



Primary Source Lesson Plan-Not Really a Tea Party

Name of Primary Source

It Was Not a Tea Party: George Hewes' Account

How primary source ties into text

Qualifies: George Hewes gives his account as a participant in the Boston Tea Party.

Elaborates: Gives specifics about what it was like to destroy the tea during the Boston Tea Party.

Raises questions: This primary source can be used to question the students on the idea of why it was so important that the tea was destroyed rather than taken by the people.

Corresponding Lesson

This lesson ties into chapter 10 in the America's Past Textbook. It would be good to use it during a guided or shared reading lesson sometime that.

Colorado Standards

- Social Studies Standard 1 History: History develops moral understanding, defines identity, and creates and appreciation of how things change while building skills in judgment and decision making. History enhances the ability to read varied sources and develop the skills to analyze, interpret, and communicate. Grade level expectation: analyze historical sources from multiple points of view to develop an understanding of historical context
- Reading and Writing 1: Read and understand a variety of materials
- Reading and Writing 3: Write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling

Big Idea.

Students will use their inferencing skills and background knowledge to answer the question of why it was so important that the colonists did not take any of the tea that was to be destroyed.

Critical thinking

What difference would it have made if some of the tea was taken instead of being destroyed? How was a teacher's daily life on a southern plantation different from teacher's lives today?

Mini-Lesson

Teaching

Begin by reading through the source as a shared reading. Have students write in their reader's notebooks a response to the question, "What difference would it have made if some of the tea was taken instead of being destroyed?"

Active Engagement

Students will use their inferencing skills and knowledge of the Patriot's protest against what they saw as unfair taxation to decide why, even though the tea was being destroyed, they should not take even the tiniest bit. Give them 15 - 20 minutes to write and then have them share with the class.

It Was Not A Tea Party: George Hewes' Account

We were then ordered by our commander to open the hatches and take out all the chests of tea and throw them overboard, and we immediately proceeded to execute his orders, first cutting and splitting the chests with our tomahawks, so as thoroughly to expose them to the effects of the water.

In about three hours from the time we went on board, we had thus broken and thrown overboard every tea chest to be found in the ship, while those in the other ships were disposing of the tea in the same way, at the same time. We were surrounded by British armed ships, but no attempt was made to resist us.

During the time we were throwing the tea overboard, there were several attempts made by some of the citizens of Boston and its vicinity to carry off small quantities of it for their families to use. Too effect that object, they would watch their opportunity to snatch up a handful from the deck, where it became plentifully scattered, and put it into their pockets.

One Captain O'Connor, whom I well knew, came on board for that purpose, and we he supposed he was not noticed, filled his pockets, and also the lining of his coat. But I had detected him and gave information to the captain of what he was doing. We were ordered to take him in to custody, and just as he was stepping from the vessel, I seized him by the skirt of his coat, and in attempting to pull him back, I tore it off; but, springing forward, by rapid effort he made his escape. He had, however, to run a gauntlet through the crowd upon the wharf nice each one, as he passed, giving him a kick or a stroke.

The next morning, after we had cleared the ships of tea, it was discovered that very considerable quantities of it were floating upon the surface of the water; and to prevent the possibility of any of its being saved for use, and number of small boats were manned by sailor and citizens, who rowed them into those parts of the harbor wherever the tea was visible, and by beating it with oars and paddles so thoroughly drenched it as to render its entire destruction inevitable.

Source: www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/revolution/teaparty