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| <b>Grade Level:</b><br>Middle School | <b>Study Unit:</b><br>American Revolution | <b>Lesson Topic:</b><br>Boycotts and the Embargo | <b>Resource Materials:</b><br>Aitken Bible Preface |
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### Objective:

Middle 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:

- Lead the students to imagine they were suddenly told they could buy soft drinks from only one company. Lead the students to decide which protest would be most appropriate: a boycott or an embargo.
  - Boycott: a ban on purchasing an item
    - For example, American colonists responded to the Tea Act of 1773 with a boycott against English tea, which dramatically led up to the Boston Tea Party.
  - Embargo: a ban on trade with another country
    - For example, when war began in April 1775, the First Continental Congress continued to trade with other nations, but it placed an embargo against Britain.
  - If students felt about soft drinks as colonists felt about tea, it would be appropriate to boycott.
- Lead the students to discuss how American boycotts were an effective method to protest to British taxes.
  - Sugar Act of 1764: colonists boycotted British goods, and the Act was repealed in 1766.
  - Stamp Act of 1765: colonists boycotted British goods, and the Act was repealed in 1766.
  - Townshend Acts of 1767: colonists boycotted, and most of the Acts were repealed in 1770.
- Lead the students to examine how boycotts and the embargo made Americans more self-sufficient.
  - Refusing to buy British clothing, colonists sewed their own clothing.
  - Refusing to buy British tea, colonists brewed tea with local herbs.
  - Refusing to buy British books, colonists bought books from American printers.
- Lead the students to consider the Aitken Bible as an example of American self-sufficiency.
  - 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:

Lead the students to review the following topics through discussion. How did the products colonists created make them more self-sufficient? How did becoming more self-sufficient make the colonists more independent? How was the Aitken Bible a result of the embargo? How was the Aitken Bible a sign of American self-sufficiency and independence?