

NAME _____

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

DATE _____

MR. O'CONNOR

THE OLIVE BRANCH PETITION

Soon after the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, the Second Continental Congress sent one last petition to King George III, seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict. This document is known as the Olive Branch Petition. Read the following edited excerpt of the petition and answer the questions that follow.

Your majesty's advisors have proceeded to open hostilities against us, they have forced us to take up arms in our own defense, and involved us in this terrible dispute. We, your still faithful colonists, are distressed by the thought of opposing you in this contest, and also by what the consequences may be if it continues.

We think ourselves required by obligations to Almighty God, to your Majesty, to our fellow-subjects and to ourselves, to immediately use all means in our power without putting our safety at risk, to stop the shedding of blood, and to avoid the coming dangers that threaten the British Empire.

We are truly devoted to your Majesty, your family and your government: connected with Great Britain by the strongest ties that can unite societies, and we deplore anything that would weaken this connection. We heartily assure your Majesty that we deeply desire that the former harmony between Britain and her colonies may be restored.

We therefore beg your Majesty that measures may be taken for preventing the further destruction of the lives of your Majesty's subjects, and that the Intolerable Acts, which cause immediate distress to your Majesty's colonies, be repealed.

July 8, 1775
Second Continental Congress
Philadelphia

Over

1. According to this document, who was to blame for the problems between the colonists and the king?

2. What are two ways in which the colonists show they are still loyal to the king.

3. Name two things the colonists asked for in this document.
