

*One of the Most Important
Early New York State Documents You've Never Heard Of*

Read the following excerpt from this document:

WE...Resolve never to become Slaves; and do associate under all the Ties of Religion, Honour, and Love to our Country, to Adopt and endeavor to Carry into Execution whatever Measures may be Recommended by the Continental Congress; or Resolved Upon by our Provincial Convintion or the purpose of preserving our Constitution....

Based on your prior knowledge, what can you tell about this document?

- **When was this document written?**

- **Who do you think wrote it?**

- **Why do you think it was written?**

- **Where do you think it was written?**

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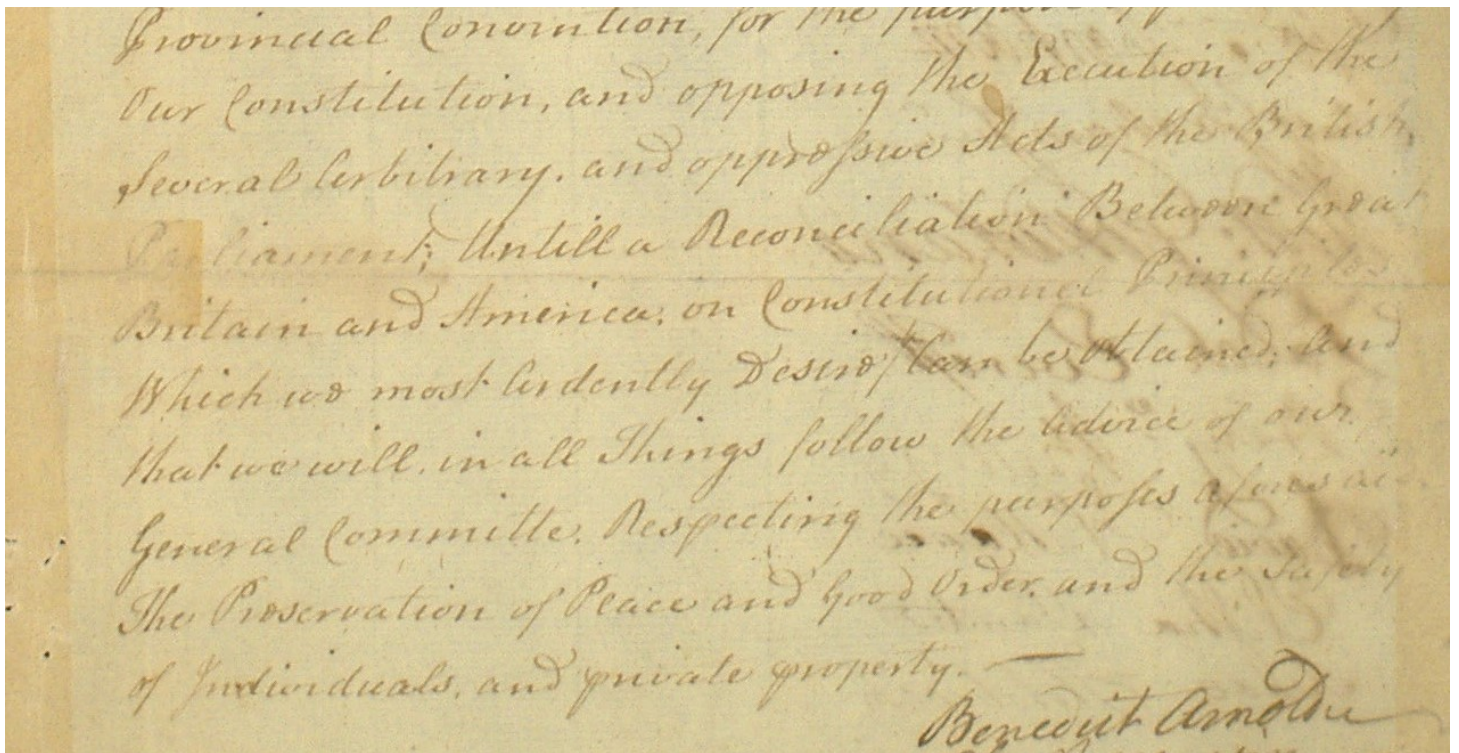
Read the following excerpt from this document:

Persuaded, that the Salvation of the Rights and Liberties of America, depends, Under GOD, on the firm Union of its Inhabitants, in a Vigorous Prosecution of the Measures necessary for its Safety And Convinced of the Necessity of preventing the Anarchy and Confusion which attend a Dissolution of the Powers of Government, WE, the Freeman, Freeholders, and Inhabitants of the Province of New York, being greatly alarmed at the avowed Design of the Ministry to raise a Revenue in America; and, Shocked by the bloody Scene now Acting in the Massachusetts Bay....

Re-write this excerpt in your own words:

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Read the following excerpt from this document:



Beginning with the second line, that starts “Our Constitution,” write, or transcribe, what this document says to the best of your ability.

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Now read the entire document:

Crown Point, 15th June, 1775

Persuaded, that the Salvation of the Rights and Liberties of America, depends, Under GOD, on the firm Union of its Inhabitants, in a Vigorous Prosecution of the Measures necessary for its Safety And Convinced of the Necessity of preventing the Anarchy and Confusion which attend a Dissolution of the Powers of Government, WE, the Freeman, Freeholders, and Inhabitants of the Province of New York, being greatly alarmed at the avowed Design of the Ministry to raise a Revenue in America; and, Shocked by the bloody Scene now Acting in the Massachusetts Bay, DO, in the most Solemn Manner Resolve never to become Slaves; and do Associate under all the Ties of Religion, Honour, and Love to our Country, to Adopt and endeavour to Carry into Execution whatever Measures may be Recommended by the Continental Congress; or Resolved Upon by our Provincial Convintion for the purpose of preserving our Constitution and opposing the Execution of the Several Arbitrary and oppressive Acts of the British Parliament; Untill a Reconciliation Between Great Britain and America, on Constitutional Principles Which we most Ardently Desire Can be obtained And that we will in all Things follow the Advice of our General Committee Respecting the purposes aforesaid, The Preservation of Peace and Good Order, and the Safety of Individuals, and private party.

Benedict Arnold

What can you tell about this document?

- **When was this document written?**
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This original document is in the archives at Fort Ticonderoga.

- **How might you be able to make elements of this document accessible to your students?**

- **How do you approach historical documents with students that use archaic, complicated word choice and structure?**

- **Is the claim that this is “One of the Most Important Early New York State Documents” valid or hyperbole?**