

Patriot

Protest

The American colonists tried to make their concerns known to leaders in Great Britain. Sometimes, they used persuasion. Other times, they used *intimidation*.

Here's a look at their methods.

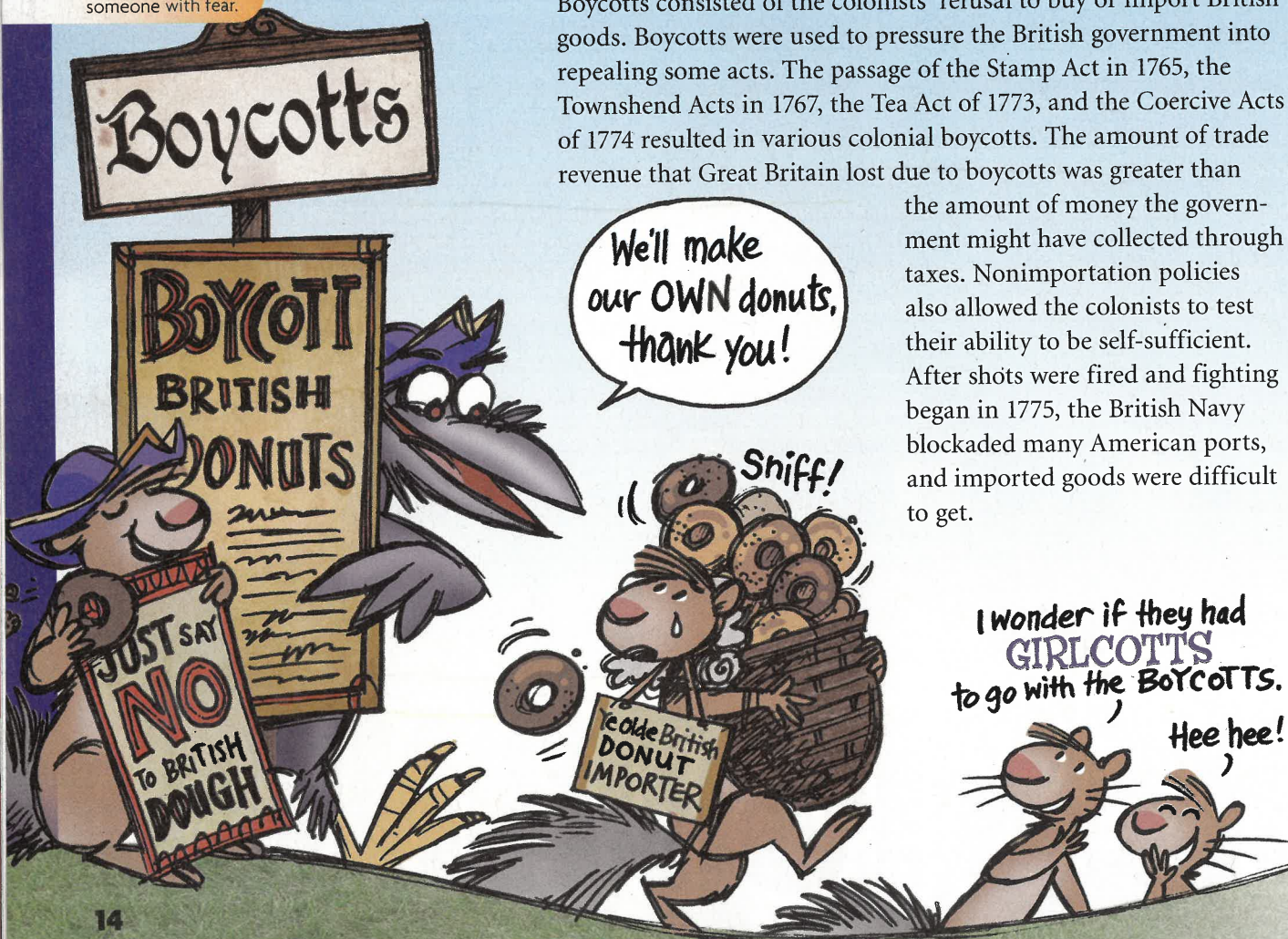
by Meg Chorlian
illustrated by K.E. Lewis

Intimidation is the act of filling someone with fear.

Boycotts consisted of the colonists' refusal to buy or import British goods. Boycotts were used to pressure the British government into repealing some acts. The passage of the Stamp Act in 1765, the Townshend Acts in 1767, the Tea Act of 1773, and the Coercive Acts of 1774 resulted in various colonial boycotts. The amount of trade revenue that Great Britain lost due to boycotts was greater than

the amount of money the government might have collected through taxes. Nonimportation policies also allowed the colonists to test their ability to be self-sufficient. After shots were fired and fighting began in 1775, the British Navy blockaded many American ports, and imported goods were difficult to get.

We'll make our OWN donuts, thank you!



Petitions



Colonial leaders shared written explanations for their discontent with British actions. For example, the Colonies sent a Declaration of Rights and Grievances to King George III and Parliament after the Stamp Act was passed in 1765. It made the claim that “taxation without representation” was unfair. In 1767, Pennsylvanian John Dickinson wrote a newspaper article, “Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies.” It became a widely read pamphlet that pointed out how unconstitutional the Townshend Acts were. In 1774, Massachusetts residents drafted the Suffolk Resolves, which made the case for rejecting the Coercive Acts. As late as July 1775, the Second Continental Congress sent the Olive Branch Petition to England. It reaffirmed its members’ loyalty to the king and asked that he be willing to negotiate trade and tax issues.



JAMES OTIS

by Marcia Amidon Lusted
illustrated by Zach Franzen

“Taxation without representation is tyranny. If we are not represented, we are slaves.”



In 1761, James Otis protested the injustice of British writs of assistance, which gave British officials broad rights to search colonists’ property. His 1764 pamphlet, “The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved,” protested Parliament’s Sugar Act. It established him among the first Americans to write pamphlets on the rights of the Colonies as well as protest unfair British legislation. With fellow Bostonian Samuel Adams, he wrote an open letter to all the Colonies, which called on them to defy the Townshend Acts of 1767. To many, Otis lit the spark that led to revolution.

Tarring and Feathering

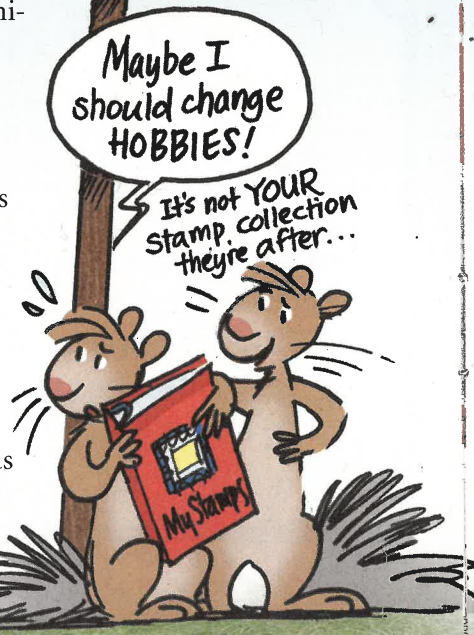


FAST FACT
In some cases, rather than tarring and feathering a person, the victim's personal property was targeted. Houses, places of business, and even a horse were subjected to this treatment.



Mob Violence

Large, angry crowds of people were intimidating and effective. When confronted by a determined mob, royal officials saw the personal danger they faced if they tried to enforce unpopular British laws. On November 1, 1765, the Stamp Act was supposed to go into effect. By that day, however, all the appointed stamp collectors in the Colonies had resigned. After angry mobs threatened them personally or ransacked and destroyed their homes and businesses, some stamp collectors felt lucky to escape with their lives. But as some colonial leaders discovered, mobs could not always be controlled.





An *effigy* is a three-dimensional figure of a known person. To hang someone in effigy, a mob would take the hand-made likeness of a person and hang it from a tree or a pole. The colonists used this method to show their intense dislike for any person who supported Britain's oppressive acts. For example, Parliament's efforts to establish the Stamp Act in 1765 quickly resulted in angry protests by the colonists. On August 14, 1765, Boston residents met to hang in effigy the Boston merchant Andrew Oliver, who had been appointed the royal stamp distributor. He resigned his post. ♦



FAST FACT

Although Andrew Oliver publicly supported the Stamp Act, he privately was against it.

JOHN DICKINSON

by Marcia Amidon Lusted
illustrated by Zach Franzen



"Let us take care of our rights and we therein take care of our prosperity."

John Dickinson was a lawyer and legislator in Philadelphia. In the 1760s, he was a critic of British government policy and wrote a pamphlet protesting the Sugar and Stamp acts. After the Townshend Acts passed in 1767, Dickinson published his famous work, "Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies," which appeared in the *Pennsylvania Chronicle*.

In it, he offered the view of an average farmer, telling his fellow colonists how the laws did not match English constitutional principles. While Dickinson was among the first colonial leaders to take a public stand against British injustices, he did not share the eagerness for independence: He hoped that the differences between Great Britain and America could be resolved.