Student Resource Page 4-4 Original Documents Colonial Newspapers Publish Calls for Separation from Britain

Directions: Read the five selections below and then answer the questions.

1. Boston Chronicle

John Dickinson

The LIBERTY SONG. In FEEDOM we're born &c.

COME join hand in hand brave Americans all,

And rouse your bold hearts at fair Liberty's call; no tyrranous

acts shall suppress your just claim, Or stain with dishonour AMERICA's name

In freedom we're born and in FREEDOM we'll live,

Our purses are ready,

Steady, Friends, steady

Not as SLAVES but as FREEMEN our Money we'll give....

— 5 September, 1768

2. Virginia Gazette

Anonymous

Thus we shall see, and triumph in the Sight,

While Malice frets and fumes, and gnaws her Chains;

AMERICA shall blast her fiercest Foes,

Shall brave the dismal shocks of bloody war,

And in unrivall'd Pomp resplendent rise,

And shine sole Empress of the WESTERN WORLD.

—19 May, 1774

3. New Hampshire Gazette and Historical Chronicle

Anonymous

What! Can those British tyrants think

Our Fathers crossed the main:

And savage Foes and Dangers met,

To be enslav'd by them?

If so, they are mistaken, For we will rather die;

And since they have become our Foes

Their Forces we defy.

And all the world shall know,

Americans are free;

Nor slaves nor cowards we will prove—

Great Britain soon shall see.

— 12 September 1775

Source: David Copeland. *Debating the Issues in Colonial Newspapers: Primary Documents on Events of the Period.* Greenwood Press, 2000, pp. 346, 347, 351.

- 1. Why do you think two of these writers chose to be anonymous?
- 2. What do you think the words "dismal shocks of bloody war" in the *Virginia Gazette* meant to George Washington and other veterans of the French and Indian War?
- 3. Two of the writers mention being "slaves" or "enslav'd. What do they mean by "slavery" in this context?

Take It Further: Write a poem reflecting the views of Chief Pontiac or Mary Jemison in answer to these poems; who would be the "tyrant" and "slave" in their poems?