Words and Wallets

Two ways colonists challenged British policies

5.C.3.2.B "Compare different strategies used to challenge British policies, including the use of propaganda and the boycott of British imports."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one example of propaganda and circle one example of a boycott in the passage. Write 1 beside an effect of propaganda and 2 beside an effect of a boycott so you can compare the strategies.

Changing Minds, Changing Sales

1. In 1767, Britain's Parliament placed new taxes on goods brought into the American colonies, including glass, paper, and tea. Many colonists believed Parliament should not tax them when they had no elected representatives there. They disagreed about how to respond. Some wanted to change people's minds with printed messages. Others wanted to change Britain's actions by refusing to buy its goods.

2. Colonial printers used propaganda, messages designed to persuade people to take a side. A newspaper article could describe a tax as unfair and urge neighbors to protest. A political cartoon could make British officials look greedy. Readers might then speak out or join protests. These messages spread ideas quickly, but they could leave out facts that did not support the writer's view.

3. Other colonists used a boycott: they stopped buying British imports. Merchants agreed not to order goods from Britain, and families chose cloth made in the colonies instead of British cloth. This choice could cost British sellers money and push them to ask Parliament to change its rules. Unlike propaganda, a boycott used buying choices to apply pressure. The two strategies could also work together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did propaganda and a boycott put different kinds of pressure on Britain?

2. Compare what a newspaper reader and a merchant could do to challenge the taxes.

3. How was a family's choice of cloth different from a printer's use of a political cartoon?

4. Why might colonists use both strategies instead of only one?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Britain adds a tax on hats brought into the colonies. Write a short message of propaganda asking neighbors to oppose it, then describe a boycott action they could take. In 3 or 4 sentences, compare how your message and the action would challenge the tax.

ANSWER KEY # Words and Wallets

GRADE 5 · 5.C.3.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one example of propaganda and circle one example of a boycott in the passage. Write 1 beside an effect of propaganda and 2 beside an effect of a boycott so you can compare the strategies. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did propaganda and a boycott put different kinds of pressure on Britain?	**Propaganda tried to persuade people to speak out or protest. A boycott reduced sales for British sellers, who might then ask Parliament to change its rules.**
2	Compare what a newspaper reader and a merchant could do to challenge the taxes.	**A reader could speak out or join a protest after seeing propaganda. A merchant could stop ordering British goods as part of a boycott.**
3	How was a family's choice of cloth different from a printer's use of a political cartoon?	**The family avoided buying a British import. The printer used a cartoon to persuade people to take a side.**
4	Why might colonists use both strategies instead of only one?	**Propaganda could build support for a protest, while a boycott could cost British sellers money.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Neighbors, oppose Britain's new tax on hats because colonists have no elected voice in Parliament! Speak out against this unfair tax. Our families can boycott British hats and buy hats made in the colonies instead. The message builds support, while the boycott cuts sales for British sellers.

Accept comparisons that distinguish persuading people from withholding purchases and explain how each could challenge British policy. For the open task, the message should be persuasive, and the boycott should name a buying choice.