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Grade level: 5

Primary Source Citation: *A Taxing We Will Go*, Music of the American Colonies (book and audio recording) by Anne and Ridley Enslow, 2000. Originally printed in the *Pennsylvania Ledger*, May 20, 1775, XVII, page 4, under the title “A Junto Song.”

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the song lyrics located on the following page while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level I: Description

1. What was the date this song was first printed?
2. According to the song, who had “supreme power”?

Level II: Interpretation

1. What does the title mean, “A Taxing We Will Go”?
2. Why do you think the author wrote this song?

Level III: Analysis

1. What is the mood of this song? How can you tell?
2. If you were having a problem like this author, how would you want to express it?



Transcript of lyrics:

One single thing untaxed at home old England could not show.

For money we abroad did roam and thought to tax the new.

And a taxing we will go, we'll go, we'll go.

And a taxing we will go.

The power supreme of Parliament our purpose did assist,
And taxing laws abroad were sent, which the rebels do resist.

And a taxing we will go, we'll go, we'll go.

And a taxing we will go.

Shall we not make the rascals bend to Britain's supreme power?
The sword shall we not to them **tend**, and leaden balls a shower?

And a taxing we will go, we'll go, we'll go.

And a taxing we will go.

We'll force and fraud in one unite **to bring them to our hands**,
Then lay a tax on the sun's light and a king's tax on their lands.

And a taxing we will go, we'll go, we'll go.

And a taxing we will go.

Glossary:

tend – point

to bring them to our hands- to make them submit