

\_\_\_\_\_ answer the following questions:

1. Who wrote common sense?
2. What was common sense?
3. What impact did common sense have on the colonist?

Next, read the Introduction from Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* and answer the questions that follow.

## **Thomas Paine, *Common Sense***

### **Introduction**

Perhaps the sentiments contained in the following pages are not yet sufficiently fashionable to procure them general favor; a long habit of not thinking a thing *wrong* gives it a superficial appearance of being right, and raises at first a formidable outcry in defense of custom. But the tumult soon subsides. Time makes more converts than reason.

As a long and violent abuse of power is generally the means of calling the right of it in question (and in matters, too, which might never have been thought of, had not the sufferers been aggravated into the inquiry), and as the King of England has undertaken in his own right to support the Parliament in what he calls theirs, and as the good people of this country are grievously oppressed by the combination, they have an undoubted privilege to inquire into the pretensions of both and equally to reject the usurpation of either.

The cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind. Many circumstances have and will arise which are not local but universal, and through which the principles of all lovers of mankind are affected and in the event of which their affections are interested. The laying a country desolate with fire and sword, declaring war against the natural rights of all mankind, and extirpating the defenders thereof from the face of the earth is the concern of every man to whom nature has given the power of feeling, of which class, regardless of party censure.

4. What reasons does Paine give for uprising against the king?
5. What do you think Paine meant when he said, "The cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind"?