

## Song of the Revolution

**Directions:** Read the following broadside and answer the questions.

### Revolutionary Tea

There was an old lady lived over the sea  
And she was an Island Queen;  
Her daughter lived off in a new country,  
With an ocean of water between.  
The old lady's pockets were full of gold,  
But never contented was she,  
So she called on her daughter to pay her  
a tax  
Of three pence a pound on her tea,  
Of three pence a pound on her tea.

"Now mother, dear mother," the  
daughter replied,  
"I shan't do the thing that you ax;  
I'm willing to pay a fair price for the tea,  
But never the three penny tax."  
"You shall," quoth the mother, and  
reddened with rage,  
"For you're my own daughter, you see,  
And sure 'tis proper the daughter  
should pay  
Her mother a tax on her tea,  
Her mother a tax on her tea."

And so the old lady her servant called up,  
And packed off a budget of tea;  
And eager for three pence a pound, she  
put in  
Enough for a large family.  
She ordered her servants to bring home  
the tax,  
Declaring her child should obey,  
Or old as she was, and almost woman  
grown,  
She'd half whip her life away,  
She'd half whip her life away.

The tea was conveyed to the daughter's  
door,  
All down by the ocean's side;  
And the bouncing girl poured out every  
pound  
In the dark and boiling tide.  
And then she called out to the Island  
Queen,  
"Oh, mother, dear mother," quoth she,  
"Your tea you may have when 'tis  
steeped enough,  
But never a tax from me,  
But never a tax from me."

1. What is a broadside?
2. Who was the Island Queen? her daughter? her servant?
3. What image do you see of England?
4. Is there a rhyme scheme? How can you tell?
5. Is there a refrain? Is it consistently worded?
6. What does the Island Queen threaten in the third stanza if the tax isn't paid?
7. What historical event does the fourth stanza depict?
8. What does the use of dialogue do for the song?
9. "Reddened with rage" and "daughter's door" are examples of what poetic sound device?
10. Why do you think the colonists liked this broadside?