



## Lesson Plan for Grade 4

### Rights, Controversies, and the American Revolution

**Subject:** Social Studies **Grade Level:** 4 **SC State Standards:**

- 4-3.1 Explain the major political and economic factors leading to the American Revolution.
- 4-3.2 Explain the significance of major ideas and philosophies of government reflected in the Declaration of Independence.

**Objective:** Students will be able to explain the main political "controversies" that led to the American Revolution and relate them to the ideas of liberty and rights.

**Materials:**

- "Rights and Wrongs" cards (simple cards with a British act on one side and a colonist's reaction on the other, e.g., "Stamp Act" and "Boycott")
- Small whiteboards and markers for groups
- Simplified Declaration of Independence text

**Procedure:**

1. **Introduction (10 minutes):** Begin by asking students what a "right" is. Explain that the colonists felt the British were taking away their rights. Introduce the core idea of "no

taxation without representation" and make it relevant by asking, "Would you want to follow a rule you had no say in making?"

2. **Activity: Rights and Wrongs Matching Game (20 minutes):** Divide the class into small groups. Give each group a set of "Rights and Wrongs" cards. Have them match the British act (like the Tea Act or the Intolerable Acts) with the colonists' reaction (like the Boston Tea Party or the First Continental Congress). As they do this, circulate to help them understand the connection.
3. **Declaration of Independence Breakdown (15 minutes):** Once the cards are matched, hand out the simplified Declaration of Independence. As a class, read through the key sections that list the "wrongs" the king had done to the colonists. Connect these back to the matching game cards, showing how the events in South Carolina and elsewhere were part of a larger list of grievances.
4. **Conclusion & Assessment (15 minutes):** Lead a class discussion on the meaning of liberty and rights as understood by the colonists. Then, have each group write a short paragraph explaining the "rights" the colonists felt were being violated by the British. Collect and review their responses to check for understanding.