Name _____

No Taxation without Representation

By Cathy Pearl

After the French and Indian War, England was broke. They had spent a lot of money to protect the colonists in America. England thought that America should help to pay off the debt.

England decided to tax the colonists. They thought this would be the best way to get the money back. They started with the Sugar Act. This taxed molasses and other items like wine and cloth. Then, England passed the Stamp Act.

The Stamp Act made Americans very angry. It required that any printed material be taxed. A stamp would be put on the paper saying the tax had been paid. The tax would affect almost all Americans. It also affected powerful people like printers and lawyers.

The phrase "no taxation without representation" became very popular. The idea was simple. American colonists did not have representatives in Parliament. There was no one who could stand up for the colonists' ideas. This was not fair. If England wanted to tax the colonists, the colonists should be able to state their opinion in Parliament.

This is also an issue in the United States today. People who live in Washington, D.C. do not have representatives in Congress. These people still have to pay taxes. This is the same idea that the colonists were fighting against.

The Stamp Act Congress met in 1765. People from nine colonies came. They wanted to protest the Stamp Act. "No taxation without representation" was their argument. The people wanted the colonists to have the same rights as the people in Britain. They sent letters to the king telling him this. They did not want to be taxed without being able to state their ideas in Parliament.

The Stamp Act was repealed in 1766. The larger issue was still there. Did England have the right to tax the colonies without representation? Parliament passed another act to answer this question. It said Parliament could make any laws for the colonists. The colonists did not agree. They continued to fight back. Soon, these two countries would fight a war to settle the question.

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Questions

_____ 1. Why was England broke after the French and Indian War?

A. They lost the war.
B. They spent a lot of money to protect the colonists.
C. They had to pay the colonists for helping England win the war.

_____ 2. What year was the Stamp Act repealed?

A. 1766
B. 1767
C. 1765

3. Name three things taxed by the Sugar Act.

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_____ 4. What was taxed under the Stamp Act?

A. Printed Material
B. Wine
C. Cloth

Name ______________________

______ 5. How many colonies sent people to the Stamp Act Congress?

A. nine
B. six
C. thirteen

6. What was the phrase the colonists used to support their argument?

Do you think England had the right to tax the colonists? Why or why not?

Name _____

Pretend you were at the Stamp Act Congress. Write a letter to the King of England telling him why you are against the new taxes the colonists had to pay.

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