



NSDAR COMMUNITY CLASSROOM COMMITTEE
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
LESSON PLAN TEMPLATE

Lesson Plans are to be completed using the format as noted below and be emailed as a PDF to communityclassroom@nsdar.org

Each plan must include ALL the components found on this template.

The lesson plan must be the original work of the contributor and include:

1. Cover Page (page 1)
2. Lesson Plan Template (page 2)

Plans are intended for use in schools, clubs, or other interested educational environments such as in a classroom, after school program, JAC, scouting program, etc.

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State: North Carolina

Date: 11/30/25

Topic: The Halifax Resolves

Grade Level: 6th-8th

Time allotment: 60 minutes

1. Check one or both:

- a. Addresses Common Core Standards
b. Addresses State Standards

Answer the remaining questions on the following page.

2. Identify the standards to be addressed
3. Statement of objective and lesson outcome
4. Materials, resources and technology to be used by teacher/students
5. Introduction of topic
6. Procedure for instruction
7. Lesson closure
8. Assessment of student understanding

Name: North Carolina's Call for American Independence

Lesson Plan Template: Questions 2 – 8
Feel free to use as many pages as necessary.

2. 4. Small Group Activity – Meet the Signers (15 minutes)

Divide students into groups of 3–4.

Each group gets a "Character Card" with one of the three key figures:

- Joseph Hewes
- William Hooper
- John Penn

Task: Read the short bio

Answer:

1. Comprehension: What role did this individual play in North Carolina's efforts toward American independence, and how did their actions connect to the Halifax Resolves?
 2. Analysis: How did this person's personal traits influence their effectiveness as a Patriot leader?
 3. Connection: In what ways did this individual's work in committees, voting, or attending Congress contribute to turning revolutionary ideas into concrete actions?
 4. Critical Thinking: Why was it important for each of these delegates to act according to instructions from their colony rather than solely on their own judgment?
 5. Synthesis: Based on this person's contributions, how would you evaluate their overall significance in moving North Carolina and the colonies toward independence?
- Create a quick "poster" or slide (digital or paper) to introduce their figure to the class.

*Optional: Assign roles like reader, note taker, presenter.

5. Share Out (10 minutes)

Groups quickly present (2 minutes per group) their historical figure.

As they present, the teacher records key traits or contributions on the board under each name.

6. Wrap-Up Discussion (5 minutes)

Ask the class:

- Why do you think North Carolina's action mattered so much?
- How do you think the Halifax Resolves influenced the Declaration of Independence?

Guide them to understand:

- It was the first colony to officially call for independence
- It helped give other colonies the courage and political power to follow
- It laid groundwork for the Declaration of Independence

7. Exit Ticket (5 minutes)

Prompt:

"Why should more people across the U.S. learn about the Halifax Resolves?"

What surprised or inspired you today?"

Students write 2–3 sentences and turn it in.

North Carolina's Call for American Independence



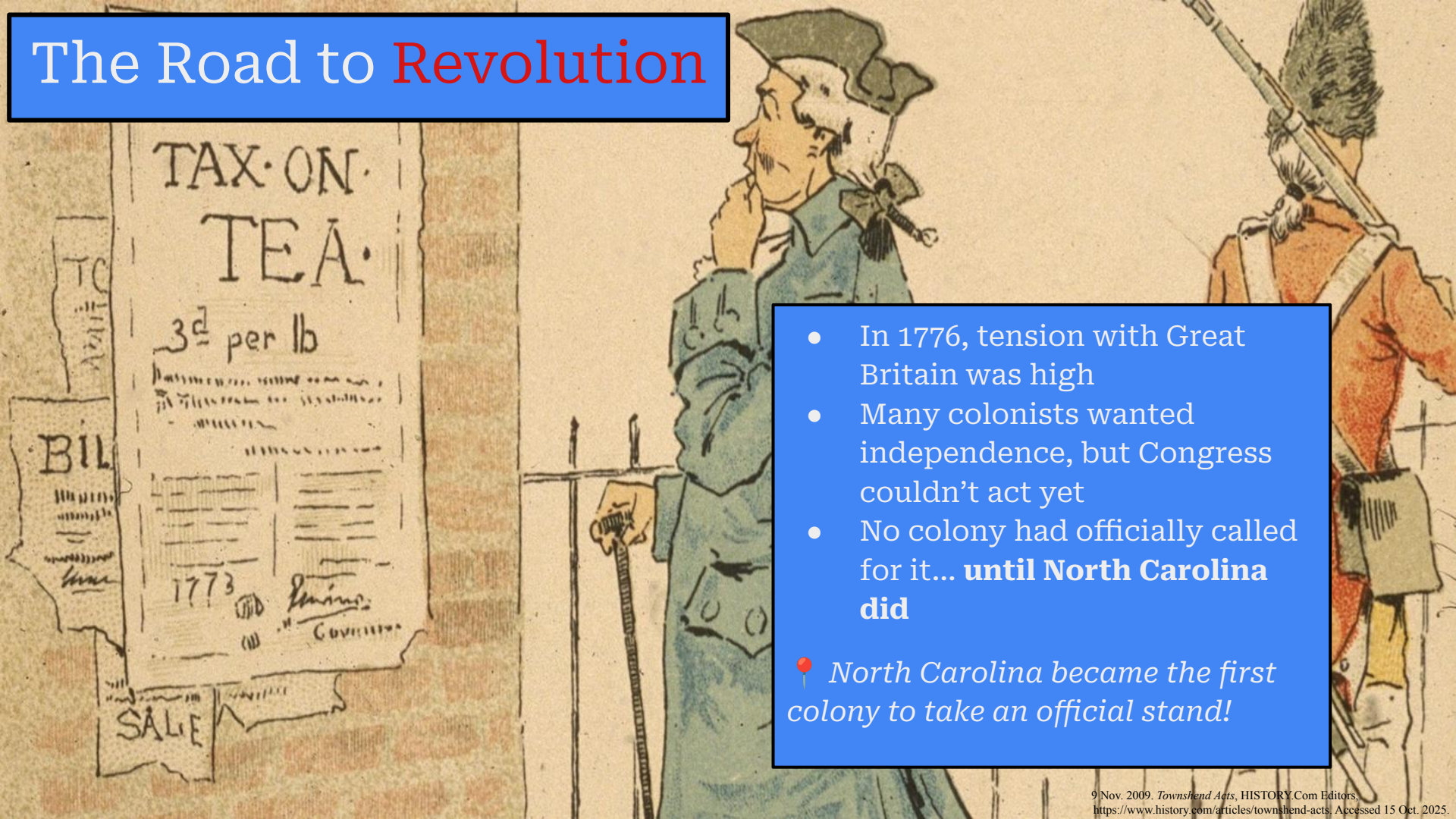
Halifax
Resolves

April 12, 1776

Today, You Will Learn:

- ✓ What the Halifax Resolves were
- ✓ Who helped create them
- ✓ Why they were important to the American Revolution
- ✓ How one colony helped change the course of history

The Road to Revolution



- In 1776, tension with Great Britain was high
- Many colonists wanted independence, but Congress couldn't act yet
- No colony had officially called for it... **until North Carolina did**
- *North Carolina became the first colony to take an official stand!*

What were the Halifax Resolves?


 **Adopted: April 12, 1776**

 **Location: Halifax, North Carolina**

 **What it was:** A resolution by NC's Fourth Provincial Congress

 **Why it mattered:**

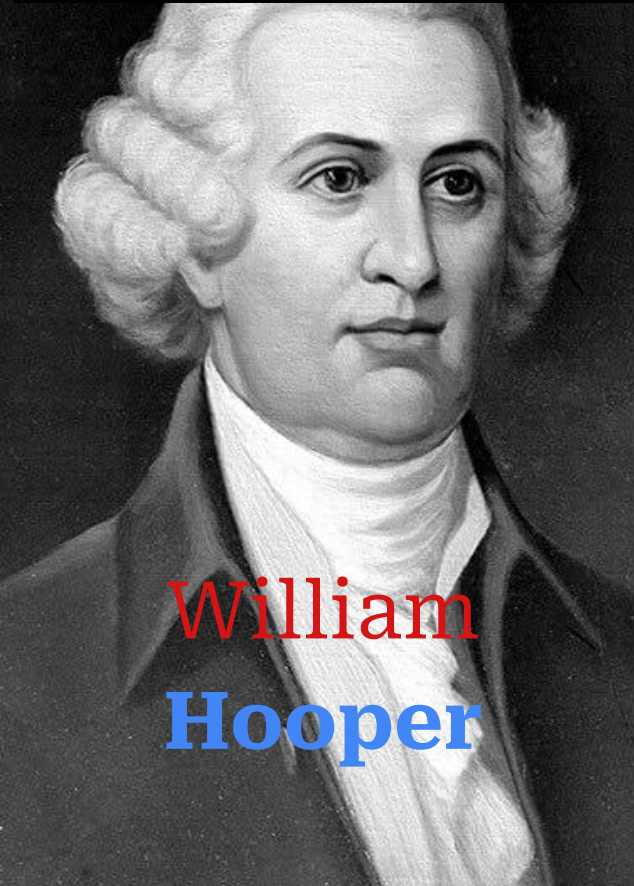
- First official call for independence from Great Britain



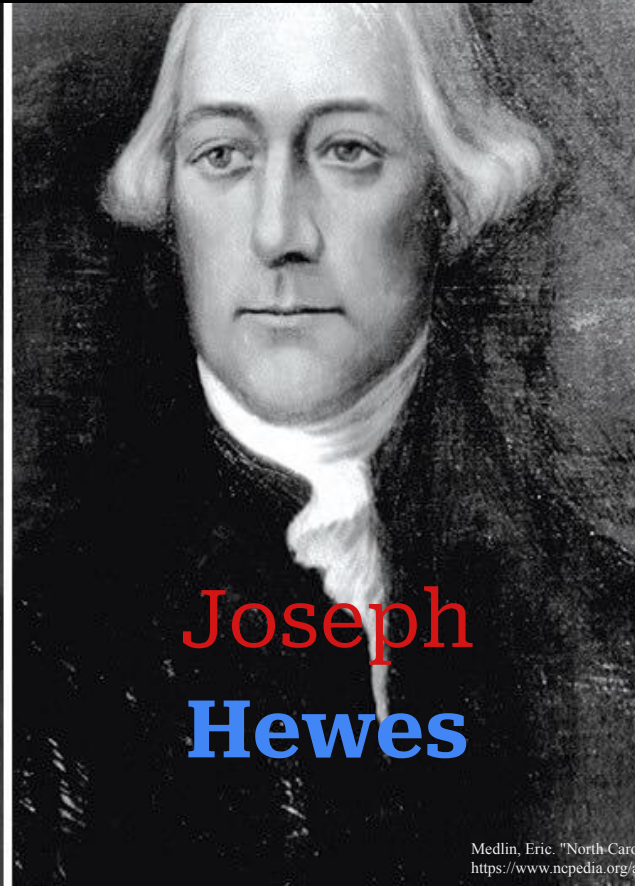
John Trumbull's painting *Declaration of Independence* shows the five-member committee presenting their draft of the Declaration to Congress. You can see this image on the back of the U.S. two-dollar bill, and the original painting is displayed in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. Hewes and Penn are positioned in the back row, and Hooper signed the document on August 2, 1776.

Meet the **Three Key Figures**

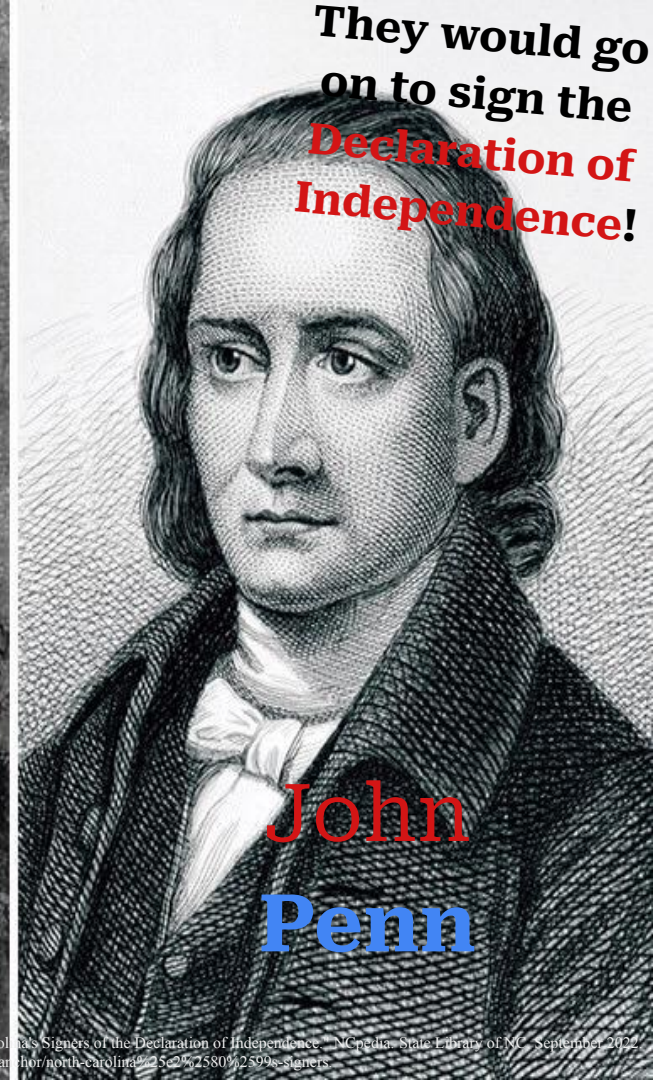
North Carolina's Delegates to the Continental Congress:



**William
Hooper**

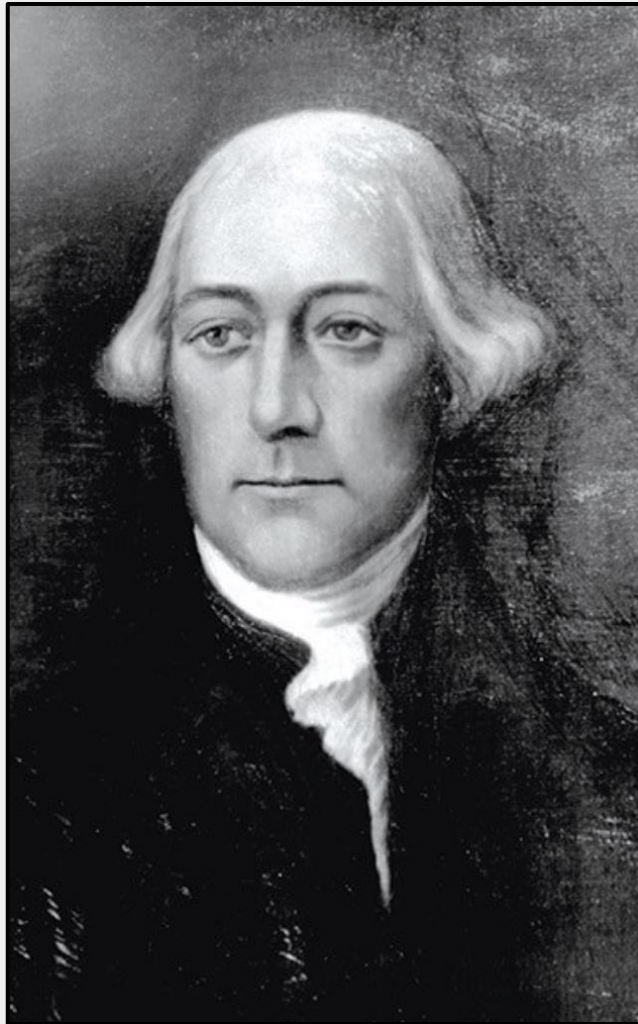


**Joseph
Hewes**



**John
Penn**

Joseph Hewes



🚢 Merchant from Edenton

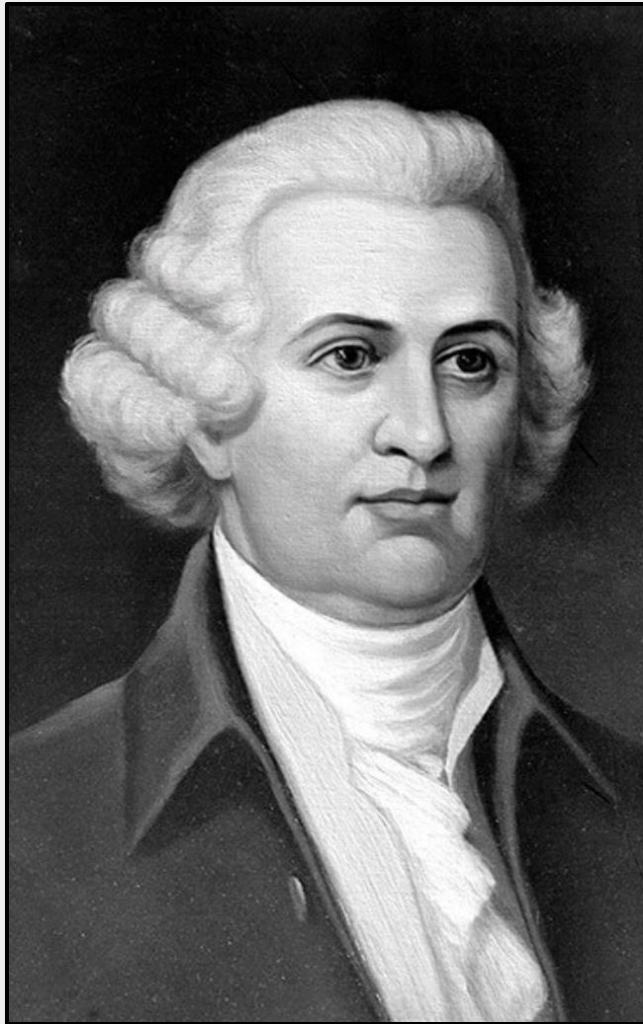
❤️ Known for kindness and intelligence

💔 Lost his fiancée and never married

🔧 Supported militia training and naval defense

✍️ Strong supporter of independence

William Hooper



⚖️ Lawyer from
Wilmington

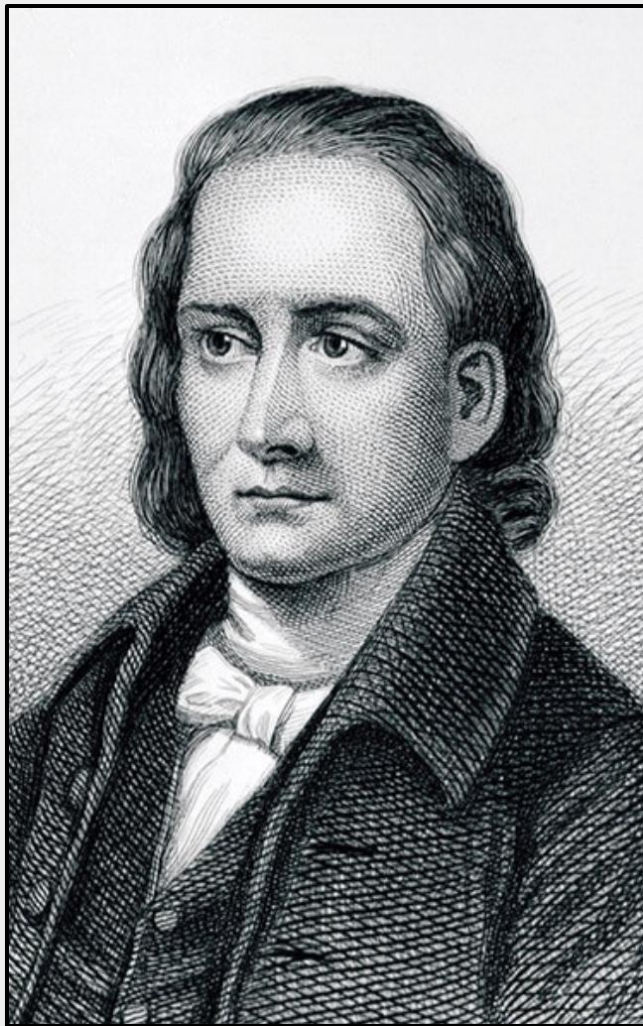
👑 Started as a Loyalist

😡 Changed views after
witnessing British
oppression

📁 Donated fortune
and career to the
revolution

✍️ Helped draft the
Declaration with
Jefferson

John Penn



📍 From Virginia,
moved to Granville
County, NC

📖 Self-taught lawyer

👑 Became a respected
NC political leader

✍️ Elected to
Continental Congress
in 1774

✍️ Signed the
Declaration of
Independence

Watch the **Reenactment**



As you watch, think about:

- What was the Halifax Resolves?
- Who were the leaders?
- Why did it matter?
- How did it influence the Declaration of Independence?



Take notes using the organizer provided.

Group Activity – Meet the Signers

 **Your group will explore one key figure:**

- Read the character card
- Answer 5 questions:
 1. **Comprehension:** What role did this individual play in North Carolina's efforts toward American independence, and how did their actions connect to the Halifax Resolves?
 2. **Analysis:** How did this person's personal traits (e.g., leadership, pragmatism, commitment) influence their effectiveness as a Patriot leader?
 3. **Connection:** In what ways did this individual's work in committees, voting, or attending Congress contribute to turning revolutionary ideas into concrete actions?
 4. **Critical Thinking:** Why was it important for each of these delegates to act according to instructions from their colony rather than solely on their own judgment?
 5. **Synthesis:** Based on this person's contributions, how would you evaluate their overall significance in moving North Carolina and the colonies toward independence?

 Create a quick poster or slide to present to the class!

Whole-Class **Discussion**

Let's reflect together:

- Why did NC take the lead?
- How did the Halifax Resolves help other colonies?
- What if this had never happened?

 *One colony's bold move helped inspire a new nation.*

Exit Ticket



Answer one of the following:

1. Why should more people learn about the Halifax Resolves?
2. What surprised or inspired you the most today?



Turn it in before you leave!

Key Takeaways

The Halifax Resolves:

- Were the **first official call for independence**
- Came from **North Carolina**, April 12, 1776
- Influenced the **Declaration of Independence**
- Shows how ordinary people helped shape a nation

 **North Carolina led the way!**

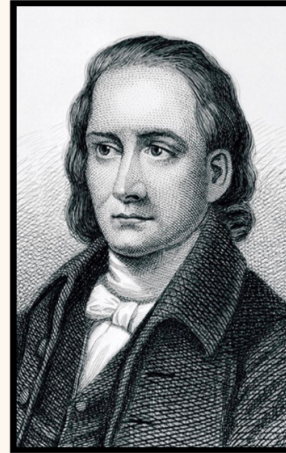
Name: _____

What were the Halifax Resolves? 📜	Who were the key figures involved? 💪	Why was this event important? 🗣️	How did North Carolina's actions affect the rest of the colonies? 🇺🇸

Name: John Penn 🧑⚖️
Era: American Revolution
(1770s) 🇺🇸

Affiliation: Patriot 🦊; North
Carolina Delegation 📄

Role: Lawyer ⚖️, Statesman
🏛️, Delegate to the
Continental Congress 🏛️



Background

By 1776, John Penn was an established North Carolina delegate to the Continental Congress. He returned home with fellow delegate William Hooper to attend the Fourth Provincial Congress at Halifax, arriving on 15 April 1776, shortly after the adoption of the Halifax Resolves 🗳️.

Key Traits

- **Resolute & Composed:** Calm and steady during political upheaval.
- **Dependable Leader** 🧡: Trusted to uphold and act on North Carolina's directives.
- **Committed Patriot** 🦊: Willing to travel, serve, and support the independence movement at critical moments.

Major Contributions

- **Presence at Halifax** 🏛️: Though he did not participate in the vote on the Halifax Resolves, Penn remained in Halifax through the close of the Congress, contributing to its work and direction.
- **Reelected Delegate** ✅: He was reelected to the Continental Congress, now with explicit instructions to support independence—formalizing his role in carrying out the colony's new mandate.
- **Casting North Carolina's Independence Vote** 🗳️: Returning to Philadelphia in June 1776, Penn joined Joseph Hewes and William Hooper in casting North Carolina's vote for independence on 2 July 1776 🏛️, directly helping fulfill the charge given by the Halifax Resolves.

Overall Significance

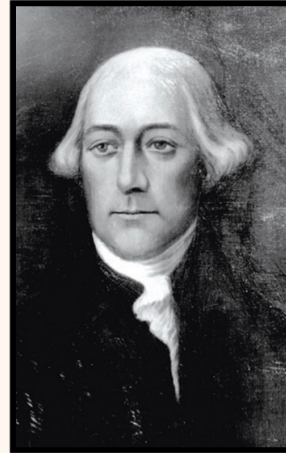
John Penn stands as a steadfast figure in North Carolina's journey toward independence ⚡. His presence at Halifax, reelection under the new mandate, and decisive vote in Philadelphia helped translate the Halifax Resolves from provincial declaration into national action.

Name: Joseph Hewes 🧑

Era: American Revolution
(1770s) 🇺🇸

Affiliation: Patriot 🦊; North Carolina Delegation 📄

Role: Statesman, Merchant 🛒, Delegate to the Continental Congress 🏛️



Background

By early 1776, Joseph Hewes was already an influential North Carolina representative in the Continental Congress. As tensions with Britain escalated 🔪, he sought direct guidance from his colony on the critical question of independence.

Key Traits

- **Pragmatic & Politically Astute** 🧠: Sought clarity and authority before committing to revolutionary actions.
- **Courageously Pro-Independence** 🦊: Became one of the earliest North Carolina leaders to fully endorse separation from Britain.
- **Steadfast & Principled** 🟡: Acted decisively once given proper authorization.

Major Contributions

- **Catalyst for Clear Instructions** ⚡: Pressed North Carolina for an explicit stance on independence during a critical moment of uncertainty.
- **Halifax Resolves Empowerment** 🗳️: On 12 April 1776, the Fourth Provincial Congress adopted the Halifax Resolves, granting Hewes and his fellow delegates the authority to “concur ... in declaring Independency.” Though Hewes was not physically present in Halifax, the Resolves directly empowered his actions.
- **Vote for Independence** ✅: After receiving the instructions, Hewes strongly supported independence. Alongside John Penn and William Hooper, he cast North Carolina’s vote for independence on 2 July 1776 in Philadelphia 🏛️—firmly backing the mandate of the Halifax Resolves.

Overall Significance

Joseph Hewes played a decisive role in aligning North Carolina with the movement for American independence ⚡. His commitment to the Halifax Resolves and his vote in Philadelphia placed him among the earliest and strongest champions of full separation from Britain.

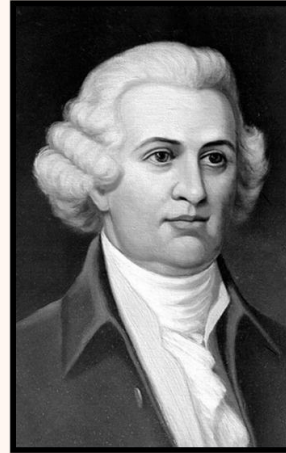
Name: William Hooper 🧑⚖️

Era: American Revolution

(1770s) 🇺🇸

Affiliation: Patriot 🇺🇸; North Carolina Delegation 📄

Role: Statesman, Delegate to the Continental Congress 🏛️



Background

A prominent Patriot leader from North Carolina, William Hooper was already serving as a delegate to the Continental Congress when he arrived at the Fourth Provincial Congress in Halifax on 15 April 1776, just days after the adoption of the landmark Halifax Resolves 📄.

Key Traits

- **Dedicated Revolutionary** 🇺🇸: Deeply committed to the cause of American independence.
- **Organized & Strategic** 📄: Skilled in managing logistics, secrecy, and political structure.
- **Leadership-Oriented**: Regularly placed in roles of oversight and coordination.

Major Contributions

- **Halifax Congress Leadership** 🏛️: Though he did not participate in the passage of the Halifax Resolves, Hooper immediately took on essential responsibilities to carry their mission forward.
- **Committee Chairmanship** 🗣️: Appointed chair of the committee responsible for procuring ammunition and war supplies for North Carolina.
- **Architect of Governance** 📄: Served on committees dealing with:
 - Drafting a civil constitution 📄
 - Managing secrecy, war, and intelligence operations
 - Organizing a temporary state government 🏛️
- **Continental Congress Delegate** 🇺🇸: Reappointed—alongside Joseph Hewes and John Penn—to the Continental Congress. There, he continued advocating for the independence movement that the Halifax Resolves pushed toward full realization.

Overall Significance

William Hooper stands as a vital figure who helped move North Carolina—and the colonies at large—from revolutionary sentiment to organized action ⚡, playing a pivotal role in the early steps toward American independence.