

The Chester Town Tea Party by Brenda Seabrooke with illustrations by Nancy Coates Smith, (Tidewater Publishers, Centreville, Maryland, 1991)

Literature Annotation

The Wetherby family lived in Chester Town, Maryland, in 1774 at the time when people voted not to buy, use or sell tea in order to show their support for the colonists in Boston. Amanda, the nine year old daughter, decides to dress as a boy so she can join her brother and other men and boys of the town to attend a "tea party just for men." Amanda was surprised by what she found out about the tea party.

Grade Level: 4 or 5

Duration: 2 class periods

Economic Concepts: Opportunity Cost, Tax

Maryland State Curriculum

Economic Standard: Students will develop economic reasoning to understand the historical development and current status of economic principles, institutions, and processes needed to be effective citizens, consumers, and workers participating in local communities, the nation, and the world.

4.A.1.a Identify the costs, including opportunity cost, and the benefits of colonial decisions, such as whether or not to buy products on which British taxes were imposed (Grade 5)

History Standard: Students will examine significant ideas, beliefs, and themes; organize patterns and events; and analyze how individuals and societies have changed over time in Maryland, the United States and around the world.

5.C.1.a Describe Maryland colonists' reactions to changing economic policies from England using events that led to the American Revolutionary War (Grade 4)

5.C.1.b Explain the viewpoints of Patriots and Loyalists regarding British Colonial Policy after the Seven Years' War (Grade 5)

College and Career Ready Standards for Reading Literature

RL1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

RL2 Summarize the text.

RL3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

RL4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text

Objectives: Students will be able to...

- define opportunity cost, tax, and boycott.
- describe the opportunity cost faced by Colonists who chose to protest the Tea Tax.

- identify Maryland involvement in the events leading up to the American Revolution.

Vocabulary

boycott: action where consumers refuse to buy from a certain retailer or producer in order to achieve a goal

opportunity cost: the foregone benefit of the next best alternative when an economic decision is made

tax: mandatory payment to the government to defray the costs of goods and services provided by the government

Teacher Materials

- Teacher Resource 1: *Boston Harbor, December 16, 1773*
- Teacher Resource 2: *Answer Key: The Chester Town Tea Party: Economic Concepts*
- Bag of M & M's
- 3 oz. paper cups or other small container (1 per student)
- Teacher Resource 3: *Role Cards*
 - KING GEORGE III (1 card)
 - MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (2 cards)
 - TAX COLLECTOR (2 cards)
- Teacher Resource 4: *Item Cards for Colonists* - 1 per student (Given to those not assigned one of the roles above.)
- Teacher Resource 5: *Tax Cards* (1 each)

Student Materials

Student Resource 1: *The Chester Town Tea Party: Economic Concepts*

Motivation

Display Teacher Resource 1: *Boston Harbor, December 16, 1773*. Ask: *What do you know about this event? What was happening? Why?*

Tell students that they are going to participate in activity that will help them understand why the people of Boston were angry enough to participate in the Boston Tea Party.

Development

1. Conduct *The King's M & M's Activity* (Adapted from *The King's M and M's simulation* found in the book "American History Simulations" by Fischer, Max. Published by Teacher Created Materials, 1993.)
 - Shuffle the Role Cards. Have 5 students select one role card.
 - King George, Parliament, and Tax Collectors should go to the front of the room. King George should sit on a "throne" by himself. Parliament should be at a table to the side of the king. Remaining students are "Colonists."
 - Distribute a paper cup with 3 M & M's in it per student (i.e. "Colonist"). Instruct students NOT to eat the candy.
 - Distribute "Item Cards" to the colonists. **NOTE:** Students drawing the "Jewelry" card also gets one additional M & M.

- Tell students that King George and Parliament have decided that taxes need to be paid. And that all colonists must pay a “Newspaper Tax.”
 - Have Tax Collectors take turns picking the tax cards and reading them out loud. As a tax is read, the other tax collector should collect the appropriate number of M & M’s from students who have the taxed items.
 - When the M&Ms are collected, the King gets 50% of them. Parliament gets 40% of the remainder and the Tax Collectors split the remaining 10% of the collected candy.
 - In the end some children may not have any candy left because they had to pay all of their M & M’s as taxes.
2. Debrief “The King’s M & M’s Activity.” Ask:
 - *Did you have any say in what was being taxed?*
 - *Do you think this activity was fair? Why or why not?*
 - *How did you feel when your M & M’s were taken from you?*
 3. Tell students that many colonists felt the same way about the taxes that were being levied by Great Britain. They believed that they were being taxed without having any say in the taxation. “Taxation without Representation” became a rallying cry for the Patriots. The Boston Tea Party was one of the ways that the colonists expressed their anger toward that policy. Explain that Boston was not the only city in the colonies that had a tea party.
 4. Tell students that you are going to read a story about a tea party that is believed to have occurred in Maryland. Have students locate Chestertown on a map of Maryland. Distribute Student Resource 1: *Chester Town Tea Party: Economic Concepts*. Before reading, review the definitions of the economic concepts with the class. (See Teacher Resource 2: *Answer Key*.) Conduct a Read-Aloud of *The Chester Town Tea Party*. Students should find examples of the economic concepts as you read.
 5. After reading, allow students to work with a partner to make sure they can define and give examples of each of the economic concepts. Debrief for clarity.

Assessment

Have students respond to the following prompt.

Your local bookstore is compiling a list of books that are helpful in teaching the American Revolution. You have been assigned the task of writing a description of *The Chester Town Tea Party*. Your description should be no more than two paragraphs and should include the following:

- a summary of the book (Paragraph 1)
- a description of how the economic concepts of opportunity cost, tax, and boycott are covered in the book (Paragraph 2)

Closure

Have students exchange their descriptions with a partner. Then, have each student read and check his/her partner’s description. Collect descriptions for your review and check.

Teacher Resource 1

***Boston Harbor
December 16, 1773***



http://etc.usf.edu/clipart/5600/5624/boston_tea_party_1.htm

Answer Key

Chester Town Tea Party: Economic Concepts

Economic Concept	Definition of Economic Concept	Example of Economic Concept
Opportunity Cost	The foregone benefit of the next best alternative when an economic decision is made.	The opportunity cost of protesting the Tea Tax was being able to drink tea.
Tax	Mandatory payment to the government to defray the costs of goods and services provided by the government.	The Tea Tax
Boycott	Action where consumers refuse to buy from a certain retailer or producer in order to achieve a goal.	Colonists' refusal to purchase or drink tea

Teacher Resource 3
ROLE CARDS

KING GEORGE III



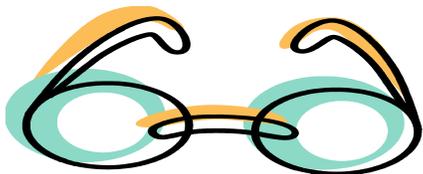
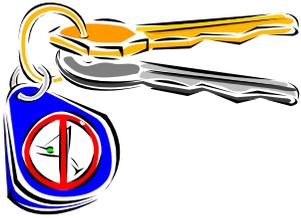
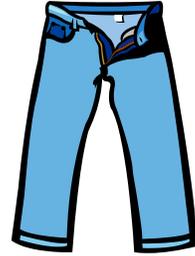
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



TAX COLLECTOR



ITEM CARDS FOR COLONISTS

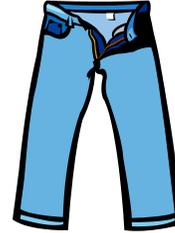


Teacher Resource 5
TAX CARDS

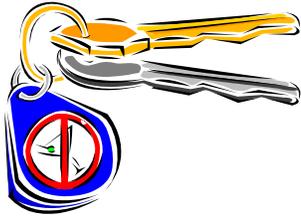
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JEANS: 2 M & M's



KEY CHAIN: 1 M & M



PEN: 2 M & M's



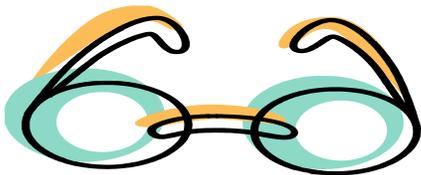
PENCIL: 1 M & M



SNEAKERS: 2 M & M's



GLASSES: 2 M & M's



NEWSPAPER: 1 M & M



Chester Town Tea Party: Economic Concepts

Economic Concept	Definition of Economic Concept	Example of Economic Concept
Opportunity Cost		
Tax		
Boycott		