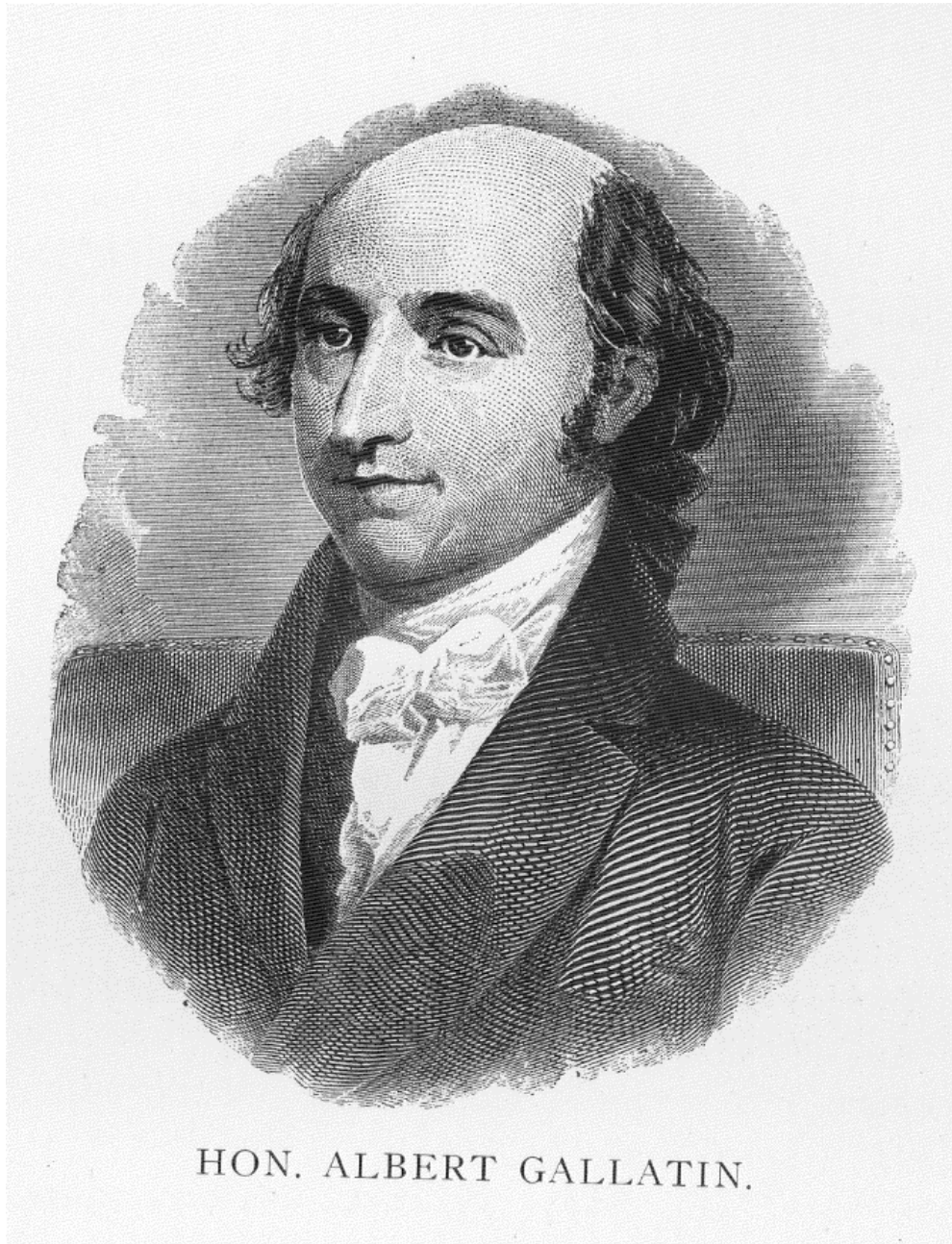


Albert Gallatin: A Most Astonishing Man

Friendship Hill National Historic Site

Teacher's Guide



Lesson: Gallatin and the Whiskey Rebellion

Teacher Instructions

In this lesson the students will use a student reading to learn about the Whiskey Rebellion and Gallatin's participation in it. Then using an activity sheet the students will look at the First Amendment and see if the actions the Western Pennsylvanians took during the rebellion were legal.

GUIDING QUESTION:

What was Gallatin's involvement in the Whiskey Rebellion and how did he behave?

OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this lesson the students will be able to:

- List two ways Gallatin protested the Whiskey Tax
- List two parts of the first amendment that gave Gallatin the right to meet with farmers and to petition the government

MATERIALS

- Copies of the handouts

PROCEDURES:

1. Read the teacher background information on Albert Gallatin
2. Introduce the guiding question to students.
3. Hand out copies of the student reading and the activity sheet.
4. Have the students complete the sheets.
5. Review the guiding question.

STANDARDS

- Pennsylvania Standard Area - 8.1: Historical Analysis and Skills Development
 - Standard - 8.1.5.A, 8.1.6.A, 8.1.7.A, 8.1.8.A
- Pennsylvania Standard Area - 8.2: Pennsylvania History
 - Standard - 8.2.5.A, 8.2.6.A, 8.2.7.A, 8.2.8.A
 - Standard - , 8.2.5.C, 8.2.6.C, 8.2.7.C. 8.2.8.C
 - Standard - 8.2.5.D, 8.2.6.D, 8.2.7.D, 8.2.8.D
- Pennsylvania Standard Area - 8.3: United States History
 - Standard - 8.2.5.A, 8.2.6.C, 8.2.7.D, 8.2.8.D
 - Standard - 8.3.5.C, 8.3.6.C, 8.3.7.C, 8.3.8.C
 - Standard - 8.3.5.D, 8.3.6.D, 8.3.7.D, 8.3.8.D

SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLING LEARNERS

You can read the material out loud to the students or go over the material as a class.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Discuss with your class the reasons for protesting and the different ways (both legal and illegal) a person can protest.
2. Whiskey Rebellion Flag. Have the students design or construct a Whiskey Rebellion Flag. Have the students imagine they were angry farmers in 1794. What symbols would they put on their flag? Have all the flags displayed in the classroom. See if the students can understand the symbolism on their fellow students' flags.

ASSESSMENT

1. Legal because of the Freedom of Assembly
2. Illegal
3. Legal because of the Freedom to Petition
4. Illegal

Student Handout: Gallatin and the Whiskey Rebellion

Student Reading

The Federal government passed a tax on alcoholic beverages to raise money. It was nicknamed the Whiskey Tax. Many farmers in Western Pennsylvania would take the grain they grew and distill it into whiskey. The whiskey was easier to transport to market than grain. Also there was a shortage of money, so whiskey was used as a kind of money. Gallatin paid his employees with whiskey. Now their whiskey was going to be taxed. Most of the Western Pennsylvania farmers were very poor and thought the tax was very unfair. Gallatin agreed.

The western Pennsylvanians protested against the tax. Some, like Gallatin, called meetings and petitioned the government to repeal the tax. Others got violent. Tax collectors were tarred and feathered and tax offices were robbed. In July 1794 there was a battle at the tax collector's house where men were killed. Gallatin didn't believe violence was the way to resolve the conflict. He often met with the farmers trying to find a peaceful solution. In September 1794 President George Washington ordered a large army to march to Western Pennsylvania to put down the rebellion. When the federal army arrived they found there was no rebel army to fight. The rebellion was over. The United States government had survived its first test of its federal authority.



Student Handout: Gallatin and the Whiskey Rebellion

Activity Worksheet

Directions: Some of the actions taken by the Western Pennsylvanian's during the Whiskey Rebellion were legal and some were not. The First Amendment to the Constitution (which is part of the Bill of Rights) protects five basic liberties. Read the questions and decide if the action was legal under one of the freedoms outlined in the First Amendment or if the action was illegal. If the action was legal write the freedom that covered it (and leave the illegal line blank). If the action was illegal check the illegal line (and leave the legal line blank).

FIRST ADMENDMENT (written in modern language)

Freedom of Religion: This means that the government cannot make any religion an official religion. It also cannot stop people from practicing any religion.

Freedom of Speech: This means that the government cannot stop people from saying what they think. It applies to many forms of expression, like art. However, people do not have freedom to say things that will limit other people's rights. For example, people do not have the freedom to threaten to kill other people.

Freedom of the Press: This means that the government cannot prevent newspapers and other news sources from reporting the news.

Freedom of Assembly: This means that people can protest things by getting together and having rallies or marches, as long as they are not violent.

Freedom to Petition: This means that people can complain to the government about things they do not like. They can ask the government to fix those things.

1. Did Gallatin and the farmers have a lawful right to meet and protest the Whiskey Tax?

The actions were legal because of the freedom of _____
or the actions were illegal _____

2. Did the farmers have the right to tar and feather the tax collector?

The actions were legal because of the freedom of _____
or the actions were illegal _____

3. Did Gallatin and other Pennsylvanians have a lawful right to petition the government to repeal the Whisky Tax?

The actions were legal because of the freedom of _____
or the actions were illegal _____

4. Did the farmers have the right to attack the tax collector's house?

The actions were legal because of the freedom of _____
or the actions were illegal _____