

Information

Did you know that North Carolina had a tea party too? In 1774 the women of Edenton, North Carolina, led by Penelope Barker, declared a boycott on British goods - especially tea and cloth. They wrote their resolves and mailed them to England, where English newspapers reported on the ladies. It became known as the Edenton Tea Party. The Edenton Tea Party was just one of the ways that North Carolinians pushed for independence. On February 27, 1776 the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge took place in Pender County, North Carolina. Patriots won the day, and the end of the battle signaled the end of royal rule in North Carolina. Less than three months later, on April 12, 1776, the Halifax Resolves were signed in Halifax, North Carolina. It was the first official action taken for independence in the entire country, and it pushed the Continental Congress to take their own action against England. Three months later, they wrote and signed the Declaration of Independence.

Instructions

Political Cartoon Analysis

You'll need:

- 1 copy of the cartoon (included)

The Edenton Tea Party caused quite a stir in England – when Penelope Barker and 50 other women signed their resolve to stop purchasing and using British items, they mailed it overseas. The British mocked the women in a London-based newspaper and even attached a political cartoon showing the women in a less than favorable light. Take a close look at the political cartoon called “A Society of Patriotic Ladies at Edenton in North Carolina.” Do you see any exaggeration in the women’s features? What point do you think the artist was trying to make? Do you think the women in the cartoon are behaving the way that ladies were expected to in the last 1700s? Why or why not?

Culpeper’s Spy Code

You'll need:

- 1 Culpeper’s Spy Code sheet (included)
- 1 page to decode (included)

Spies were an important part of the American Revolution. Use your copy of Culper’s Code, a real spy code used during the Revolutionary War, to decode secret messages and write a few of your own! Visit Mount Vernon’s website to see the full code and the original document.

Oath of Allegiance

You'll need:

- 1 oath of allegiance

When the American Revolution began, people had to decide whether to be loyal to the crown or fight for independence. Looking back, it seems like an easy choice to make. Who wouldn't want to be a Patriot? But back then the choice wasn't so easy. If you were a Patriot who lived in an area where there were many Loyalists, or a Loyalist who lived where there were many Patriots, you would be in danger all the time. Many colonists still had relatives in England and becoming a Patriot would mean breaking ties with their home country. And what if George Washington didn't win the war? If the British would have won, the Patriots would have been considered traitors and could have everything taken from them – even their lives.

So, will you sign George Washington's oath of allegiance? Read the oath and pretend that you don't know the outcome of the war. Think hard about what the decision would mean for you.