Historical Background
“The most important tax imposed by Parliament was authorized by the Stamp Act. This act placed a tax or a duty on paper, such as legal documents, playing cards and newspapers which the colonists paid directly. Taxes prior to this one were indirect taxes, paid by the merchants. Incensed colonists protested “No taxation without representation.” because colonists did not have their own representative in Parliament and therefore believed that they had no colonial voice in Parliament, except as Englishmen. Colonists wanted the rights of their own colonial assemblies to impose taxes to continue. Colonists organized a Stamp Act Congress and a boycott on British goods that led to the repeal of the Stamp Act. They also organized the Sons and Daughters of Liberty in order to protest British taxes.”


South Carolina Standards
8-2.1 Explain the interests and roles of South Carolinians in the events leading to the American Revolution, including the state’s reactions to the Stamp Act and the Tea Act; the role of Christopher Gadsden and the Sons of Liberty; and the role of the four South Carolina signers of the Declaration of Independence—Edward Rutledge, Arthur Middleton, Thomas Lynch Jr., and Thomas Heyward Jr.

3-3.1 Analyze the causes of the American Revolution—including Britain’s passage of the Tea Act, the Intolerable Acts, the rebellion of the colonists, and the Declaration of Independence—and South Carolina’s role in these events.

Objectives
• Students will examine South Carolina’s reaction to the Stamp Act.
• Students will analyze several primary newspaper articles to explore how South Carolinians reacted to the arrival of Stamps in South Carolina.

Time Required
1 class period

Recommended Grade Level
Elementary/Middle

Lesson Materials
• 1765 SC Gazette article available from USC’s Digital Collections Library

Lesson Preparation
• Access the articles in advance from the collection. Zoom in to the desired portion of text.
• Transcribe the portion of the text needed for students.
Lesson Procedure

- Have older students try to transcribe the first highlighted paragraph from the Oct. 31, 1765 article. For younger students, print a transcribed copy and/or read aloud.
- Place the definition of the word “effigy” on the board. (A rough model of a particular person, damaged or destroyed as a protest or expression of anger.)
- Explain to students the purpose of the Stamp Act.
- Read the first paragraph from the article aloud. Ask students to summarize what happened. Give students time to answer aloud.
- Read the second paragraph from the article aloud. Ask students to summarize what happened. Give students time to answer aloud.
- Answer any questions that students may have about the document.
- Ask: What does this article tell us about the time period leading up the American Revolution? Allow time for student responses.

Assessment

Have students write one paragraph that answers the following question. How did some South Carolinians react to the stamps as they arrived in the colony?

Lesson Extension Options

- Use the Stamp Act Resolutions available at teachingushistory.org as a second example of how South Carolinians responded to the Stamp Act.

Elementary Modifications

- Check out and read the book, Can’t You Make Them Behave King George? by Jean Fritz to help build background for students prior to introducing the article.
- Have students draw a picture to show how people in South Carolina reacted to the Stamp Act.

Digital Collections Information

This lesson plan is based on images and/or documents derived from the K-12 Pilot Project Collection available from the University of South Carolina’s Digital Collections Library.

To see other collections that may be helpful to your search, visit Digital Collections homepage or visit SCDL’s collections.
We hear that William Story, Esq., has resigned the office of Deputy-Register of the Court of Vice-Admiralty in this province.

A gentleman of veracity and knowledge, in England, writes, that he is assured, from undoubted authority, that the new ministry are determined to be very favorable to the colonies, in particular with regard to the extension of their commerce.

We hear from Newbury, that a person was hung and burnt in effigy there last week, for speaking in favour of the stamp act.

Capt. Hulme in the last ship from London arrived here, having some stamped paper on board, remains yet in King Road, near Castle William, with the Jamaica, Fortune, Tryal, sloops of war, and Gaspee cutter.

Last Friday afternoon his excellency the governor was pleased to end the following message to both houses of assembly, viz.

Gentlemen of the Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.

The importance of the business which is now before you, requires that there should be the fullest assembly that can be well had; but I find that the courts of justice, which are held in different parts of the country about this time, have prevented many members of both houses, from attending for some time. I therefore think proper to give you the recite I proposed, immediately; hoping that at the next meeting, every member who is not hindered by absolute necessity, will attend. I do accordingly adjourn this general court unto Wednesday the 23rd day of October.

Council Chamber, Sept. 27, 1765.

J. WARREN.

The following are sent to us as copies of my Excellency's message to both houses of assembly, in their late session, and the answer of the House of representatives thereunto.

Gentlemen of this council, and gentlemen of the house of representatives.

A ship is arrived in the harbour with stamped papers on board for the king's use in this province, and also with other stamped papers for the like use for the province of New Hampshire and colony of Rhode Island: As Mr. Oliver has declined the office of distributor of stamped paper, and cannot safely meddle with what are arrived, the care of them devolves to this government, as having a general charge of the king's business within it. I have already laid this matter before the council, and they have referred it to a general court. I therefore now apply to you jointly, to desire your advice and assistance in order to preserve the stamped papers designed for this government, being the king's property of very considerable value, safe and secure for his Majesty's further orders. I must also desire you at the same time, to consider of the like preservation of the stamped papers designed for New-Hampshire and Rhode-Island, if the distributors appointed for those governments should decline to have the charge of them, and in such case the care of them will devolve to this government, equally with others.