

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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MISSION 1: "For Crown or Colony?"

Poem on Spinning Bee, 1769

Colonial women, as well as men, actively protested the Crown's tax laws. They organized spinning bees to produce yarn for "homespun" cloth that would substitute for British textiles. In these stanzas, a poet praises the egalitarian spirit of Patriot spinning bees and the adverse impact on British merchants.

A Verse Occasioned by seeing the North-Spinning, in BOSTON.

BOSTON, behold the pretty Spinners here,
And see how gay the pretty Sparks appear;
See Rich and Poor all turn the Spinning Wheel,
All who Compassion for their Country feel,
All who do love to see Industry live,
And see Frugality in *Boston* thrive.

Britain, behold thy Trade stole from thy Hand,
And carried on in *Boston's* distant Land:
See now thy Trade and Trades men, all expire.
And see them all [speak] of their Desire,
The Desire they had that *Boston's* Trade should spoil,
That they might reap the Fruit of all our Toil;

Source: Anonymous, "A Verse, Occasioned by Seeing the North-Spinning, In Boston," broadside, 1769, Boston. Boston Public Library.