

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION IN NORTH CAROLINA

THE REGULATOR REBELLION

- ◆ **Learning Outcome:** Students can describe the causes of the Regulator Rebellion and explain how they are similar to the causes of the American Revolution.



Before there was the American Revolution, there was a “Regulator Revolution” in North Carolina (which historians call the Regulator Rebellion). The **grievances** and ideas that inspired the Regulator Rebellion are similar to those that would eventually cause the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War.

The American Revolution took place from 1775 to 1783. American colonists fought for their independence from the government of Great Britain — and won. Many Americans who fought for the independence of the United States believed in **the principle of self-rule**: the idea that large groups of people who live near each other and share the same language and traditions should not be ruled by some outside person or group living in another land.

Many of the Americans who fought for independence also believed that all people have a **natural right** to choose the leaders who will represent them. This idea is called **representative government**. One of the slogans that was commonly heard during the American Revolution was “No taxation without representation!” In other words, if a government is going to use its **authority** to take people’s hard-earned money through **taxation**, the people should get to choose the leaders who will make tax laws and other laws. Also,

many supporters of the American Revolution believed that laws should be applied equally to both the rich and the poor. This idea is called **equality under the law**. In the 1770s, North Carolina citizens were among the first to speak out in favor of independence based on the principles of self-rule, representative government, and equality under the law.

However, even before the American Revolution, as early as 1768, a group of North Carolinians fought to defend their natural rights. They called themselves **Regulators**.

VOCABULARY WORDS

- ◆ Grievances
- ◆ The principle of self-rule
- ◆ Natural right
- ◆ Representative government
- ◆ Authority
- ◆ Taxation
- ◆ Equality under the law
- ◆ Regulators
- ◆ Petitions
- ◆ Battle of Alamance

WHO WERE THE REGULATORS?

At that time, North Carolina was a colony of Great Britain (one of the 13 British colonies that became the original 13 states, which united to become the United States of America). As a colony,

