A Cry for Voice

How a tax protest became an argument about political power

5.C.3.3.D "Describe the significance of the rallying cry, "no taxation without representation.""

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB To trace why the cry mattered, underline the sentence that explains what it meant, circle two ways colonists protested, and put a star beside the sentence that explains why the cry mattered beyond one tax.

Who Gets a Say?

1. In 1765, a printer in Boston might have reached for a sheet of paper and found a new cost. Britain's Parliament had passed the Stamp Act, which required a paid stamp on many printed items, including newspapers and legal papers. Britain said the tax would help pay for defending its colonies. Many colonists saw the tax differently: it had been decided far away.

2. Colonists elected people to their own colonial assemblies, but they did not elect members of Britain's Parliament. When Parliament taxed them, many colonists protested with the cry, "No taxation without representation." They meant that people should have a voice through elected representatives in a government that taxes them. They were not saying that no government should ever collect taxes.

3. The cry gave different protests a shared message. Colonists sent petitions asking leaders to change the law, and some stopped buying British goods. Parliament repealed the Stamp Act in 1766, but disputes over taxes and political power continued. The cry mattered because it turned anger about a tax into a larger argument about who should make laws for the colonies. That argument helped lead toward independence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did many colonists object to Parliament's tax, even though Britain said it would help defend the colonies?

2. Why did the cry not mean that colonists opposed every tax?

3. How did the cry connect two different ways colonists protested?

4. Why did the cry still matter after Parliament repealed the Stamp Act?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a colonial shopkeeper speaking with a British official after the Stamp Act was repealed. Write a four-sentence dialogue in which the official explains Britain's view, and the shopkeeper explains why the cry still matters and proposes a peaceful response.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.C.3.3.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

To trace why the cry mattered, underline the sentence that explains what it meant, circle two ways colonists protested, and put a star beside the sentence that explains why the cry mattered beyond one tax. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did many colonists object to Parliament's tax, even though Britain said it would help defend the colonies?	**Colonists did not elect members of Parliament, so they had no elected voice there when it decided to tax them.**
2	Why did the cry not mean that colonists opposed every tax?	**The cry called for a voice through elected representatives in the government taxing them, not an end to all taxes.**
3	How did the cry connect two different ways colonists protested?	**Petitions and refusing to buy British goods both expressed the shared demand for a voice in tax decisions.**
4	Why did the cry still matter after Parliament repealed the Stamp Act?	**Disputes about taxes and political power continued. The cry raised the larger question of who should make laws for the colonies.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Official: “The colonies need defense, and taxes help pay for it.” Shopkeeper: “We have no elected members in Parliament to speak for us.” Shopkeeper: “Even though the Stamp Act is gone, that problem remains if Parliament passes another tax.” Shopkeeper: “I will ask my neighbors to sign a petition for a voice in tax decisions.”

Accept answers that connect the cry to colonists' lack of elected representation in Parliament, rather than to opposition to all taxes. For the dialogue, accept historically plausible peaceful responses, such as a petition or a boycott.