

First Continental Congress Role-Play Activity



Instructions for Students

You will take on the role of a delegate from one of the thirteen colonies. Each delegate has different concerns, goals, and opinions about how the colonies should respond to the Intolerable Acts.

1. Read your role card carefully.
2. Think about what your colony wants and why.
3. Join your group and discuss the following questions:
 - Should the colonies boycott British goods?
 - Should the colonies send a petition to King George III?
 - Should the colonies prepare for war?
 - How can the colonies stay united even if they disagree?
4. Work together to create a final decision to present to the Congress.

Your goal is to understand why unity was difficult — and why the First Continental Congress was such an important step toward cooperation.

Massachusetts Delegate

- Your colony is suffering the most from the Intolerable Acts.
- Boston Harbor is closed, and many people are out of work.
- You want strong action, including a complete boycott of British goods.
- You believe the colonies must stand together or Britain will crush them one by one.

Virginia Delegate

- Virginia is the largest and most influential colony.
- You support Massachusetts but want to avoid war if possible.
- You favor a united boycott and a respectful petition to the king.
- You believe unity is essential for success.

New York Delegate

- New York has strong trade ties with Britain.
- Merchants in your colony worry a boycott will hurt business.
- You prefer a moderate approach and want more time to negotiate.
- You are unsure whether all colonies will stick to a boycott.

Pennsylvania Delegate

- Your colony has many Quakers who oppose violence.
- You want peaceful solutions and a carefully worded petition.
- You are willing to support a boycott but do not want to prepare for war.
- You worry that extreme actions will divide the colonies.

South Carolina Delegate

- Your colony relies heavily on trade, especially rice exports.
- A boycott could damage your economy, but you dislike Britain's new laws.
- You want to support the other colonies but need to protect your own interests.
- You are open to compromise.

Georgia Delegate

- Georgia did **not** send delegates to the actual Congress, but you can include this role for discussion.
- Your colony depends on British military protection against Native American tribes.
- You are hesitant to anger Britain.
- You prefer loyalty and caution over rebellion.

Connecticut Delegate

- You support Massachusetts and believe the colonies must resist British control.
- You favor a strong boycott and preparing local militias.
- You think Britain will only respond to firm action

Maryland Delegate

- Your colony is divided — some support resistance, others want peace.
- You want to keep the colonies united and avoid extreme positions.
- You support a boycott but want clear rules and timelines.

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

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 **Research Passages**  **Respond**  **Write**

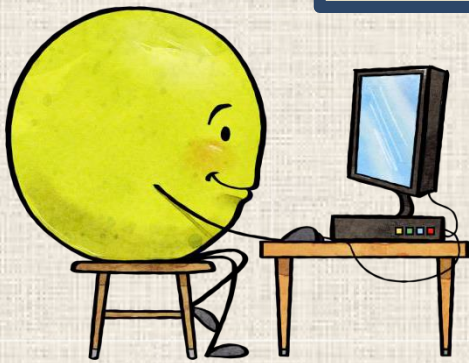
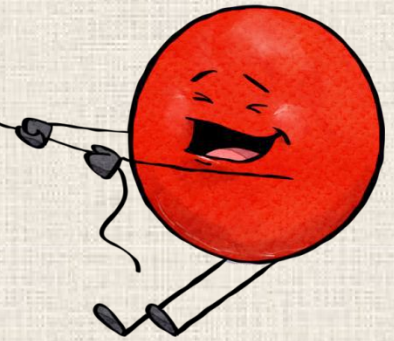
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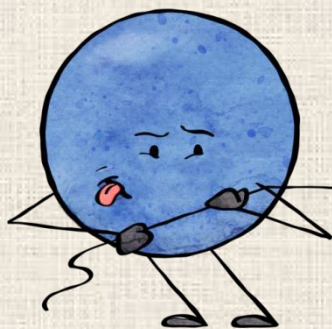


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