

SOCIAL STUDIES – WEEK #6

Colonial America - Taxation Without Representation

"Oh, my friends, more is brewing in our thirteen colonies than tea. There is tension and conflict between friends and brothers. There is talk of treason ... punishable by death! Should we colonists remain true to King George III and our beloved mother country, England? Should we try to take on the soldiers of the King and fight for liberty or at least, representation in Parliament on the issues related to we colonists? After all, our good King, is making our lives miserable with his Acts and taxes!

Taxes are not our only problem. The British government has that huge debt to pay for the French and Indian War. The war was fought to protect us, the American colonies and Parliament is looking for a way to pay it off. Taking money of our pockets was the easiest way for His Majesty to get his funds.

We have dealt with the Stamp Act, the Declaratory Act, the Quartering Act, the Sugar Tax, taxes on glass, paper, paint colors, and certainly let us not forget the tax on tea! This angered all of us; however, our fine friends in Massachusetts created quite a stir with their rebellion against the tax on tea. Can you imagine dressing as Indians, in the middle of the night, boarding that ship loaded with thousands of dollars worth of tea and just dumping it all in the harbor? This seems to be the final straw before we are seriously at war. I must say friend, I would have enjoyed seeing the expressions on the faces of the authorities when they saw the precious tea floating in Boston Harbor the next morning!"

As you scroll through the lesson, please review the glossary of terms. The colonists in the video speak very formally and to understand some of their words, it will be helpful to know the definitions.

Glossary of Terms

TERMS	MEANINGS RELATED TO THE VIDEO
ABOLISHED	To formally put an end to s system or practice, like a tax
ALTERED	To change
BLOCKADE	Sealing off a place to prevent goods or people from entering or leaving
BONDAGE	Being held like a slave
BOYCOTT	To stop making purchases from a certain country or store causing financial harm
COMMITTEES	A group of people formed to do a specific job
COMRADES	Friends or companions
COUNTENANCED	To see something as acceptable or possible
COVENANT	An agreement
DEFIANT	To be uncooperative
DISSENT	To disagree
ENSLAVE	To take away someone’s human rights
EXCESSIVE	More than normal or necessary; too much
GRIEVANCES	A complaint or protest, especially in response to unfair treatment
HIS MAJESTY	King George III
INDENTURED SERVANTS	Men and women who signed a contract which they agreed to work for a certain number of years in exchange for transportation to Virginia and, once they arrived, receive food, clothing, and shelter
INDICTED	To be accused of a serious crime
INFLATING	Increasing prices
INTIMIDATE	To frighten someone, especially to make them do what one wants
LOYALISTS	A person who remains loyal to King George III and England
MALCONTENTS	A person who is dissatisfied, rebellious, and/or a troublemaker
OPPRESSED	A person that is being harshly treated, especially by an authority figure
PARTAKE	To participate
PATRIOTS	A person who strongly supports their country and is prepared to defend it against enemies. In this case, the new nation, America.

PETITION	A formal written request, usually one signed by many people, asking authority to change a rule or law
PLIGHT	A dangerous, difficult situation
POLITICIANS	A person who is professionally involved in part of government, often in an elected position
PORTS	A town or city with a harbor where ships load or unload, especially one where customs officers are stationed.
PROVISIONS	Supplies
RADICAL	Very different ideas, often unheard of by others
REGIMENT	A unit of an army
REPEALED	To get rid of a law or rule
SOLEMNLY	In a very formal, fancy, or dignified way
SONS OF LIBERTY	The Sons of Liberty was a secret revolutionary organization that was founded by Samuel Adams
STRIFE	Angry or bitter disagreement over an issue causing conflict
TESTIMONY	A formal written or spoken statement, especially one given in a court of law
TRAITORS	A person who betrays a friend or country
TREASON	The crime of betraying one's country, especially by attempting to kill the King or overthrow the government
TYRANNY	Cruel and oppressive government or rule. The opposite of freedom, democracy and liberty

Watch the Colonists in Williamsburg discuss [Taxes, Tea and Tyranny](#). On the link above, you may have to press "Ctrl" as you click on it. When you get to the site, you will be asked for a username and password.

Your username is: **SudleyStudent**

Your password is: **Sudley4**

Assignment Choice Board

Write an article for the local newspaper or a letter to a family member that is living in another colony. Take it from the viewpoint of one of the people you choose to be below. Use your imagination and try to feel the emotions that these people had felt. Send your article or letter to me through email or a picture by text/email. You may choose one of these ideas:

Email: pakem@pwcs.edu

Text: 717-881-1980

<p>You are captain of one of the ships in Boston and your cargo (tea) was thrown over the side of the ship.</p>	<p>You are a local merchant and the citizens will not buy from you because you are a loyalist. They are boycotting your store.</p>	<p>You are a member of Parliament and are outraged by the behavior of the colonists.</p>
<p>You are a small farmer. You live off your land and see no need to be involved in this political nonsense.</p>	<p>You are a domestic slave. You heard your master talking of politics and claiming to be slaves to England. They have no idea what it is really like to be a slave! Tell your story.</p>	<p>You are a milliner (a maker or seller of hats) and you are distressed! You have to bite your tongue (keep your opinion to yourself). You are loyal to Great Britain. To keep yourself safe, you want to return to the Mother Country.</p>
<p>You are a Virginia House of Burgesses Member. How dare the Crown (King George III) think of closing the Port of Boston? We will be next! Our very rights and protections will be erased by that foolish Parliament!</p>	<p>You heard the speech given by Patriot, Patrick Henry. You are a patriot, also. Report what you heard and what you saw.</p>	<p>You are a slave. You've been told by both the British and the Patriots that if you join them in their fight, you'll be given freedom. You've seen the British professional soldiers with their fancy uniforms and guns. You've seen the Patriots and they don't seem to know much about war. Write to your brother, a slave in North Carolina and tell him what side you will take and why.</p>