National Park Service

BOSTON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Standard

US 1.4 Analyze how Americans resisted British policies before 1775 and analyze the reasons for the American victory and the British defeat during the Revolutionary war.

Essential Question

How does the protection of vital interests either unite or further split disparate groups?

Guiding Questions

Why did some colonists remain loyal to the crown while others chose revolution?

What motivates you as a shop owner: economics or political ideas?

What tensions exist between your individual interests and the interests of the colony?

Goal

Students will apply the basic principles of historical thinking by researching and weighing primary information sources, and forming their own conclusions to those sources to interpret what led merchants in Boston during the 1760s to support the nonimportation acts or not.

> Students will appreciate the difficult choices faced by merchants in Boston in the 1760s. Their decisions determined their place in Revolutionary societies, a Patriot or Loyalist.

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Objectives

> Students will interpret the positives and negatives of the nonimportation agreement and its impact on the merchants of Boston.

> Students will examine the life of a loyalist merchant, Elizabeth Murray, prior to and after the nonimportation agreement

> Students will start a Boston business by selecting and defining specific items to be sold in their stores using advertisements from the Boston Gazette.

Primary Source Documents & Artifacts

1. Boston Gazette March 19, 1764. John Greaton, South End Boston or Shop in Roxbury
2. Boston Gazette June 18, 1764. John Perkins, Union Street Shop Advertisement
3. Boston Gazette August 11, 1769. At a Meeting of the Merchants at Faneuil-Hall.
4. _____
5. _____