

Teaching American History Project

Lesson Title: Analyzing A Protest Song of the American Revolution
From Virginia Viteri

Grade: 5

Length of class period: 1 Day 45 (Two days with extension activity)

Inquiry: What was the colonial reaction to the British regulations and taxation prior to the American Revolution?

Objectives: Students will

- ❖ Analyze a popular song from the American Revolution to gain an understanding of public sentiment during this time period.
- ❖ Create an additional verse to the song that reflects this sentiment.

Materials:

- ❖ Copy of the song lyrics and sheet music for *Revolutionary Tea*
- ❖ Song Analysis Guided Worksheet
- ❖ Optional: recording of the song “Revolutionary Tea”
http://youtu.be/OPv3Kqvk_8s

Activities:

- ❖ Initiation: Teacher will introduce the lesson with a short discussion about the role popular music plays in history. By examining popular songs from the American Revolution we can gain a better understanding of the views and feelings of people from the past.
- ❖ Teacher will distribute a copy of the song lyrics for “Revolutionary Tea” to each pair of students and read the lyrics aloud.
- ❖ Teacher will explain that this song is an allegory and define that term.
- ❖ Teacher will play a recording of the song so students will be able to describe the tone and mood expressed in the song.
- ❖ Students will use the Guided Analysis Worksheet to analyze the lyrics of the song.
- ❖ Students will identify the literal and symbolic meaning of the text.
- ❖ They will describe the views and feelings expressed in the song of the colonists toward the British regulations and taxation prior to the American

- Revolution and draw conclusions about the role popular songs played in the American Revolution.
- ❖ **Extension:** They will compose an additional verse to the song. (Day 2). Brainstorm other events that might be referred to in an additional verse: Boston Massacre, Stamp Act, Quartering Act, and Boycott.

Assessment:

- ❖ Students will be assessed based on the quality of their responses to the prompts on the Guided Analysis worksheet. Teacher should consider the following points: Were students able to identify:

Characters: Rich Lady- Britain
Rebellious Daughter- Colonies

Place: Island: Great Britain
New Country: Colonies

Ocean: Atlantic Ocean
Boiling Tide: Boston Harbor

Historical Event: Boston Tea Party

Sentiment/Tone: Hardy, Angry, Rebellious, and Protesting

Purpose/Importance: Express dissatisfaction over the British regulations and taxes levied prior to the American Revolution. Encourage support for the Patriot Cause.

- ❖ **Extension Activity:** Does the verse maintain the same tone and continue to the sentiment of the time?

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards:

- 1.1-4 Evaluate the relative influence of individual events that contributed to the American Revolution.
- 1.3-7 Trace the evolving relationship between England and the American Colonies.
- 1.3-8 Compare the perspectives of England and the Colonies relative to the events preceding the American Revolution.
- 2:1-1 Locate and gather information from primary and secondary sources.
- 2:3-6 Create written work using primary sources.
- 3:2-4 Describe views and feelings of people in the past (e.g. Colonial reaction to British regulations and taxes) using personal experience and outside readings.

5. WHAT ARE THE FEELINGS EXPRESSED IN THIS SONG? HOW DO YOU THINK THE SINGERS FELT WHEN THEY WERE SINGING THIS SONG?

6. WHY DO YOU THINK SONGS LIKE THIS MIGHT BE IMPORTANT? WHY WERE THEY WRITTEN? WHY WERE THEY SUNG?

**“ REVOLUTIONARY TEA”
VERSE #8**

Now that you have had a chance to analyze “Revolutionary Tea,” it is time for you to write an additional verse for the song. You may continue to tell the story of the event described in the song or you may choose to write a verse about another event during this time period.

Revolutionary Tea

Lyrics:

There was a rich lady lived over the sea,
And she was an island queen.
Her daughter lived off in the new country,
With an ocean of water between
With an ocean of water between, with an ocean of water between.

The old lady's pockets were filled with gold,
Yet never contented was she
So she ordered her daughter to pay her a tax,
Of thrupence a pound on the tea.
Of thrupence a pound on the tea, of thrupence a pound on the tea.

"Oh mother, dear mother," the daughter replied.
"I'll not do the thing that you ask.
"I'm willing to pay a fair price for the tea,
But never a thrupenny tax,
But never a thrupenny tax, but never a thrupenny tax,

"You shall!" cried the mother, and reddened with rage.
"For you're my own daughter you see.
"And it's only proper that daughter should pay
Her mother a tax on the tea,
Her mother a tax on the tea, her mother a tax on the tea.

She ordered her servant to come up to her
And to wrap up a package of tea.
And eager for threepence a pound she put in
Enough for a large family,
Enough for a large family, enough for a large family

The tea was conveyed to her daughter's own door,
All down by the Oceanside.
But the bouncing girl poured out every pound
On the dark and the boiling tide,
On the dark and the boiling tide, on the dark and the boiling tide.

And then she called out to the island queen
"Oh mother, dear mother," called she.
"Your tea you may have when 'tis steeped enough.
But NEVER a tax from me,
But NEVER a tax from me, but NEVER a tax from me.

Revolutionary War

All ① There was a rich lady lived o-ver the sea, and
she was an is-land queen. Her daugh-ter li
off in the new coun-try, withan o-cean of
water be-tween. chorus: withan o-cean of wa-ter be-
tween withan o-cean of wa-ter be-tw

The image shows a handwritten musical score on a single page. At the top, the title "Revolutionary War" is written in a cursive hand and circled. Below the title, the music is written on five staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of lyrics is "All ① There was a rich lady lived o-ver the sea, and". The second line is "she was an is-land queen. Her daugh-ter li". The third line is "off in the new coun-try, withan o-cean of". The fourth line is "water be-tween. chorus: withan o-cean of wa-ter be-". The fifth line is "tween withan o-cean of wa-ter be-tw". The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The handwriting is clear and legible.