



# 5SH Home/School Connection

## (H.S.C.) #26 - May 2, 2013



*a tax stamp*

TAXES, TAXES, TAXES...

- THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION:** G'day colonists - It's been quite a week for you here in our colonial classroom. You heard that "your" country England was in debt due to the high cost of the French and Indian - 7 Years War. They decided to tax the colonists to help pay. You received 100 shillings on Monday, and then over the course of the week, you had to deal with paying more and more taxes due to the Sugar Act, Stamp Act, Townsend Act, and the Government Act (which colonists called the Intolerable Acts. As you read in the packet (What's All This Fuss About Tea?) these events really did happen. ). If you want to review these acts, I am putting some information on our social studies links.
  - So, how did it go for you this week?
  - Did you see the different reasons why some colonists wanted to stay loyal to their country and why some colonists were sick and tired of having these unfair taxes?
  - Some loyalists did not like the taxes but stayed loyal because they love their country and did not want a war. Some thought it would be more profitable to be a loyalist. Some colonists started out as loyalists, but then could not take it any more and turned into patriots. Some colonists started as patriots and ended as patriots. What role did you choose and why?
  
- TUESDAY NEWSDAY and TAXES:** The fight around taxes did not just happen in Colonial times. We had some GREAT conversation in class around the debt the United States is in now. Just like England went into debt because of the 7 Years War, the U.S. spent a lot of money on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some people in our government believe citizens should pay more taxes to help get our country out of debt. Some people think only the wealthy should pay more taxes. Others feel it's better to cut taxes so people will have more money to spend on things that will help our economy. Taxes are a controversial topic.
  - What do your parents think we should do about the debt? If you have questions about taxes, ask your parents about their experiences or opinions about paying them.

We also discussed why the English taxed sugar. It wasn't for the sugar in things like cakes and cookies; it was because in colonial times, rum (kind of alcohol) was "**BIG business**". Rum is made from molasses, a kind of sugar. We talked about how gas and oil are now "big business" in the U.S. because people in the U.S. use so much gas and oil. That brought up the conversation around "fracking" because some people in the U.S. have discovered natural gas on their land and can sell it.

TUESDAY NEWSDAY CONTINUED:

In order for people to get the natural gas out of their land to sell, they have to do a process called, "fracking". What is fracking? Here is a little definition:

**Fracking, also known as "induced hydraulic fracturing or hydrofracking", is a process to extract petroleum or natural gas from rock layers. Deposits of gas are located deep down in shale layers and are not accessible by drilling. Fracking involves pumping water and sand at extremely high pressure down into the shale layer, and blasting the rock into small pieces to release the natural gas.**

Fracking is another controversial topic because it can help our economy but it can be bad for the environment. Talk with your parents about what they think or wonder about fracking.

WALK FOR ELEPHANTS: We discussed that our class might do a "Walk for Elephants." Willem's mom found out that in order to do this, we would need to write a letter to the town selectman to get permission. Then we need to plan a date, a route, and what we would do to raise awareness and have people join us. This weekend is the well known, "Walk For Hunger." Maybe we could get some ideas from looking at what they do. [http://www.projectbread.org/site/PageServer?pagename=walk\\_main](http://www.projectbread.org/site/PageServer?pagename=walk_main)

TIME FOR KIDS MAGAZINE: The cover story is about how Europa, one of the four moons of Jupiter, is covered with a frozen ocean. Scientists may launch an unmanned spacecraft to find out if the icy moon is capable of supporting life.



ANIMAL STORY SHARE/READING EACH OTHER'S STORIES:

MCAS PREP/MATH REVIEW: What has been helpful? Do you feel ready?

SIMPLE MACHINES: What have you learned about levers or other types of simple machines? Can you explain the three classes of levers? What helped you learn them? (magazine, movie, looking at simple machines in your house?)

ANYTHING ELSE/SPECIALS: The general store for your shillings, back to sitting in rows, Chinese, music, P.E. COB, ... You name it: \_\_\_\_\_

**Due: TUESDAY.** Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Comments:

Student Rating: 1-5. Please say why.