Tea Party (December 16, 1773)
- > The Intolerable Acts (1774) or the Olive Branch Petition (1775)

To access a PDF containing all of the sources and materials to complete this lesson plan, go to: nhd.org/RevIdeals.

"When Fanning first to Orange came," c. 1765

Song Lyrics, Rednal Howell, "When Fanning first to Orange came," c. 1765 "Songs of the Regulators," State Library of North Carolina <u>https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/songs-regulators</u>



A print of Edmund Fanning, New York Public Library Digital Collections.

When Fanning first to Orange cameHe looked both pale and wan,An old patched coat upon his back,An old mare he rode on.

Both man and mare wa'n't worth five pounds, As I've been often told, But by his civil robberies He's laced his coat with gold.

Petition by the Regulators concerning legal redress for grievances, 1768

Petition, Petition by the Regulators concerning legal redress for grievances, 1768 Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, Documenting the South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.php/document/csr07-0336

"Petition by the Regulators concerning legal redress for grievances

Regulators of North Carolina

1768

Address from the Insurgents when assembled at Hillsborough

To His Excellency

The humble Address of the Inhabitants of several Counties called Regulators.

To His Excellency Wm Tryon Esqre Governor & Commander in Chief over the Province of North Carolina.

Whereas thro' the exactions [demands] & extortions [threats] of several Officers of Orange, we have involved ourselves in many difficulties and by means of reports, falsely spread the contention [problem] has arose to a great extremity & being desirous to submit ourselves to the clemency [mercy] of your Excellency, and to lay aside all method of redress of our grievances, but by a due course of Law and beg that your Excellency will forgive all our past offences by your gracious Proclamation, that peace and tranquility may be restored again, to all the Inhabitants of this Province, and confiding in your assistance and favour to execute the Laws against said exactions and extortions and conclude

Your dutiful Petitioners,

Signed in behalf of the said Counties

Wm Moffitt Peter Julian Lewis Lowry Chrisr Nation Saml Low John Marchill Wm Butler Harmon Cox Joshua Teague Jn Stringer John Pyle Thos Swearinger Wm Strongfellow Wm Paine Nathl Ashley Jas Billingley Chas Saxon Wm Barton Solon Gross Jas Younger Mincher Litten Samuel Ray

The Regulators Petition, Regulators of Anson County

Petition, The Regulators Petition, Regulators of Anson County, October 9, 1769 (excerpt) General Assembly Session Records, Documenting the South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill <u>https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll36/id/2912/rec/9</u>

The Western part. Die particular onev; which we not only ve, but very veno being Cronched beneath our Sufferinger and ned privited no, have too long spielded our - Permit-no lo concerve remonselets oup he known our greevanter, for redrefs; as appears in the bull of highly] Triff of King Charles the first, as well as the act of detter Grown at the Prevo tation. We therefore beg a speciment thereof that your compassionate en Tend to the relief of your injured Constituents, whove distribute condition calle aloud for aid. The alarming cries of oppore fied poloibly may Yeach your Sarry but how shall absend the Thrones how releasters is the breach Simpathy, the heart that cannot bleed on a bie removed, Crustly steping calamity; to se tenderness own libertice and prior led son meraded and abridg it were domestiches who are converses of their quilt and void of remarke . - O how daring ! how recentless ! whilst

What is a grievance?	What is a redress of a grievance?

Petition, The Regulators Petition, Regulators of Anson County, October 9, 1769 (excerpt) General Assembly Session Records, Documenting the South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill <u>https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll36/id/2912/rec/9</u>

"A few of the many grievances are as follows . . . "

Language from the Regulator Petition	Translation
"1. That the poor Inhabitants in general are much oppress'd by reason of disproportionate Taxes [taxes not tied to income], and those of the western Counties in particular; as they are generally in mean circumstances [poverty]."	
"2. That no method is prescribed by Law for the payment of the Taxes of the Western Counties in produce (in lieu of a Currency) as is in other Counties within this Province; to the Peoples great oppression."	Law does not set a method for how taxes will be paid.
"3. That Lawyers, Clerks, and other pentioners [<i>sic</i>]; in place of being obsequious [obedient] Servants for the Country's use, are become a nuisance, as the business of the people is often transacted without the least degree of fairness, the intention of the law evaded, exorbitant [very high] fees extorted, and the sufferers left to mourn under their oppressions."	Lawyers, clerks, and other people who work for the colony have become a nuisance because transactions are done without fairness. The law is not followed, high fees are charged, and we are left to suffer.
"4. That an Attorney should have it in his power, either for the sake of ease or interest, or to gratify [give satisfaction] their malevolence [doing evil] and spite [desire to hurt], to commence suits to what Courts he pleases, however inconvenient it may be to the Defendant: is a very great oppression."	

"7. That the violation of the King's Instructions to his delegates, their artfulness in concealing the same from him; and the great Injury the People thereby sustains: is a manifest oppression."	The people who work for the colonial government have been violating the King's instructions and keeping it from him, which is oppressive.
"6. That Lawyers, Clerks, and others, extorting [forcing] more fees than is intended by law; is also an oppression."	
"5. That all unlawful fees taken on Indictment [formal charges], where the Defendant is acquitted [found not guilty] by his Country (however customary it may be) is an oppression."	

"And for remedy whereof, we take the freedom to recommend the following mode of redress"

Language from the Regulator Petition	Translation
"1. That at all elections each suffrage [voting] be given by Ticket & Ballot."	
"2. That the mode [method] of Taxation be altered, and each person to pay in proportion to the proffits [<i>sic</i>] arising from his Estate [property]."	
"3. That no future tax be laid in Money, untill [<i>sic</i>] a currency [system of money] is made."	
"4. That there may be established a Western as well as a Northern and Southern District, and a Treasurer for the same."	We would like you to create a western, northern, and southern district and a treasurer for each district to make the money collection more fair.
"5. That when a currency is made it may be let out by a Loan office (on Land security) and not to be call'd in by a Tax."	When money is made, it should be lent by a bank with land to back it up and not be collected with a tax.
"6. That all debts above 40s (40 shillings = \pounds 2) and under \pounds 10 be tried and determined without Lawyers, by a jury of six freeholders, impanneled [<i>sic</i>] by a Justice, and that their verdict be enter'd by the said Justice, and be a final judgment."	
"7. That the Chief Justice have no perquisites [perks], but a Sallary [salary] only."	
"8. That Clerks be restricted in respect to fees, costs, and other things within the course of their office."	

"9. That Lawyers be effectually [in effect] Barr'd from exacting and extorting fees."	
"10. That all doubts may be removed in respect to the payment of fees and costs on Indictments [formal charges] where the Defendant is not found guilty by the jury, and therefore acquitted [found not guilty]."	
"11. That the Assembly make known by Remonstrance [protest] to the King, the conduct of the cruel and oppressive Receiver of the Quit Rents, for omitting the customary easie and effectual method of collecting by distress, and pursuing the expensive mode of commencing suits in the most distant Courts."	The legislature should let the King know when the person collecting land taxes is being cruel and oppressive in the collection of those taxes.
"12. That the Assembly in like manner make known that the governor and Council do frequently grant Lands to as many as they think proper without regard to Head Rights, notwithstanding the contrariety [opposition] of His Majesties Instructions; by which means immense sums has been collected, and numerous Patents granted, for much of the most fertile lands in this Province, that is yet uninhabited and uncultivated, environed by great numbers of poor people who are necessitated to toil in the cultivation of bad Lands whereon they hardly can subsist [survive], who are thereby deprived of His Majesties liberality and Bounty: nor is there the least regard paid to the cultivation clause in said Patent mentioned, as many of the said Council as well as their friends and favorites enjoy large Quantities of Lands under the above-mentioned circumstances."	The legislature should let it be known that the governor and his council frequently grant lands to people without regarding who owns the land, which goes against the King's instructions, even if large amounts of money have been paid for them. This is done so that only bad lands are left behind for poor people.
"13. That the Assembly communicates in like manner the Violation of His Majesties Instructions respecting the Land Office by the Governor and Council, and of their own rules, customs and orders, if it be sufficiently proved, that after they had granted Warrants for many Tracts of Land, and that the same was in due time survey'd and return'd, and the Patent fees timely paid into the said office; and that if a private Council was called on purpose to avoid spectators, and peremptory [orders that cannot be challenged] orders made that Patents should not be granted; and Warrants by their orders arbitrarily to have Issued in the names of other Persons for the same Lands, and if when intreated by a solicitor [asked by a lawyer] they refus'd to render so much as a reason for their so doing, or to refund any part of the money by them extorted."	We want to be able to communicate directly with the King when the assembly is unresponsive.

"14. That some method may be pointed out that every improvement on Lands in any of the Proprietors part be proved when begun, by whom, and every sale made, that the eldest may have the preference of at least 300 Acres."	A method needs to be created for the improvement of lands. Owners should be able to prove when improvements began, who made them, and what sales were made. Whoever had the oldest record would get at least 300 acres.
"15. That all Taxes in the following Counties be paid as in other Counties in the Province (i e) in the produce (goods) of the Country and that ware Houses be erected as follows:	
In Anson County at Isom Haleys Ferry Landing on PeDee River,	
Rowan and Orange at Cambleton in Cumberland County,	
Mecklenburg at —— on the Catawba River, and in	
Tryon County at —— on —— River."	
"16. That every denomination [religion] of People may marry according to their respective Mode Ceremony and custom after due publication or Licence.—"	
"17. That Doctor Benjamin Franklin or some other known patriot be appointed Agent, to represent the unhappy state of this Province to his Majesty, and to solicit the several Boards in England:—"	

"Dated October ye 9th 1769"

Signed by 355 Regulators

Categorize the demands of the Regulators and explain what they wanted to achieve:

Answer Key

What is a grievance?	What is a redress of a grievance?
A grievance is a complaint against the government.	A redress of a grievance is a solution that would address (or help to address) a complaint.

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"A few of the many grievances are as follows . . . "

Language from the Regulator Petition	Translation
"1. That the poor Inhabitants in general are much oppress'd by reason of disproportionate Taxes [taxes not tied to income], and those of the western Counties in particular; as they are generally in mean circumstances [poverty]."	The poor people, in the western counties in particular, have been oppressed by high taxes. Teacher's Note: North Carolina colonists were taxed the same amount, regardless of how much money they earned.
"2. That no method is prescribed by Law for the payment of the Taxes of the Western Counties in produce (in lieu of a Currency) as is in other Counties within this Province; to the Peoples great oppression."	Law does not set a method for how taxes will be paid.
"3. That Lawyers, Clerks, and other pentioners [<i>sic</i>]; in place of being obsequious [obedient] Servants for the Country's use, are become a nuisance, as the business of the people is often transacted without the least degree of fairness, the intention of the law evaded, exorbitant [very high] fees extorted, and the sufferers left to mourn under their oppressions."	Lawyers, clerks, and other people who work for the colony have become a nuisance because transactions are done without fairness. The law is not followed, high fees are charged, and we are left to suffer.
"4. That an Attorney should have it in his power, either for the sake of ease or interest, or to gratify [give satisfaction] their malevolence [doing evil] and spite [desire to hurt], to commence suits to what Courts he pleases, however inconvenient it may be to the Defendant: is a very great oppression."	A lawyer being able to start any lawsuits that they want, no matter how inconvenient it may be to the Defendant, is oppressive. Teacher's Note: Defendants also have to pay court fees, which makes this a double burden.
"5. That all unlawful fees taken on Indictment [formal charges], where the Defendant is acquitted [found not guilty] by his Country (however customary it may be) is an oppression."	Fees taken when someone is charged with a crime, but then found not guilty, are oppressive. Teacher's Note: Having to pay all the fees even if found not guilty happened only in North Carolina.

¹Teacher's notes have been added by historian Abby B. Chandler, Ph.D, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Answer Key (con't)

"6. That Lawyers, Clerks, and others, extorting [forcing] more fees than is intended by law; is also an oppression."	Lawyers, clerks, and others who work for the colonial government, collecting more fees than allowed by law is oppressive.
"7. That the violation of the King's Instructions to his delegates, their artfulness in concealing the same from him; and the great Injury the People thereby sustains: is a manifest oppression."	The people who work for the colonial government have been violating the King's instructions and keeping it from him, which is oppressive.

"And for remedy whereof, we take the freedom to recommend the following mode of redress"

Language from the Regulator Petition	Translation
"1. That at all elections each suffrage [voting] be given by Ticket & Ballot."	All elections should be done by a secret ballot.
"2. That the mode [method] of Taxation be altered, and each person to pay in proportion to the proffits [<i>sic</i>] arising from his Estate [property]."	The way taxes are collected should be changed so that everyone pays in proportion to their income.
"3. That no future tax be laid in Money, untill [<i>sic</i>] a currency [system of money] is made."	No future taxes should be created with money, until a currency is actually made.
	Teacher's Note: Three types of money were used in the colonies: coins, printed paper money, and commodities like tobacco, beaver skins, and wampum. Commodities were used when cash from Britain was scarce. As such, colonies began printing their own currencies, but the Currency Act of 1764 put restrictions on this practice and made it scarce.
"4. That there may be established a Western as well as a Northern and Southern District, and a Treasurer for the same."	We would like you to create a western, northern, and southern district and a treasurer for each district to make the money collection more fair.
"5. That when a currency is made it may be let out by a Loan office (on Land security) and not to be call'd in by a Tax."	When money is made, it should be lent by a bank with land to back it up and not be collected with a tax.
"6. That all debts above 40s (40 shillings = \pounds 2) and under \pounds 10 be tried and determined without Lawyers, by a jury of six freeholders, impanneled [<i>sic</i>] by a Justice, and that their verdict be enter'd by the said Justice, and be a final judgment."	All debts over 40 shillings and under £10 should be tried by jury and without lawyers. Teacher's Note: Lawyers were charging high fees. Also, during this time, people generally trusted justices and juries more than lawyers.
"7. That the Chief Justice have no perquisites [perks], but a Sallary [salary] only."	The Chief Justice should collect only a salary–no other perks.

Answer Key (con't)

"8. That Clerks be restricted in respect to fees, costs, and other things within the course of their office."	Clerks should be limited in the fees, costs, and other things they charge.
"9. That Lawyers be effectually [in effect] Barr'd from exacting and extorting fees."	Lawyers should be barred from charging high fees.
"10. That all doubts may be removed in respect to the payment of fees and costs on Indictments [formal charges] where the Defendant is not found guilty by the jury, and therefore acquitted [found not guilty]."	If someone is found not guilty, they should not have to pay any fees.
"11. That the Assembly make known by Remonstrance [protest] to the King, the conduct of the cruel and oppressive Receiver of the Quit Rents, for omitting the customary easie and effectual method of collecting by distress, and pursuing the expensive mode of commencing suits in the most distant Courts."	The legislature should let the King know when the person collecting land taxes is being cruel and oppressive in the collection of those taxes.
"12. That the Assembly in like manner make known that the governor and Council do frequently grant Lands to as many as they think proper without regard to Head Rights, notwithstanding the contrariety [opposition] of His Majesties Instructions; by which means immense sums has been collected, and numerous Patents granted, for much of the most fertile lands in this Province, that is yet uninhabited and uncultivated, environed by great numbers of poor people who are necessitated to toil in the cultivation of bad Lands whereon they hardly can subsist [survive], who are thereby deprived of His Majesties liberality and Bounty: nor is there the least regard paid to the cultivation clause in said Patent mentioned, as many of the said Council as well as their friends and favorites enjoy large Quantities of Lands under the above-mentioned circumstances."	The legislature should let it be known that the governor and his council frequently grant lands to people without regarding who owns the land, which goes against the King's instructions, even if large amounts of money have been paid for them. This is done so that only bad lands are left behind for poor people.
"13. That the Assembly communicates in like manner the Violation of His Majesties Instructions respecting the Land Office by the Governor and Council, and of their own rules, customs and orders, if it be sufficiently proved, that after they had granted Warrants for many Tracts of Land, and that the same was in due time survey'd and return'd, and the Patent fees timely paid into the said office; and that if a private Council was called on purpose to avoid spectators, and peremptory [orders that cannot be challenged] orders made that Patents should not be granted; and Warrants by their orders arbitrarily to have Issued in the names of other Persons for the same Lands, and if when intreated by a solicitor [asked by a lawyer] they refus'd to render so much as a reason for their so doing, or to refund any part of the money by them extorted."	We want to be able to communicate directly with the King when the assembly is unresponsive.

Answer Key (con't)

"14. That some method may be pointed out that every improvement on Lands in any of the Proprietors part be proved when begun, by whom, and every sale made, that the eldest may have the preference of at least 300 Acres."	A method needs to be created for the improvement of lands. Owners should be able to prove when improvements began, who made them, and what sales were made. Whoever had the oldest record would get at least 300 acres.
 "15. That all Taxes in the following Counties be paid as in other Counties in the Province (i e) in the produce (goods) of the Country and that ware Houses be erected as follows: In Anson County at Isom Haleys Ferry Landing on PeDee River, Rowan and Orange at Cambleton in Cumberland County, Mecklenburg at —— on the Catawba River, and in Tryon County at —— on —— River." 	All taxes need to be paid in individual places.
"16. That every denomination [religion] of People may marry according to their respective Mode Ceremony and custom after due publication or Licence.—"	Everyone, no matter their religion, may marry with the ceremony of their choice and custom after they paid for their license. Teacher's Note: The original Carolina Charter of 1663 legalized religious tolerance, and Governor Tryon was trying to undo that.
"17. That Doctor Benjamin Franklin or some other known patriot be appointed Agent, to represent the unhappy state of this Province to his Majesty, and to solicit the several Boards in England:—"	Ben Franklin should be made our agent to the King. Teacher's Note: In 1757, Franklin was sent to England by the Pennsylvania Assembly to protest against the political influence of the Penn family, so this would not have been an unreasonable wish.

"Dated October ye 9th 1769"

Signed by 355 Regulators