

Rising Tensions: Taxation Timeline & Tax Simulation

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will explain the sequence and purpose of British taxation acts and colonial reactions leading to revolution.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- index cards (6+)
- string or ribbon
- tape
- play money or paper cutouts (optional)
- notebook

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Research 5 key British acts, such as the Sugar Act, Stamp Act, Townshend Acts, Tea Act, and Intolerable Acts, and write each on its own index card with the year and a one-sentence description.
2. Arrange and tape the cards in chronological order along a string or wall to build a timeline.
3. Under each card, write one colonial response, such as a boycott, protest, or committee of correspondence.
4. Run a simple simulation: using paper 'money,' have a family member play the role of Britain and 'tax' 3 of your own everyday items without asking you first; write down how this made you feel and connect it to colonial frustration.
5. Write a 3-sentence summary explaining the phrase 'No taxation without representation' in your own words.

QUESTIONS

1. What was the Stamp Act, and how did colonists react to it?
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2. What does 'No taxation without representation' mean?
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3. How did the simulation activity help you understand colonial frustration?

4. Which act do you think angered colonists the most, and why?
