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

High 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 review how the Aitken Bible was both a result of the embargo and an example of American self-sufficiency.

Procedure:

- Explanation of the difference between a boycott and an embargo
 - Boycott: a ban on purchasing an item or items
 - 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.
- Class discussion on the effectiveness of American boycotts to protest 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 - Sugar Act of 1764: colonists boycotted British goods, and the Act was repealed in 1766.
 - Stamp Act of 1765: colonists boycotted British goods, and the Act was repealed in 1766.
 - Townshend Acts of 1767: colonists boycotted, and most of the Acts were repealed in 1770.
- Explanation of how boycotts and the embargo prompted American self-sufficiency
 - 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.
- Class discussion on 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:

The class will discuss boycotts and the embargo in colonial America. How did boycotts and the embargo encourage American self-sufficiency? How did American self-sufficiency encourage American independence? How did Robert Aitken help Congress to express itself as a self-sufficient government? How was the printing of the Aitken Bible a symbol of America as an independent power?