

21st Century Skills Activity



The Spirit of Independence

Lesson 1 *No Taxation without Representation*

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

Drawing Conclusions

Learning the Skill

A conclusion is a logical understanding you reach after reviewing the information available at the time. Be careful not to “jump to conclusions” before you have all the facts. For example, you hear a girl say, “I’m spending the summer in Paris.” You know that Paris is a city in France, so you think, “Wow! I wish I were going to France!” You jumped to a conclusion. Imagine your surprise when you hear she will be on a ranch in Paris, Texas!

Charts are a way to list information, such as facts about a topic. They can help you compare things and see how they are related. You can use the facts and your knowledge about the topic to draw conclusions.

Practicing the Skill

Directions Study the chart, then answer the questions.

Sugar Act 1764	Stamp Act 1765	Townshend Acts 1767
Lowered tax on imported molasses	Internal tax just within the colonies that raised money for Britain	Tax applied only to imported goods
Attempted to reduce smuggling of molasses from non-British colonies	Taxed most printed materials	Taxed glass, tea, and paper
Allowed officers to seize goods from accused smugglers without going to court	Stamp was applied when tax was paid	Tax paid at port of entry

21st Century Skills *Cont.*



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1. Describing What does this chart list?

2. Specifying Which act was intended to stop illegal activity? What activity was it supposed to stop?

3. Analyzing What conclusions can you draw from the column headings on the chart about Britain's need for revenue?

4. Speculating Using what you have learned about these laws from the chart and the textbook, which tax do you think angered colonists most? Explain your choice.

Applying the Skill

Drawing Conclusions Find a chart in your textbook, a local newspaper, or a magazine. What topic does the chart cover? What is the importance of the topic? What conclusion can you draw from the information on the chart? Present the chart and your conclusion to the class.