

Lesson 4:

The King's M & Ms

Unit 6
Grade 4



What are taxes and what might be some of their purposes?

You are going to randomly be assigned role card.

Go to the front of the room if you are:

- King
- Parliament
- Tax Collector

Each of you will be given property.

Do not touch it yet!

Let the taxing begin!

1. Members of Parliament will draw a card.
2. Parliament members will announce to the colonists which item will be taxed.
3. Anyone possessing that item will have to pay out the number of M&Ms equal to the number written on the object card.
4. The Tax Collector will collect all the taxes. The taxes will be paid to Parliament.

Taxes have been collected

1. Tax Collectors: 10%
2. Parliament: 50%
3. King George: 40%

Let's reflect!

Resource 3: Discussion Questions

1. Was the decision to tax done fairly? Explain why or why not.
2. Was the decision to tax the items that were taxed fair? Explain why or why not.
3. How might the decision to tax and/or tax certain items have been made fairer?
4. How did the emotions of "colonists" **change over time** from the beginning of the lesson until the end of the lesson?
5. What **caused** the change in emotions?
6. What **effect(s)** did taxation have on the colonists?
7. What **effect(s)** did the taxation have on the King and members of Parliament?
8. What was the **point of view** of colonists about taxes?
9. What is the **point of view** of the king and members of parliament about taxes?

Show me what you know!

Resource 4: Checks for Understanding

Two accounts of the M&M activity appear below. Read the two accounts then answer questions 1 and 2.

Account 1

The decision to tax and the decision to tax sneakers were both fair. Governments tax all the time so that they can pay for important things like hospitals, fire stations, roads etc. Most students wear sneakers so almost everyone got taxed.

Conclusion of the King and Parliament

Account 2

The decisions to tax and tax sneakers were VERY unfair. Government's should not be able to take away people's property unless they have been given the opportunity to explain why they should or should not be taxed. This did not happen. And everyone did not get taxed the same because not everyone was wearing sneaks.

Conclusion of the Colonists

1. How does the EVIDENCE PRESENTED by the people who wrote the two accounts help to explain why the accounts are different?

2. How do the POINTS OF VIEW of the people who wrote the two accounts help to explain why the accounts are different.

3. Place a check next to three of the following emotions that people are MOST LIKELY to have when they are taxed.

- happy
- disappointed
- upset
- satisfied
- angry