



Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Lesson Plan

Name: _____
Subject: _____

Date: _____
Period: _____

<u>Objectives:</u>	The students will analyze trying times and issues that demand(ed) strong local leadership in Charlotte/Mecklenburg County in the 1770s, past decades, current events, and in looking ahead to the future of our community.
<u>Warm-Up:</u>	Quiz the students on the history of the hornet/hornet's nest and patriotic titles in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (Charlotte Hornets, CMPD badges, Hornet's Nest Park, Hornet's Nest Elementary School, Independence Blvd., Independence High School, Freedom Park, Founder's Hall, etc.).
<u>Introduction:</u> (Teacher Input)	The teacher will introduce the students to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of 1775, complete with a photocopy of the "MecDec," and then read it aloud to/with the class. They will then discuss the significance of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County as it pertains to the American Revolution.
<u>Guided Practice:</u>	<p>The teacher will engage the students in an open discussion, asking the students to contribute their thoughts about the "MecDec." The teacher will also ask the students if they recognize any of the last names associated with the "MecDec" from around our city (streets, etc.).</p> <p>The discussion could then shift to one on "leadership," especially as it pertains to local officials and how they address the needs of the community. The teacher should be prepared to introduce multiple issues and/or events that have shaped our city and county (the American Revolution, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights era, Hurricane Hugo, Charlotte as a banking/industry leader, transportation, changes in local needs, etc.).</p>
<u>Independent Practice:</u>	<p>The students will make lists of problems and issues that they believe residents of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have faced since the establishment of our community. These could include 1775, the mid-1800s, the 1930s, the 1960s, current events, and/or potential issues that our community may face in the future.</p> <p>The students will then compose a short essay or opinion-based editorial based around the many struggles and victories of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County through the years, and what is required of current/future leaders to ensure that our community continues to grow and prosper in the years ahead.</p>
<u>Closure:</u>	Returning to a class discussion (perhaps on the following day), students will share their thoughts and ideas with their classmates.

Essential Question: (Up to the individual teacher)

NCSCOS Addressed In Lesson: (May vary)

Materials Needed For Lesson: U.S. History textbook, Photocopies of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, pictures of references to hornets/hornet's nests & patriotic titles from around Charlotte, paper, pens/pencils/highlighters.