

# Boycott Voting Activity

Colonists often had to give up everyday items to avoid paying taxes they believed were unfair. In this activity, you will vote on whether you could live without certain modern items if buying them meant supporting a tax you disagreed with.

## Instructions:

1. Look at each item on the chart.
2. Decide whether you could give it up if it went against your principles to pay a tax on it.
3. Mark **YES** or **NO** for each item.
4. After voting, discuss:
  - Which items were hardest to give up
  - Why colonists struggled with boycotts
  - How this connects to the Stamp Act and Tea Act

## Unfair Taxation Simulation (Optional Extension)



To experience how colonists felt about unfair taxes, your teacher may have you participate in a quick simulation. Students pay “taxes” using small candies such as Skittles. The King, Parliament, and a tax collector decide which everyday items to tax — such as jeans, glasses, or pens.

After the taxes are collected, discuss:

- How did it feel to lose your candy?
- Which taxes felt unfair?
- How does this connect to the colonists’ anger toward British laws?

Why this version works

- It's short enough to fit on a one-page PDF.
- It doesn't require extra materials or space.
- It gives teachers flexibility: they can run the simulation or skip it.
- It ties directly into the Boycott Voting Chart without repeating content.
- It strengthens the lesson without overwhelming the handout.

## Boycott Voting Activity

Item	YES	NO
phone (or access to one)		
video games (console or online)		
YouTube / streaming videos		
snacks (chips, candy, etc.)		
fast food (McDonald's, Chick-fil-A, etc.)		
sneakers (favorite brand)		
hoodie / comfy clothes		
sports equipment (basketball, soccer ball, etc.)		
school Chromebook / tablet		
headphones / earbuds		
LEGO sets / building toys		
art supplies (markers, sketchbooks)		
books for fun reading		
gaming apps on phone/tablet		
ice cream / desserts		
water bottle (favorite reusable one)		
backpack		
personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo)		
birthday gifts		
holiday celebrations (treats/decorations)		

Check out the [full unit](#) on TPT.

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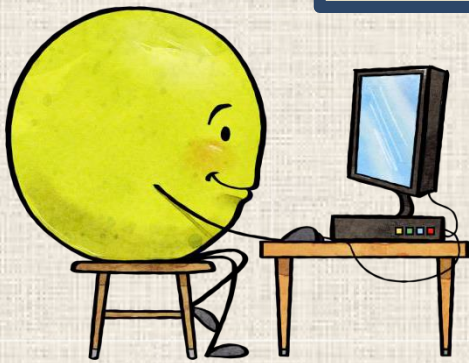
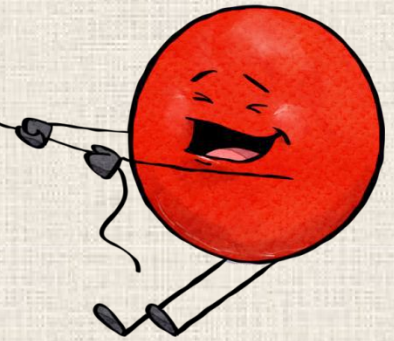
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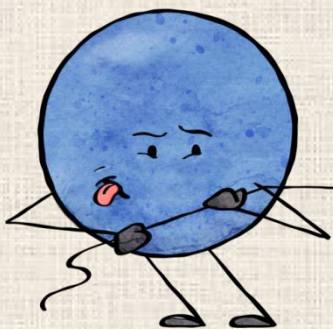


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