

The Stamp Act

- When this tax law came about, the colonists were angry and confused with England.
- The colonies still thought of themselves as English, and they couldn't understand why England was “punishing” them with unnecessary taxes.
- **The Stamp Act, in 1765, required all colonists to buy special stamps in order to read a newspaper, send a letter, sign a contract, get a license, etc.**
 - Without this special stamp, all paperwork was considered illegal and not recognized.



Colonists responded to new taxes with **boycotts** (refusing to buy British goods that were taxed).

boycott – an organized decision to refuse to buy a product.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIUiSBXQHCw> (:52 – 2:25)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvOZs3g3qlo>



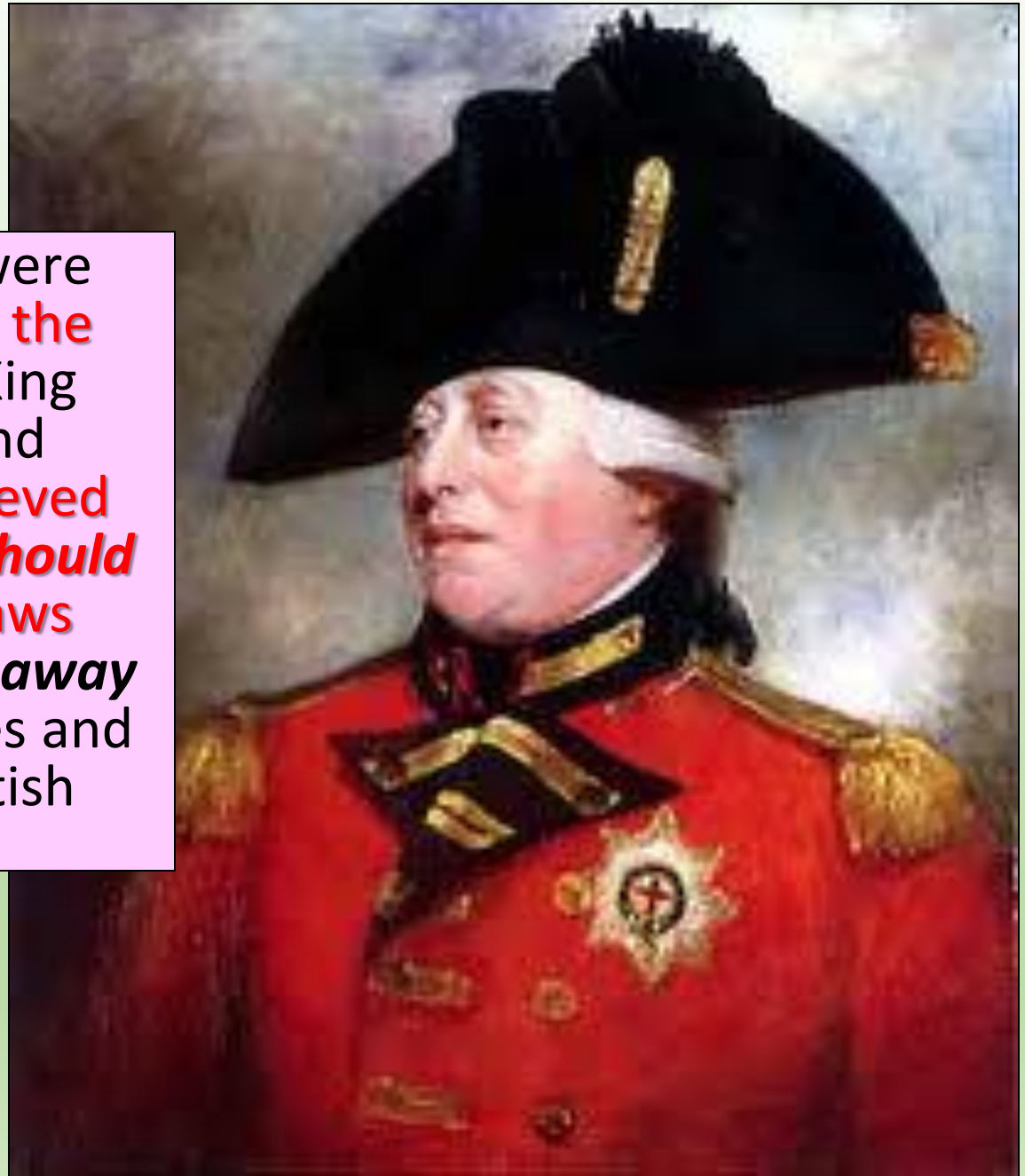
The Quartering Act

- *What do you think the Quartering Act means?*
- Since taxing didn't work with sugar, they changed up their strategy and decided to SAVE money.
- They created **a law that FORCED all colonists to house and feed any British soldier that came to their homes.**
 - This is the Quartering Act.
- In a nutshell, British soldiers moved into colonists' homes for FREE!!!!
 - *What do you think the colonists did about this one?*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKnN8Jg36kA>

The boycotts were successful, but **the English king** (King George III) and Parliament **believed the *Americans should obey* British laws** and ***took power away*** from the colonies and sent more British soldiers.



An Act of Treason

- Many colonists who spoke out against the King of England, or even when people spoke of independence, feared **treason**.
 - *Can anyone tell me what they think “treason” is?*
- **Treason is:** *to betray your king, government or and country*

Can anyone guess what the consequence is for someone committing treason in the colonies?

What Side Are You On?

- **There were three (3) different types of colonists in 1776:**

- Patriot
- Neutral, *or Fence-Sitter*
- Loyalist (or, Torie)

- *Can anyone guess the percentage of each group?*

- 40% of Colonists
- 40% of Colonists
- 20% of Colonists

Why was it a bad thing to have so many Neutral Fence-Sitters in the colonies?

Partner Activity: Can You Spot the Loyalist,
Patriot and the Neutral Fence Sitter?

The Townsend Act + Boston Massacre

- The Townsend Act actually led some people to their deaths!
- **The Townsend Act**, of 1770, involved the **British soldiers being allowed to search the property of colonists for no reason at all.**
- If the British soldiers saw something they thought was “suspicious”, they were allowed to take it away from the colonists.
- The colonists flipped!!!! The **Boston Massacre** is what happened. **Do you know what this event is?**