

## Lord Dunmore's Declaration

**John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore** (1730 – 1809), generally known as **Lord Dunmore**, was Scottish nobility and a colonial governor in the American colonies. Murray was named governor of the Province of New York in 1770, and then was made governor of the Colony of Virginia the following year. In 1775, Patriots had taken over Virginia. In desperation, Lord Dunmore issued a declaration against the rebel Patriots.

Read the statement by Lord Dunmore below:

- summarize the statement in your own words in the *left margin*
- answer the analysis question based on your knowledge of the subject in the *right margin*

Lord Dunmore sent this declaration to the rebel Patriots in Virginia:

“I do require every person capable of bearing arms to resort to His Majesty's standard, or be looked upon as traitors to His Majesty's Crown and government, and [be subject to] penalty . . . such as [loss] of life, confiscation of lands, etc. And I do hereby further declare all indentured servants, negroes, or others [in service to rebels] free that are able and willing to bear arms, they joining His Majesty's troops as soon as may be. . . .”

—from Proclamation of Lord Dunmore, November 1775

Why would servant and slaves be willing to join the King's army?

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### Central Idea Questions:

1. How might American Patriots in Virginia accuse Lord Dunmore of being unfair?

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2. Why would the American Patriots be concerned about Lord Dunmore's declaration?

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