

MEET THE SIGNER, READ THE SOURCE: SAMUEL ADAMS

Teacher Resource

Background

In this activity, students will get to know one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence by exploring both their life story and one of their original writings from the *Founders' Library*.

Meet Samuel Adams

Share this video about Samuel Adams to learn more about his life and the role in the American Revolution.

Read the Signer's Source

Next, share the primary source Massachusetts Circular Letter, written by Samuel Adams. There are reading comprehension questions that correspond with this source to deepen understanding and build connections.

Supporting Vocabulary

These definitions might support student learning as they read the primary source.

- **Intercolonial:** Involving or happening between two or more colonies.
- **Disposition:** A person's usual mood or attitude.
- **Subordinate:** Lower in rank or position; under the authority of someone else.
- **Sovereignty:** The power or right of a country or group to govern itself without outside control.
- **Supplications:** Humble or serious requests, often made to a person in power or to God.

Comprehension Questions

These comprehension questions are also included in the student version of the primary source.

Find and copy 2–3 powerful quotes from Massachusetts Circular Letter that argue against Parliament's taxes. Explain what each quote means or how it supports the colonists' point of view.

Extension Activity: Show What You Know

Facilitate a Four Corners activity asking students: Do you think the colonists should have paid taxes?

Factors to consider:

1. The colonists were British citizens.
2. Some of the debt was incurred by providing aid and protection to the colonists.
3. Great Britain and the colonies were 3,000 miles away from each other and separated by the Atlantic Ocean.
4. The colonists had no representation in Parliament.

Students should discuss their opinions with their classmates using evidence from the lesson.