

Parliament v. Patriots

A Colonia Era Showdown

Benchmark: SS.7.C.1.3 Describe how English policies and responses to colonial concerns led to the writing of the Declaration of Independence.

Clarifications/Objectives:

- Students will trace the causal relationships between English/British policies, English responses to colonial grievances, and the writing of the Declaration of Independence.
- Students will recognize the underlying themes of English colonial policies concerning taxation, representation, and individual rights that formed the basis of the American colonists' desire for independence.

Time: One class period

Materials:

- Parliament v. Patriots PowerPoint
- Computer
- Projector
- Handout A: Parliament v. Patriots – Make Your Case

Lesson Preparation

- Review all handouts and PowerPoints
- Print and review the PowerPoint in “notes view”. The PowerPoint includes notes to guide the lesson.
- Print Handout A: Parliament v. Patriots – Make Your Case

Lesson Overview

Using the PowerPoint briefly explain the Colonists' detachment from Great Britain and the issues Great Britain was facing with respect to expensive wars. Explain that the Colonists were very unhappy with the acts imposed upon them by Great Britain as they brought forward the issues of taxation, representation, and violations of natural rights.

Divide the class into an even number of groups for the Parliament v. Patriots Activity. 6 groups are recommended – 3 parliament, 3 patriots. Half of the groups will be assigned the role of Parliament (law-making body in Great Britain) and the other half will be Patriots (Colonists who are opposed to the acts and Great Britain). Each small group will read the acts and develop arguments for or against the act based on their respective role. Students should also identify the concept(s) the act impacts: taxation, representation, and violations of natural rights. As each act appears in the PowerPoint, have one Parliament team present their most convincing argument and one Patriots team present their most convincing argument. Allow each team time to present for each act. Each group should take no more than 1 minute to explain their position.

Watch the brief video on the Boston Tea Party. This video will show students the aftermath of the Tea Act and what would happen following the Boston Tea Party. Have students make notes of the “Steps to

Independence” as the PowerPoint continues. Watch the “Too Late to Apologize” video provided in the PowerPoint.

Check for Understanding The final slide will include a question from the End of Course Exam Item Specifications book. Have the students independently write down their answer and ask student to explain how they made their decision.

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Make Your Case

Directions: You have been assigned the role of Parliament or Patriot. Complete the chart below from your assigned perspective. You will need to provide your strongest argument for or against each act depending on your assigned role. Once complete, you will present your argument to the class in under 1 minute. A different person should present each time.

Role (circle one): PARLIAMENT ~ PATRIOT

Act	Argument (for / against) the act
Stamp Act (1765) - This law imposed a tax on every legal document, newspaper, pamphlet, and deck of cards coming into the colonies.	
Quartering Act (1765) - The British government moved the army from the western lands into the cities. The law required colonists who were innkeepers of public officials to house and feed the British soldiers.	
Declaratory Act (1766) - The law stated that Parliament has the right to pass laws for the colonies in "all cases whatsoever." Its purpose was to remind the colonists that the authority of the king and Parliament was superior to colonial governments.	
Tea Act (1773) - This law gave the East India Company the <i>sole</i> right to sell tea to the colonies – no other companies were permitted to sell tea. The East India Company was a large and important corporation in Britain. The purpose of the law was to keep the company from going broke.	