

## **LESSON PLAN: "...A LITTLE REBELLION NOW AND THEN..." A Documentary Lesson on Shays's Rebellion**

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### **Overview (2-3 sentences)**

This lesson is a document-based lesson on Shays's Rebellion from several different points of view: various Shaysites, Gov. James Bowdoin, Gov. John Hancock, George Washington, Abigail Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. After an introduction, students will read and discuss excerpts from statements and letters written at the time of the rebellion. In small groups students will prepare an editorial page on the topic of Shays's Rebellion as an extension activity.

### **Objectives (2-3 bullet points)**

#### **Students will:**

- Review background information on Shays's Rebellion;
  - Read, interpret, and discuss excerpts from original statements and letters written by participants in Shays's Rebellion and others (Washington, Abigail Adams, Jefferson) who reacted to it
  - Work in small groups to produce an editorial page on Shays's Rebellion demonstrating a knowledge of the facts, issues, opinions, and consequences of the rebellion.
- Materials (List at least one document)

#### **Attached readings include:**

Reading One: "...I Have Been Greatly Abused..." statement by Plough Jogger, a Shaysite, c. 1780

Reading Two: "...The Late Risings of the People..." address by Daniel Gray to Hampshire County, late 1786

Reading Three: Hampshire Country Grievances written by Thomas Grover, December 7, 1786

Reading Four: "...This High-Handed Offence..." proclamation by Gov. James Bowdoin of Mass., 1786

Reading Five: "... No Morn Ever Dawned More Favourable..." letter from Washington to Madison, Nov. 5, 1786

Reading Six: Letter from Abigail Adams to Thomas Jefferson, Jan. 29, 1787

Reading Seven: "...A Little Rebellion Is A Good Thing..." letter from Jefferson to Madison, Jan. 30, 1787

Reading Eight: A Proclamation by Gov. John Hancock of Mass., June 15, 1787

#### **Recommended Time (Number of class periods/time of class periods)**

One class period to read and discuss the excerpts from statements and letters relevant to Shays's Rebellion.

One to two class periods to produce the editorial page.

#### **Activity Outline (Complete the following sections)**

I. Context (Have the students answer the following questions for all documents in the Activity)

- a. When was this document written?
- b. Where was this document written?
- c. Who wrote this document?
- d. What type of document is this?
- e. What is the purpose of this document?
- f. Who is the audience for this document?

## **II. Warm-Up (2-3 sentences)**

If using an American history textbook, have students read appropriate passages in the text about Shays's Rebellion. If no text is available, or additional information is needed, these four websites offer excellent background information:

[shaysnet.com/dshays.html](http://shaysnet.com/dshays.html)

[www.sjcs-history.org/shays.html](http://www.sjcs-history.org/shays.html)

[www.famousamericans.net/danielshays](http://www.famousamericans.net/danielshays)

[www.eh.net/bookreviews/ll...0550.shtml](http://www.eh.net/bookreviews/ll...0550.shtml) - This is a review (and summary) of

Leonard Richards'

book *Shays's Rebellion: The American Revolution's Final Battle*. The book was referenced by Dr. Stuart

Leibiger in his lecture on Shays at Mount Vernon.

[socsci.gulfcoast.edu/dreese/shayind.htm](http://socsci.gulfcoast.edu/dreese/shayind.htm) - Go to this site for copies of letters from Gen. Shepard and Gen. Lincoln to Massachusetts Governor Bowdoin giving details of the battle against Shays and his followers at the Springfield federal arsenal.

## **III. Activity (6-10 sentences)**

Divide the class into home groups of eight students.

Assign a student from each home group to one of the eight readings accompanying this lesson. If some groups have fewer than eight students, assign some students more than one reading. Each group should have someone responsible for each of the readings. Reassemble the class into eight groups, one group for each reading. The students in these groups become experts on their assigned reading.

Students then reassemble in their home groups, where the "experts" on each reading lead a discussion of their reading.

## **IV. Extensions**

Explain that each of the home groups has now become an editorial staff for a newspaper. To demonstrate mastery of the issues surrounding Shays's Rebellion each staff is to prepare an editorial page for a newspaper on the topic. Students should select an appropriate name for their newspaper.

The teacher should have on hand several samples of editorial pages from newspapers to guide students in their work. USA Today offers a good model for students to follow.

Each member of the editorial staff is responsible for writing or creating at least one of the following opinion/editorial features for the page:

- a. Editor's column: a piece laying out the facts surrounding the rebellion and asking the question: Should Daniel Shays be pardoned?

- b. "PRO" editorial: an editorial taking the position that Daniel Shays should be pardoned and allowed to return to Massachusetts from Vermont with full citizenship rights, presenting arguments to support this position.
- c. "CON" editorial: an editorial taking the position that Daniel Shays should not be pardoned but returned to Massachusetts for prosecution, presenting arguments to support this position.
- d. Editorial cartoon: The cartoon may reflect any opinion associated with Shays's Rebellion. Stick figures may be used. [a cartoon from 1786 can be found at [www.historyteacher.net/US...omise.html](http://www.historyteacher.net/US...omise.html)]
- e. Guest column: a piece reflecting the alarm Washington and others felt upon learning about Shays's Rebellion.
- f. Letter(s) to the editor: letter(s) from participants in the Rebellion, either as Shaysites or as part of the military force of Massachusetts.
- g. Quote lines: a section of quotes from persons involved in the rebellion and the controversy surrounding it (see the readings).
- h. Opinion poll/man on the street: one person in the group is responsible for compiling statements from each person in the group about how the issue of Shays's pardon should be decided.

After each team member has completed a task for the editorial page, exchange pieces for editing and comments, and make needed revisions.

Type or neatly print each of the articles. If computers with appropriate software are available, students may layout their editorial page on the computer. If not, use butcher paper to layout the articles to create the page. Be sure to include a "publisher's information" section listing the names of students who compiled the page. At the top of the page, put the name of the newspaper and the date of publication. Other graphic elements may also be included.

When finished, students should present and share their pages.

## **ATTACHMENTS – READINGS ON SHAYS'S REBELLION**

### **READING ONE: "...I HAVE BEEN GREATLY ABUSED..."**

In the western counties of Massachusetts there were a number of illegal conventions in the 1780's to protest the new state constitution and the general direction being taken by the state government. The constitution increased the property requirements for voting. Plough Jogger, an assumed name, was a delegate to one of those conventions, and this printed report of what he said illustrated the attitudes of the poor in that state just before Shays' Rebellion.

Read Plough Jogger's statement and answer the questions below:

- a. When was the document written?
- b. Where was it written?
- c. Who wrote it?
- d. What type of document is it?
- e. What is the purpose of the document?
- f. What is the intended audience of the document?
- g. What are Plough Jogger's chief complaints?

I've labored hard all my days and fared hard. I have been greatly abused, have been obliged to do more than my part in the war; been loaded with class rates, town rates, province rates, Continental rates and all rates... been pulled and hauled by sheriffs, constables and collectors, and had my cattle sold for less than they were worth. I have been obliged to pay and nobody will pay me. I have lost a great deal by this man

and that man and t'other man, and the great men are going to get all we have and I think it is time for us to rise and put a stop to it, and have no more courts, nor sheriffs, nor collectors nor lawyers, and I know that we are the biggest party, let them say what they will. We've come to relieve the distresses of the people. There will be no court until they have redress of their grievances.

Zinn, Howard (ed.), *The People Speak – American Voices, Some Famous, Some Little Known*, Harper Collins, New York, 2004, pp. 5-6

## **READING TWO: "...THE LATE RISINGS OF THE PEOPLE..."**

Later in his life Daniel Shays wrote of his justification for his actions, "In the rebellion of 1786-1787 I was fighting the same battle of the people which I had fought in the Revolution." Shays and his followers saw themselves not as rebels, but as Regulators of a government gone awry. Daniel Gray, as chairman of a committee of rebels protesting the Massachusetts debtors' plight, wrote an address to the people of Hampshire County in late 1786. In the address, Gray enumerated the causes for the riots that were staged under the leadership of Daniel Shays.

Read Daniel Gray's address and answer the questions below:

- a. When was the document written?
- b. Where was it written?
- c. Who wrote the document?
- d. What type of document is it?
- e. What is the purpose of the document?
- f. Who is the intended audience for the document?
- g. What are the reasons Gray states for the actions of Shays' rebels? Does he welcome the idea of British help for his cause?

Gentlemen:

We have thought proper to inform you of some of the principal causes of the late risings of the people and also of their present movements, viz.:

1. The present expensive mode of collecting debts, which by reason of the great scarcity of cash will of necessity fill our jails with unhappy debtors, and thereby a reputable body of people rendered incapable of being serviceable either to themselves or the community.
  2. The monies raised by impost and excise being appropriated to discharge the interest of governmental securities, and not the foreign debt, when these securities are not subject to taxation.
  3. A suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, by which those persons who have stepped forth to assert and maintain the rights of the people are liable to be taken and conveyed even to the most distant part of the commonwealth, and thereby subjected to an unjust punishment.
  4. The unlimited power granted to justices of the peace, and sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and constables by the Riot Act, indemnifying them to the prosecution thereof; when perhaps wholly actuated from a principle of revenge, hatred, and envy.
- Furthermore, be assured that this body, now at arms, despise the idea of being instigated by British emissaries, which is so strenuously propagated by the enemies of our liberties; and also wish the most proper and speedy measures may be taken to discharge both our foreign and domestic debt.

Per Order,

Daniel Gray, Chairman of the Committee

[tomscourses.tripod.com/shays1.htm](http://tomscourses.tripod.com/shays1.htm)

### READING THREE: HAMPSHIRE COUNTY GRIEVANCES

Hampshire County, Massachusetts, which in 1786 stretched from the top of the state to the bottom, from the Vermont-New Hampshire border to Connecticut, provided more than half the insurgents who joined in Shays's Rebellion. Nearly 1,800 men from the county answered the call. This letter, written by Thomas Grover, appeared in the Hampshire Herald on December 7, 1786.

Read the article by Thomas Grover and answer the questions below:

- a. When was the document written?
- b. Where was it written?
- c. Who wrote the document?
- d. What type of document is it?
- e. What is the purpose of the document?
- f. What is the intended audience for the document?
- g. What actions does Grover advocate to correct some of the grievances of the Shaysites?

It has somehow or other fallen to my lot to be employed in a more conspicuous manner than some others of my fellow citizens in stepping forth on defense of the rights and privileges of the people, more especially of the county of Hampshire. Therefore, upon the desire of the people now at arms, I take this method to publish to the world of mankind in general, particularly the people of this Commonwealth, some of the principal grievances we complain of and of which we are now seeking redress, and mean to contend for, until a redress can be obtained, which we hope, will soon take place; and if so, our brethren in this Commonwealth that do not see with us as yet shall find we shall be as peaceable as they be. In the first place, I must refer you to a draft of grievances drawn up by a committee of the people, now at arms, under the signature of Daniel Gray, chairman, which is heartily approved of; some others also are here added, viz.:

1. The General Court, for certain obvious reasons, must be removed out of the town of Boston.
2. A revision of the constitution is absolutely necessary.
3. All kinds of governmental securities, now on interest, that have been bought of the original owners for 2 shillings and the highest for 6 shillings 8 pence on the pound, and have received more interest than the principal cost the speculator who purchased them -- that if justice was done, we verily believe, nay, positively know, it would save this Commonwealth thousands of pounds.
4. Let the lands belonging to this Commonwealth, at the eastward, be sold at the best advantage to pay the remainder of our domestic debt.
5. Let the monies arising from impost and excise be appropriated to discharge the foreign debt.
6. Let that act passed by the General Court last June by a small majority of only seven, called the Supplementary Act, for twenty-five years to come, be repealed.
7. The total abolition of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace.
8. Deputy sheriffs totally set aside as a useless set of officers in the community; and constables, who are really necessary, be empowered to do the duty, by which means a large swarm of lawyers will be banished from their wonted haunts, who have been more damage to the people at large, especially the common farmers, than the savage beasts of prey.

To this I boldly sign my proper name, as a hearty wellwisher to the real rights of the people.

[tomscourses.tripod.com/shays1.htm](http://tomscourses.tripod.com/shays1.htm)

#### **READING FOUR: "...THIS HIGH-HANDED OFFENCE..."**

With economic conditions worsening in Massachusetts in the 1780's, desperate farmers in the western part of the state demanded cuts in property taxes and the adoption of laws to postpone farm foreclosures. Eastern creditors persuaded the Massachusetts Senate to reject a relief measure passed by the lower house of the legislature in 1786. Local courts began to seize property, farm tools, and even furniture and clothing of farmers who could not pay their taxes and other debts. On August 29, 1786, a thousand farmers in Northhampton County shut down the county court, the first of several such actions. Governor James Bowdoin issued a proclamation in early September condemning the action, calling it a "high-handed offence."

Read the excerpt from Governor Bowdoin's proclamation and answer the questions below:

- a. When was the document written?
- b. Where was it written?
- c. Who wrote the document?
- d. What type of document is it?
- e. What is the purpose of the document?
- f. Who is the intended audience for the document?
- g. How does Gov. Bowdoin describe the actions that took place at Northampton on August 29, 1786?
- h. What does Gov. Bowdoin state is the ultimate purpose of those who took control of the court in Northampton?
- i. What order does Gov. Bowdoin issue?

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
By His Excellency, James Bowdoin  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

#### **A PROCLAMATION**

Whereas information has been given to the Supreme Executive of this Commonwealth, that on Tuesday last, the 29th of August, being the day appointed by law for the sitting of the Court of Common Pleas and Court of General Sessions of the Peace, at Northampton...a large concourse of people, from several parts of that county, assembled at the Court-House...many of whom were armed with guns, swords, and other deadly weapons, and with drums beating and fifes playing, in contempt and open defiance of the authority of this Government, did, by their threats of violence and keeping possession of the Court-House until twelve o'clock on the night of the same day, prevent the sitting of the Court, and the orderly administration of justice in that county:

And whereas this high-handed offence is fraught with the most fatal and pernicious consequences, must tend to subvert all law and government; to dissolve our excellent Constitution, and introduce universal riot, anarchy, and confusion, which would probably terminate in absolute despotism, and consequently destroy the fairest prospects of political happiness, that any people was ever favoured with:

I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of the Council, to issue this Proclamation, calling upon all Judges, Justices, Sheriffs, Constables, and other officers, civil and military within this Commonwealth, to prevent and suppress all such violent and riotous proceedings....

[www.digitalhistory.uh.edu](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu) (From the collection of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History)

## READING FIVE: "...NO MORN EVER DAWNED MORE FAVOURABLE..."

The disturbance in Massachusetts was not an isolated phenomenon. Disgruntled Pennsylvanians prevented a sheriff from selling cattle seized for taxes. The Charles County courthouse in Maryland was closed down by a mob for similar reasons. Judges in Camden, South Carolina were forced to flee ahead of a threatening group of insurgents. Tax records in King William County, Virginia were destroyed when angry rebels burned down the courthouse. Upon hearing reports of these uprisings and watching the Continental Congress ineffective attempts to control them, George Washington became more and more alarmed. "I am mortified beyond expression..." he wrote to one correspondent. To former aide Henry Knox he exclaimed in a letter, "Good God! Who besides a Tory [Loyalist] could have forseen or a Briton predicted them!" Writing to James Madison, a young Virginian whose political abilities had impressed him, Washington reported on what Knox had told him about the troubles in Massachusetts and urged Madison to persuade the Virginia legislature to take the lead in calling for reform of the federal government. [The spelling and punctuation are Washington's.]

Read Washington's letter to Madison and answer the questions below:

- a. When was the document written?
- b. Where was it written?
- c. Who wrote it?
- d. What type of document is it?
- e. What is the purpose of the document?
- f. What is the audience for whom the document is intended?
- g. What about Knox's report on Massachusetts seems to alarm Washington the most?
- h. What does Washington fear will be the ultimate result of the disturbances?
- i. What does Washington see as the solution to the situation?

Mount Vernon 5th Novr 1786.

My dear Sir,

I thank you for the communications in your letter...

Let prejudices, unreasonable jealousies, and local interest yield to reason and liberality. Let us look to our National character, and to things beyond the present period. No Morn ever dawned more favourable than ours did--and no day was ever more clouded than the present! Wisdom, & good examples are necessary at this time to rescue the political machine from the impending storm. Virginia has now an opportunity to set the latter, and has enough of the former, I hope, to take the lead in promoting this great & arduous work. Without some alteration in our political creed, the superstructure we have been seven years raising at the expence of much blood and treasure, must fall. We are fast verging to anarchy & confusion!

A letter which I have just received from Genl Knox, who had just returned from Massachusetts (whither he had been sent by congress consequent of the commotion in that State) is replete with melancholy information of the temper & designs of a considerable part of that people. Among other things he says, "there creed is, that the property of the United States, has been protected from confiscation of Britain by the joint exertions of all, and therefore ought to be the common property of all. And he that attempts opposition to this creed is an enemy to equity & justice, & ought to be swept from off the face of the Earth. They are determined to annihilate all debts public & private, and have Agrarian Laws, which are easily effected by the means of unfunded paper money which shall be a tender in all cases whatever." He adds, "The numbers of these people amount in Massachusetts to about one fifth part of several populous Counties, and to them may be collected, people of similar sentiments from the States of Rhode Island, Connecticut, &

New Hampsh[ire] so as to constitute a body of twelve or fifteen thousand desperate, and unprincipled men. They are chiefly of the young & active part of the Commun[ity].

How melancholy is the reflection that in so short a space, we should have made such large strides towards fulfill[ing] the prediction of our transatlantic foes! --"leave them to themselves, and their government will soon dissolve." Will not the wise & good strive hard to avert this evil? Or will their supineness suffer ignorance, and the arts of selfinterested designing disaffected & desperate characters, to involve this rising empire in wretchedness & contempt? What stronger evidence can be given of the want of energy in our governments than these disorders? If there exists not a power to check them, what security has a man of life, liberty, or property? To you, I am sure I need not add aught on this subject, the consequences of a lax, or inefficient government, are too obvious to be dwelt on. Thirteen Sovereignities pulling against each other, and all tugging at the fœderal head, will soon bring ruin on the whole; whereas a liberal, and energetic Constitution, well guarded & closely watched, to prevent incroachments, might restore us to that degree of respectability & consequence, to which we had a fair claim, & the brightest prospect of attaining--With sentiments of the sincerest esteem & regard I am--  
Dear Sir Yr Most Obedt & Affecte Hble Servt

Go. Washington

From The Papers of George Washington, Confederation Series, 4:331-32.  
[gwpapers.virginia.edu](http://www.gwpapers.virginia.edu)

### **READING SIX: ABIGAIL ADAMS TO THOMAS JEFFERSON REGARDING SHAYS'S REBELLION**

Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams, developed into a notable letter writer, largely because of her husband's frequent and lengthy absences on matters of state. When Adams became the first American ambassador to Great Britain, she joined him in London. From London, she wrote to Thomas Jefferson on January 29, 1787 to offer her appraisal of Shay's Rebellion; Jefferson was then in Paris serving as American ambassador to France.

Read the letter and answer the questions below:

- a. When was the document written?
- b. Where was it written?
- c. Who wrote it?
- d. What type of document is it?
- e. What is the purpose of the document?
- f. What is the audience for the document?
- g. How does Mrs. Adams characterize the leaders of the rebellion?
- h. What does Mrs. Adams say are the grievances stated by the rebels?
- i. In the last paragraph, what possible good does Mrs. Adams see as a result of the tumult?
- j. Writing from London, from what source would you speculate that Mrs. Adams received her information about the rebellion?

[London, January 29, 1787]

With regard to the tumults in my native state which you inquire about, I wish I could say that report had exaggerated them. It is too true, sir, that they have been carried to so alarming a height as to stop the courts of justice in several counties. Ignorant, restless desperados, without conscience or principles, have led a deluded multitude to follow their standard, under pretense of grievances which have no existence but in their

imaginations. Some of them were crying out for a paper currency, some for an equal distribution of property. Some were for annihilating all debts, others complaining that the Senate was a useless branch of government, that the court of common pleas was unnecessary, and that the sitting of the General Court in Boston was a grievance. By this list you will see the materials which compose this rebellion, and the necessity there is of the wisest and most vigorous measures to quell and suppress it. Instead of that laudable spirit which you approve, which make a people watchful over their liberties and alert in the defense of them, these mobbish insurgents are for sapping the foundation, and destroying the whole fabric at once.

But as these people make only a small part of the state, when compared to the more sensible and judicious, and although they create a just alarm, and give much trouble and uneasiness, I cannot help flattering myself that they will prove salutary to the state at large, by leading to an investigation of the causes which have produced these commotion's. Luxury and extravagance, both in furniture and dress, had pervaded all orders of our countrymen and women, and has hastened fast to sap their independence by involving every class of citizens in distress, and accumulating debts upon them which they were unable to discharge. Vanity was become a more powerful principle than patriotism. The lower order of the community were pressed for taxes, and though possessed of landed property they were unable to answer the demand, whilst those who possessed money were fearful of lending, lest the mad cry of the mob should force the legislature upon a measure very different from the touch of Midas.

J.P. Boyd, ed., 'The Papers of Thomas Jefferson' (1955), XI 86-87 (Jan. 29, 1787) Also found at [www.gigo-soapbox.org/gigo...00613.html](http://www.gigo-soapbox.org/gigo...00613.html)

#### **READING SEVEN: "...A LITTLE REBELLION...IS A GOOD THING..."**

Thomas Jefferson was the successor to Benjamin Franklin as American minister to France, serving from 1785 to 1789. This letter about Shays's Rebellion was written from Paris to James Madison on January 30, 1787. The complete crushing of the uprising had not yet occurred.

Read the excerpt from Jefferson's letter to Madison and answer the questions below:

- a. When was the document written?
- b. Where was it written?
- c. Who wrote it?
- d. What type of document is it?
- e. What is the purpose of the document?
- f. What is the audience to whom the document is addressed?
- g. What does Jefferson cite as the cause of the "late troubles in the Eastern states?"
- h. What is Jefferson's view of rebellion?

Dear Sir,

. . . I am impatient to learn your sentiments on the late troubles in the Eastern states. So far as I have yet seen, they do not appear to threaten serious consequences. Those states have suffered by the stoppage of the channels of their commerce, which have not yet found other issues. This must render money scarce and make the people uneasy. This uneasiness has produced acts absolutely unjustifiable; but I hope they will provoke no severities from their governments. A consciousness of those in power that their administration of the public affairs has been honest may, perhaps, produce too great a degree of indignation; and those characters, wherein fear predominates over hope, may apprehend too much from these instances of irregularity. They may conclude too hastily that nature has formed man insusceptible of any other government than that of force, a conclusion not founded in truth nor experience. ...

Even this evil is productive of good. It prevents the degeneracy of government and nourishes a general attention to the public affairs. ... I hold that a little rebellion now and

then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical. Unsuccessful rebellions, indeed, generally establish the encroachments on the rights of the people which have produced them. An observation of this truth should render honest republican governors so mild in their punishment of rebellions as not to discourage them too much. It is a medicine necessary for the sound health of government. ...

Yours affectionately,  
Th. Jefferson

[tomscourses.tripod.com/shays1.htm](http://tomscourses.tripod.com/shays1.htm)

### **READING EIGHT: A PROCLAMATION BY GOV. JOHN HANCOCK**

Shays's Rebellion came to an end in February, 1787, following defeats at Springfield and Petersham. Shays and many of the other leaders fled to Vermont. The ordinary rebels who remained behind were offered peace terms by the legislature and Gov. Bowdoin under terms of the Disqualification Act of February 16, 1787. They had to surrender their arms, admit they had rebelled against the state, take an oath of allegiance, and pay a small fee to a justice of the peace who certified they had met the conditions. For up to three years they could not vote, hold office, serve on juries, teach school, work in a tavern or inn, or sell liquor, but these restrictions could be lifted as early as May 1, 1788, if they could show they had become good citizens again. The state agreed not to prosecute them in return for meeting these conditions, saving them from possible beatings, fines, or hanging.

In the election of April, 1787, the disqualification kept turnout low, but Bowdoin was soundly defeated by a three to one margin by John Hancock. The new legislature restored voting rights to some four thousand Shaysites who had taken the oath of allegiance, and Hancock signed a full indemnification (pardon) for all but a handful.

Below are excerpts from Gov. Hancock's pardon. Read the selection and answer the following questions:

- a. When was this document written?
- b. Where was it written?
- c. Who wrote it?
- d. What type of document is it?
- e. What is the purpose of the document?
- f. Who is the audience for the document?
- g. What is promised the rebels? What requirements must the rebels meet before being granted indemnification?
- h. Who is prevented from receiving the pardon and why are they excluded, according to the proclamation?

BY HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN HANCOCK,

Esquire, Governour of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

A Proclamation.

WHEREAS the Legislature of this Commonwealth, with an intention, "not only to adopt very vigorous and efficacious method, necessary to suppress the present traitorous opposition to the laws, and to restore peace and harmony to the Commonwealth, but also to repeat the offers of grace and mercy to the penitent citizen, and to extend the same as far as may be consistent with the true interest of the Commonwealth, and the security of her citizens in future;" have, a resolve of the thirteenth day of June, instant, made provision ... that, "each and every citizen of this Commonwealth, who have committed

any treasons or misprisions of treason against the same, since the first day of June, A. D. 1786, be ... thereby discharged of all pains, penalties, disqualifications and disabilities of the law in such case, made and provided: Provided, that pursuant to the said resolve such of said offenders, who have not taken and subscribed the oath of allegiance to this Commonwealth, since the first day of June, A. D. 1786, shall take and subscribe the said oath, before any Justice of the Peace within the Commonwealth, on or before the twelfth day of September next; excepting out of the same indemnification, as well all such persons as had been convicted of such crimes by due course of law, as Daniel Shays, of Pelham,

Gentleman, Luke Day, of West-Springfield, Gentleman, both of the county of Hampshire, and Lieutenant-Colonel William Smith, of the same county, Eli Parsons, of Adams, Gentleman, Perez Hamlin, of Lenox, Yeoman, Elisha Manning, of a place called the Eleven Thousand Acres, Yeoman, David Dunham, of Sheffield, Yeoman, Ebenezer Crittenden, of Sandisfield, Yeoman, Jacob Fox, of Washington, Gentleman, all within the county of Berkshire, whose crimes are so atrocious, and whose obstinacy so great, as to exclude them from an offer of that indemnification, which is extended to those who have been misled, and are not so flagrantly guilty...

GIVEN at the COUNCIL-CHAMBER, in BOSTON, the fifteenth day of JUNE, in the year of our LORD, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, and in the eleventh year of the INDEPENDENCE of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.

JOHN HANCOCK.

[www.americancenturies.mas...g=0&level=advanced&transcription=1](http://www.americancenturies.mas...g=0&level=advanced&transcription=1)