

Name: _____

Directions: Answer all questions in complete sentences.

Legislative Petition Opposing The Quartering Act, 1767

Source: New York General Assembly, Petition to the Royal Governor, Sir Henry Moore, 15 December 1766 (published in the New-York Mercury, 24 December 1766)

We, His **Majesty's** most loyal Subjects, the **General Assembly** of the Colony of New York, have taken your message of the 17th of November, into our most serious Consideration: and beg Leave to assure your **Excellency** that nothing would give us a greater Pleasure than to find it in our Power to comply with every request. It is therefore with great Concern that we find it impossible to obey with what is now demanded, consistent with our responsibilities to the citizens of the colony...

Majesty: King of England

General Assembly: Law making body of the colony

Excellency: A title given to certain officials.

1. Who wrote the petition?

2. Who is being written to?

3. What are the writers saying they want to do? Can they do this?

In the law we made last meeting for **quartering** Two Battalions and one Company of Artillery, we took on a **Burden** much greater than any of the other colonial governments for that Service, and imagined that, far from being hurt on that Account, it would be accepted as a new Instance of Loyalty and Affection to His **Majesty's** Government, of which this Colony has shown so many times.

Quartering: Providing a place to stay for soldiers

Burden: Problem

4. What did the colony do?

5. Why did they do this?

6. Did it hurt or help them?

We beg your Excellency that, by the Act of Parliament, it appears to be their Intention to provide for the quartering Soldiers only on in March; but according to our interpretation, it is required that all the Forces which shall at any Time enter this Colony, shall be quartered during the whole Year, in a very unusual and expensive Manner: That by marching several **Regiments** into this Colony, this Expense would become disastrous and unsupportable;

And, therefore, we cannot be consistent with our Duty to our citizens, put it in the Power of any Person...to lay such a Burden on them.

Regiments: A group of soldiers

7. What does parliament want the colonies to do?

8. Why can't the colonies do this?