

Grade Level: Elementary School	Study Unit: American Revolution	Lesson Topic: Boycotts and the Embargo	Resource Materials: Aitken Bible Preface
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Objective:

Elementary school students will understand the causes and effects of **boycotts and the embargo** against British goods. In addition, students will see how boycotts and the embargo prompted American self-sufficiency. Finally, students will learn how the Aitken Bible was a result of the embargo and an example of American self-sufficiency.

Procedure:

- The teacher will create a box labeled “boycott” and a second box labeled “embargo.” Next, the teacher will instruct the students to draw their favorite toy (video game, soccer ball, basketball, bike, skateboard, etc).
 - The teacher will explain a “boycott” is type of protest, usually a ban on buying an item.
 - The teacher will ask the class to pretend they are boycotting a toy, for example, video games. Only the drawings connected to video games will be placed in the “boycott” box.
 - The teacher will explain that American colonists responded to the Tea Act of 1773 with a boycott against English tea, which dramatically led up to the Boston Tea Party.
 - The teacher will explain an “embargo” is a type of protest, usually a ban on trade with a country.
 - The teacher will ask the class to pretend they are putting an embargo on another country that makes all the other toys. Those drawings will be placed in the “embargo” box.
 - The teacher will explain that when war began in April 1775, the First Continental Congress continued to trade with other nations, but it placed an embargo against Britain.
- The teacher will explain how American boycotts were a successful way to protest against British tax acts.
 - Sugar Act of 1764: colonists boycotted British goods, and the Act was repealed in 1766.
 - Stamp Act of 1765: colonists boycotted British goods, and the Act was repealed in 1766.
 - Townshend Acts of 1767: colonists boycotted, and most of the Acts were repealed in 1770.
- The teacher will use the Aitken as an example of products colonists made after boycotts and the embargo.
 - Colonists made clothing, tea, books, etc., becoming self-sufficient, making them more independent.
 - In 1777, three clergymen informed Congress of the shortage of Bibles in America.
 - The shortage of Bibles was due to the embargo against British goods.
 - Congressmen (including John Adams) conferred with printers (including Robert Aitken).
 - Congress determined that paper stocks and print types could not be found in America.
 - Congress proposed to import Bibles from Holland and Scotland.
 - The demands of the war distracted from the proposal.
 - In 1781, Robert Aitken petitioned Congress to print the first English Bible in America.
 - Because of the British royal license, it had been illegal to print the Bible in America.
 - In 1782, Congress approved Aitken's Bible and recommended this Bible to the colonists.

Closure/Review:

With guided questioning, the teacher will help the students to review the following topics. Why were the colonial boycotts a successful way to protest against British taxes? How did boycotts and the embargo encourage America to become self-sufficient? How was the Aitken Bible a direct result of the embargo? How was the Aitken Bible an example of America becoming self-sufficient?