

# The Stamp Act

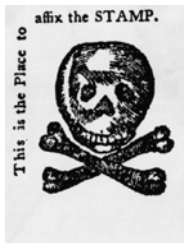
## 1765

The Stamp Act was a tax on the British colonies in America. It was put into place in March 1765 by Parliament. They wanted get rid of a debt from the war with France. British Prime Minister George Grenville liked the Stamp Act. He wanted to find a way to help get Britain money. Paper products were taxed with a stamp on them. These products included documents and newspapers. The stamp said that tax had been paid on the product. The money went to the British government. Some of the money was used to pay for the British soldiers who were protecting the American colonies.

Many colonists were against the Stamp Act. There had been other British taxes before. One was the Sugar Act, which was a tax on trade. It taxed activity between the colony and England or between different colonies. Colonists agreed that this tax was legal. The Stamp Act was different. It was an internal tax. It was the first time colonists faced a direct tax from Parliament on something made and sold within the same colony. Colonists thought this type of tax could only be passed by the colonial government, not Parliament. The British did not think they were doing anything wrong.

The Stamp Act brought together colonists of different types. Some had money. Some did not. One of these people was James Otis. He wrote a pamphlet about the Stamp Act. It was called *The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved*. The pamphlet said bad things about the Stamp Act.

There were riots against the Stamp Act. The Stamp Act Riots were violent. Rebels went after tax agents. They also went after tax collectors. They also held public protests.



They talked about why they did not like the Stamp Act. Shopkeepers also came together. They would not sell any British products. The Sons of Liberty made sure they did not. They were a group of men in areas such as New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. They would go after tax collectors and agents and threaten them if they collected the tax. Sometimes, they might attack them or damage their homes. In Pennsylvania, the state assembly met. They said the Stamp Act was unconstitutional. Merchants in England were also hurt. This was because of the Stamp Act. No one was buying the products they made.

Grenville was a defeated man. This was because the Stamp Act was unpopular. The Stamp Act hurt trade with the colonies. England would spend money to make products, but no one in America bought them. This was because of the tax. Because the tax was never collected, no tax money went to England.

Grenville was replaced as prime minister in July 1765. The Marquis of Rockingham took over. He wanted to get out of the mess that Grenville made. He called a session of Parliament. They got rid of the Stamp Act on March 17, 1766.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Stamp Act

1. What debt was the Stamp Act supposed to get rid of?
2. Where was the money made from the Stamp Act supposed to go?
- 3.) What was the difference between the Stamp Act and the Sugar Act?
- 4.) Who made sure colonial shopkeepers would not sell British items?
- 5.) When was the Stamp Act taken away?

## The Stamp Act

1. What debt was the Stamp Act supposed to get rid of?

*The debt from the war with France.*

2. Where was the money made from the Stamp Act supposed to go?

*The money was supposed to go to Parliament to pay war debts and to pay for the British soldiers protecting the American colonies.*

3. What was the difference between the Stamp Act and the Sugar Act?

*The Stamp Act was an internal tax. The Sugar Act was an external tax.*

4. Who made sure colonial shopkeepers would not sell British items?

*The Sons of Liberty made sure of this.*

5. When was the Stamp Act taken away?

*The Stamp Act was taken away on March 17, 1766.*