

THE STAMP ACT MARK

What is this image?

This is a stamp mark. When the British government passed the Stamp Act in 1765, the new law required all types of paper to be stamped with this mark.

The Stamp Act applied to all types of paper—newspapers, books, legal documents, posters, college diplomas, even playing cards! People living in Great Britain had been paying a stamp tax for years, but this kind of tax was new in America. Normally the British government didn't tax things that Americans used in their everyday lives.

What did the Americans do about it?

First, the Americans sent letters and petitions to the British government, asking them to remove the tax, but when the government didn't listen, the Americans organized Stamp Act protests in most major cities in the colonies. Some of the protests were peaceful, but others turned violent.



Fun Fact:

Although the stamp looks brown today, it's original color was dark red.

Notice & Wonder

1. How much did this tax cost? Look closely, the price is written on the mark.
2. Can you find on the mark an image that represents the king and his power?
3. Who do you think would have been most impacted by this tax?

