

Document Group 5A

Directions for Jury #5:

- Read your grievance. Decide as a group what it is accusing the King of and record that information on your Evidence Worksheet.
- Read each of your primary and secondary sources. Complete the Primary Source Analyzing Sheet that goes with it and then record which side it seems to support on your Evidence Worksheet. This will go quicker if your jury divides the sources and then shares the information gathered as a group.
- Share all collected information and discuss which side is MORE supported by the evidence given.
- On your evidence Worksheet, come up with your final verdict. Did the Colonists have a valid reason for including this grievance in the Declaration of Independence, or did the King have valid reasons for committing this “crime?” Is the grievance GUILTY or NOT GUILTY of falsely accusing the King? Be sure to use evidence from your sources to support your answer.

Excerpt from the Declaration of Independence

Grievance #5:

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments

Primary Sources:

- Jamestown Charter
- Massachusetts Government Act

Secondary Sources:

- History of US “A Taxing King”

Massachusetts Government Act

May 20, 1774

AN ACT for the better regulating the government of the province of the Massachusetts's Bay, *in* New England.

[Because Massachusetts has behaved badly, his Majesty can no longer trust Massachusetts to elect its councilors] Be it therefore enacted ..., that from and after August 1, 1774, so much of the charter ... [of 1691] ... which relates to the time and manner of electing the...counsellors for the said province, be revoked, ... and that the offices of all counsellors, elected and appointed... shall from thenceforth cease and determine: And that, from and after the said August 1, 1774, the council...of the said province for the time being, shall be composed of such of the inhabitants or proprietors of lands within the same as shall be thereunto nominated and appointed by his Majesty . . , provided, that the number of the...counsellors shall not, at any one time, exceed thirty six, nor be less than twelve.

II

...[The] counsellors...to be appointed as aforesaid, shall hold their offices respectively, for and during the pleasure of his Majesty....

III

That from and after July 1, 1774, [the governor can remove judges without the consent of council].

VI

... That, upon every vacancy of the offices of chief justice and judges of the superior court of the said province, from and after July 1, 1774, the governor [will appoint all judges]

VII

...[No town meeting may be held without the permission of the governor]

(3).
 Came by the Grace of God & Whereas our
 Loving and well Disposed Subjects Sir Thomas Gates and Sir George
 Somers Knights Sir Richard Hakluyt Clerk Robowdary of London
 and Edward Maria Wingfield Thomas Mannam and Raleigh
 Wythe Esqrs William Parker and George Peckham Gent and
 Divers Others of Our Loving Subjects have been humbly Vnto
 unto us that we would vouchsafe unto them our Licences to
 make habitation Plantation and to Dwell a Colony of
 Sundry of Our people into that part of America commonly
 called Virginia and other parts and Territories in America
 either Appertaining unto us or which are not now actually
 possessed by any Christian Prince or people Situate lying
 and being all along the Sea Coast between four and thirty
 Degrees of Northern Latitude from the Equinoctial Line and
 five and forty Degrees of the same Latitude and in the space
 lying between the same four and thirty and five and forty
 Degrees and the Islands thereunto adjacent and within
 one hundred miles of the Coast thereof and to that End
 for the more speedy accomplishment of their said intended
 plantation and habitation there are Desires to Divide
 themselves into two Several Colonies and Companies the
 One Consisting of Certain Knights Gentlemen Merchants
 and Other Adventurers of Our City of London and Towns
 which are and from time to time shall be bound unto
 them which Do Desire to begin their plantations and
 habitations in some full and convenient place between
 four and thirty and five and forty Degrees of the said
 Latitude all along the Coast of Virginia and Coast
 of America aforesaid And the Other Consisting of

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/colonial/jb_colonial_jamestown_3_e.html

CREDIT: "Charter for the Virginia Company of London, 1606," 1606. Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

The First Charter of Virginia

The Charter of 1606, also known as the First Charter of Virginia, is a document from King James I of England to the Virginia Company assigning land rights to colonists for the stated purpose of propagating the Christian religion. The land is described as coastal Virginia and islands near to the coast, but the surveying numbers correspond to modern day South Carolina to Canada. The land itself would remain the property of the King, with the London Company as the King's tenant, and the settlers as subtenants. The colony's government at first consisted of a council residing in London. The document designated the London Company as responsible for financing the project, which included recruiting settlers and providing for their transport and supplies.

King James I formed the Virginia Company, which itself consisted of a pair of separately managed companies called the London Company and the Plymouth Company. Both of these companies were to operate under the Charter of 1606, but in different regions within the same range, and without building colonies within 100 miles (160 km) of each other. The London company was a group of entrepreneurs from London to live and rule in North America. The Virginia Company started its settlement in Chesapeake, Virginia. King James has granted the Virginia Company the power and authority to operate and run their lives and to enjoy many freedoms, as indicated in

"which shall dwell and inhabit within every or any of the said several Colonies and Plantations, and every of their children, which shall happen to be born within any of the Limits and Precincts of the said several Colonies and Plantations, shall HAVE and enjoy all Liberties, Franchises, and Immunities, within any of our other Dominions, to all Intents and Purposes, as if they had been abiding and born, within this our Realm of England, or any other of our said Dominions."

The King has specified exactly where the colonists will reside. "between four and thirty Degrees and five and forty Degrees of the said Latitude, all amongst the said Coasts of Virginia and America, as that Coast lyeth". This is all the territory between South Carolina and Canada. He also specified the activities and rights that they may exercise, such as enjoying the "Lands, Woods, Soil, Grounds, Havens, Ports, Rivers, Mines, Minerals, Marshes, Waters, Fishings" amongst others.