

FREEBIE!

# "No Taxation without Representation!"

*A Revolutionary War Activity*  
*By: Amelia Capotosta*



# Teacher's Guide

## What you need:

- 1 small cup per student (Dixie cups work great)
- Enough skittles for each student to have 20
- 5 larger cups
- A crown (optional)
- A "throne" chair and two smaller chairs (optional)
- Role cards (pgs.3-4) one for each kid in your class.
- Tax Cards (pgs. 5-6)

\*\*I have my students sitting in 5 "teams" or groups for this activity. I tell each group they represent a colony.

1. Pass out a Dixie cup with 20 skittles to each student with the instructions NOT to touch them. I tell mine that if they do, they lose all of them.
2. Pass out the role cards. Make sure you give 2 tax collectors, 2 parliament, and 1 king.
3. Hand the tax collectors, parliament, and king a larger cup, and have them move to the front of the room (king on the throne, parliament on the smaller chairs)
4. Explain to students that taxes can be very frustrating, and we will learn how. Give the tax collectors the "Tax" cards, and have them take one to the first colony. Have the colonies representative read the tax card aloud. When they are done, they need to pay the tax collectors (each student only needs to pay 1 of the tax collectors, not both.)
5. Tax collectors return to parliament and give them a portion of their collection, and the king a portion. \*This is up to you the amounts. For example, if they collected 6 pieces from each person, I will usually have them give 3 to each parliament, and 5 to the king. I increase the number the more they collect. You want it so the king has the most at the end, then parliament, then tax collectors, then colonists.
6. Repeat this with as many tax cards as you'd like. If students refuse or disobey, I let the tax collectors take all of their skittles and "throw them in jail."
7. When all taxes have been given out, I usually pick one colony as Massachusetts, and say they had the "Boston Tea Party" and take a few pieces from the tax collectors that they "stole."
8. Have a discussion at the end about how each group felt. Let them share out their thoughts and WHY.
9. Sometimes, I will recollect the skittles and distribute them evenly again, redistribute the role cards, and this time let the colonies VOTE on how much to pay for taxes. This usually really drives the point home of "No Taxation without Representation!" If I don't do this, I still discuss how they would've felt if we did it this way instead.

**Colonist**

**Colonist**

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**Colonist**

**Tax  
Collector**

**Tax  
Collector**

**Parliament**

**Parliament**

**King**

**THE STAMP ACT WAS PASSED!**

You need to buy paper for your newspaper, please pay the tax collectors 3 pieces.

**THE STAMP ACT WAS PASSED!**

There's a wedding in your family. Please pay the tax collectors 2 pieces.

**THE TEA ACT WAS PASSED!**

Your family buys 3 cases of tea a week. Please pay the tax collectors 3 pieces.

**THE TEA ACT WAS PASSED!**

Your family buys 5 cases of tea a week. Please pay the tax collectors 4 pieces.

**THE SUGAR ACT WAS PASSED!**

Your family runs a rum mill and needs 10 tons of molasses a month. Please pay the tax collectors 10 pieces.

**YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT!**

You were caught smuggling coffee for your business. Please pay the tax collectors 10 pieces in back taxes.

**THE STAMP ACT WAS PASSED!**

You need to buy paper for your law firm. Please pay the tax collectors 6 pieces.

**THE STAMP ACT WAS PASSED!**

Your family runs the local magazine. Please pay the tax collectors 8 pieces for your paper.

**THE SUGAR ACT WAS PASSED!**

You own a clothing shop and need Indigo to dye your clothes. Please pay the tax collectors 6 pieces.

**THE TOWNSHEND ACT WAS PASSED!**

You run a house building company and need glass for windows. Please pay the tax collectors 6 pieces.

**THE SUGAR ACT WAS PASSED!**

Your family runs a coffee mill. You need 5 cases of coffee beans a week. Please pay the tax collectors 5 pieces.

**YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT!**

You were caught smuggling tea for your business. Please pay the tax collectors 10 pieces in back taxes.

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