

Name: _____

Taxation Without Representation

Let's play a game. I am going to give you ten pieces of candy. Then I am going to call out the name of an item. If you have that item, you are to give me some of your candy. I will tell you how much. If you run out of candy before the game is over, you can no longer play. Ready? Here we go. Are you wearing shoes? If you are, give me two pieces of your candy. Do you have two eyes in your head? If so, give me three pieces of candy. Do you have brown hair? Give me three pieces of your candy. Do you wear glasses? Give me two pieces of your candy. If you have any candy left, you may eat it.

Some of you have lots of candy left. Some of you have none. Was that a fair game? What you just did was pay taxes. I took candy away from you if you had something I wanted to tax. Your parents pay taxes every year for services the government gives them. You pay a small tax every time you go to the store to buy something. When the first people settled in our country, they had to pay taxes to the king back in England.

The early colonists did not like the taxes the king wanted. They wanted to spend their money making things better here in America. They didn't want their money to go back to England. They talked to the king about his taxes. He wouldn't listen. They asked the king to let them decide what to tax. He said, "No." How would you feel if this had happened to you? The colonists got so angry they threw a whole boatload of tea into the harbor in Boston. The people wanted to make their own rules. In the end, they fought a war with England for their freedom from paying taxes. Would you be willing to fight for something you thought was unfair? They did.

You might be asking yourself, "Why did the king want to tax the colonists, anyway?" That would be a very good question. In this case, the king had spent a great deal of money from his country's treasury for other things. One of the things he had used the money for was to pay the soldiers who fought wars for him. One of the recent wars had been against France. It had taken place right here in America. The king thought that this was good enough reason to make the colonists pay taxes to England. He chose what he wanted to tax. He chose how much tax to charge. He took the colonists' money just like I took your candy in our pretend game. Was it fair? You need to look at both sides of the disagreement. Some of the money was used for the protection of the colonists. Some of it was not. How did it make you feel?

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Questions

- _____ 1. What would be a good definition for the word taxes?
- A. money paid to a government for services
 - B. money used to build a castle
 - C. money in a piggy bank
 - D. money saved in a bank

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2. True or false? The colonists liked paying taxes.

3. True or false? The colonists wanted to help decide what was taxed.

4. Why do you think the king would not talk to the colonists?

- _____ 5. What is one thing the colonists did to show the king that they were unhappy?

- A. They stopped working.
- B. They threw a shipment of tea into Boston harbor.
- C. They wrote him a letter.
- D. They yelled at the king.

- _____ 6. What did the colonists want from the king?

- A. They wanted to make their own rules.
- B. They wanted to win a game.
- C. They wanted to pay more taxes.
- D. They wanted a holiday.

- _____ 7. What did the colonists do to stop these taxes?

- A. They got a new king.
- B. They stopped working.
- C. They paid the taxes anyway.
- D. They fought a war with England.

8. How did you like the game described in the story? What did you learn from playing it?

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How many of these can you write about? Think! Write! Check all the ones you answered.

- ☐ How do you know when someone is being fair? Can you think of an example of how to be fair?
- ☐ Do you know what taxes are? How do you know?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Don't stop writing. Use a blank piece of paper to continue.