

Beginnings of the American Revolution: Resistance and Revolution ^[1]

They may not look like much, but when these one-penny stamps arrived in the colonies, they sparked protests, a rethinking of the role and nature of government, and ultimately a revolution. In this chapter you'll explore the beginnings of the American Revolution, from British attempts to pay off debts from the Seven Years' War to the outbreak of war between Britain and its own colonies. The principle at stake was a people's right to govern themselves, but you may be surprised at how it was defended. You'll read arguments about the rule of law backed by violent protest. You'll watch as colonists began slowly setting up independent governments while insisting on their loyalty to the king. You'll see revolutionaries inspiring colonial unity through lofty sentiments — and enforcing it with harsh bullying. Were the revolutionaries heroes or hypocrites — or both?

Section Contents

- [Timeline of Resistance, 1763–1774](#) ^[2]
- [Dashed Hopes for the Frontier](#) ^[3]
- [Taxes, Trade, and Resistance](#) ^[4]
- [The Stamp Act Crisis in North Carolina](#) ^[5]
- [Primary Source: A Pledge to Violate the Stamp Act](#) ^[6]
- [Primary Source: The First Provincial Congress](#) ^[7]
- [The Edenton Tea Party](#) ^[8]
- [Political Cartoon: A Society of Patriotic Ladies](#) ^[9]
- [Primary Source: Backcountry Residents Proclaim Their Loyalty](#) ^[10]
- [Primary Source: ^{\[11\]}The Committees of Safety](#) ^[11]
- [Primary Source: Loyalist Perspective: Violence in Wilmington](#) ^[12]

User Tags:

[American Revolution](#) ^[13]

[Chapter Cover](#) ^[14]

[history](#) ^[15]

[North Carolina](#) ^[16]

[North Carolina History](#) ^[17]

[Students](#) ^[18]

[Teachers](#) ^[19]

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[ANCHOR: A North Carolina History Online Resource](#) ^[21]

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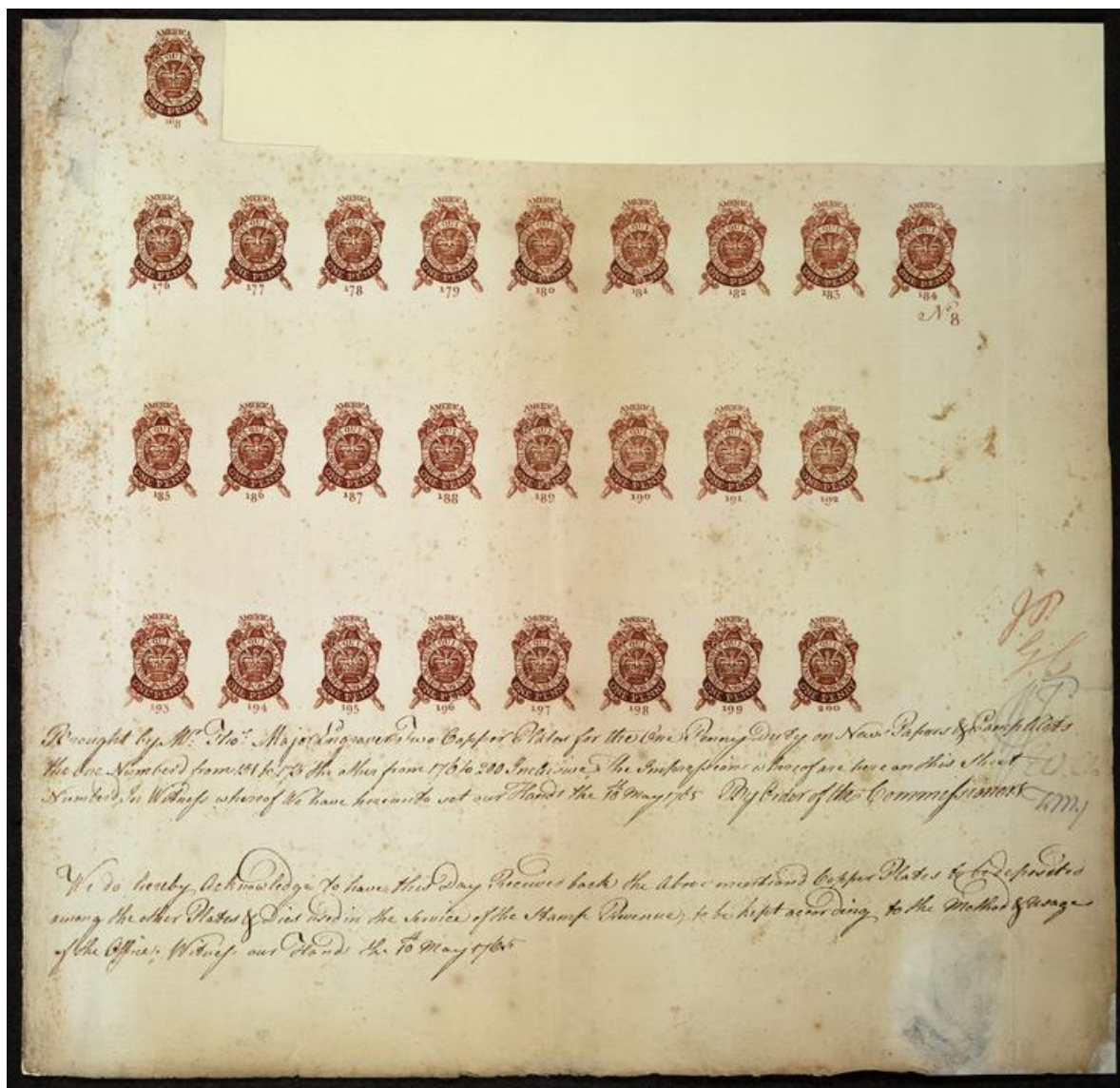
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Lesson Plan: Causes of the American Revolution

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[23]

A proof sheet of one-penny stamps, submitted for approval to the Commissioners of Stamps by an engraver on May 10, 1765. Under the Stamp Act, one-penny stamps were to be used on newspapers, pamphlets and all other papers "larger than half a sheet and not exceeding one whole sheet."

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Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/anchor/beginnings-american> [2] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/timeline-resistance-1763> [3] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/dashed-hopes-frontier> [4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/taxes-trade-and-resistance> [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/stamp-act-crisis-north> [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/primary-source-pledge> [7] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/primary-source-first> [8] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/edenton-tea-party> [9] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/political-cartoon-society> [10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/primary-source-backcountry> [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/primary-source-committees> [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/primary-source-loyalist> [13] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/american> [14] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/chapter-cover> [15] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/history> [16] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/north-carolina-5> [17] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/north-carolina-6> [18] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/students> [19] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/teachers> [20] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/creative-commons> [21] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/anchor-north> [22] <https://humanities.unc.edu/ck12/> [23] <https://www.ncpedia.org/media/proof-sheet-tax-stamps-1765>