

Key

Name: _____

Causes of the Revolution

Date: _____

Period: _____

The Aftermath of the Boston Massacre

After the deaths of the five colonists involved in the Boston Massacre, colonists were quick to protest the incident. A Boston silversmith named Paul Revere created anti-British feelings with an engraving that showed British soldiers firing on unarmed colonists. Samuel Adams also wrote letters to other colonists to build outrage about the shooting.



The British soldiers involved were arrested and tried in court. John Adams agreed to defend them, saying that they deserved a fair trial. He wanted to show the world that the colonists believed in justice, even if the British government did not. At the trial, Adams argued that the crowd had provoked the soldiers and he was able to convince the jury as well. In the end, the soldiers were all found not guilty.

Colonial Protest Pays Off

Samuel Adams later expanded on the idea of a letter-writing campaign by forming the **committee of correspondence**. Members of this group regularly wrote letters and pamphlets reporting to other colonies the events happening in Massachusetts. This became a major tool in spreading information throughout the 13 colonies and creating unity in the colonies against Britain.

By chance, on the very day of the Boston Massacre, a bill was introduced into **Parliament**, the English government, to repeal most of the Townshend Acts. Colonial boycotts were very successful and had hurt British businesses very much. They voted to **repeal, or cancel**, the Quartering Act as well as most of the taxes that had angered the colonists in the first place. However, King George III asked Parliament to keep the tax on tea. "There must always be one tax to keep up the right to tax," he argued. And Parliament agreed.

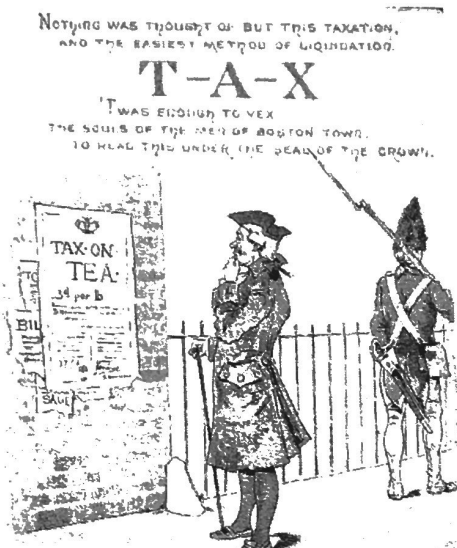
News of the repeal of the taxes delighted the colonists but they continued to boycott British tea since it was still being taxed.

A Dispute Over Tea

Tea was tremendously popular in the colonies. By 1770, at least one million Americans brewed tea twice a day. People "would rather go without their dinners than without a cup of tea," a visitor to the colonies noted.

Most of the tea was brought to the American colonies by the British East India Company. The company bought tea in southern Asia, shipped it to the colonies, and then sold it to the colonial tea merchants. The merchants then sold the tea to the colonists. To make a profit, the merchants sold the tea at a higher price than they had paid for it.

In the 1770s, however, the British East India Company found itself in deep financial trouble and near bankruptcy. The British Parliament had kept the tax on tea from the Townshend Acts as a symbol of their right to tax the colonies. The tax was a small one, but



the colonists resented it and **boycotted** (refused to buy) the tea. As a result, more than 15 million pounds of tea sat unsold in British warehouses.

Parliament tried to help the British East India Company by passing the **Tea Act** of 1773. This law allowed the British East India Company to sell their tea directly to the colonists, bypassing the colonial merchant. Although colonists would still pay the tax on tea, they would not have to pay the higher prices charged by the colonial merchants. As a result, the tea would cost less than ever before and Parliament hoped this would encourage colonist to buy British tea again.

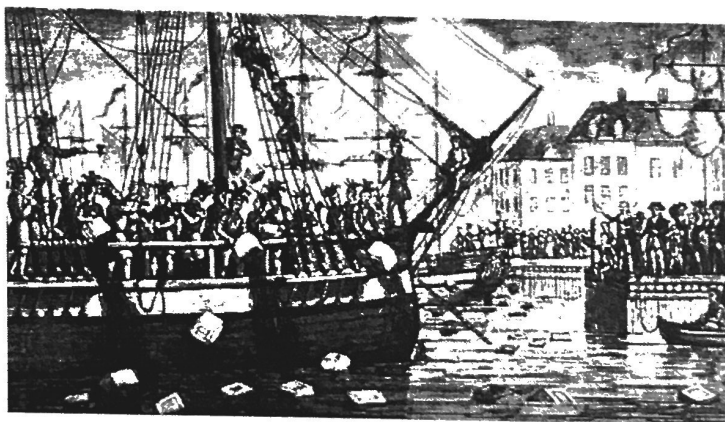
To the surprise of Parliament, colonists were outraged by the Tea Act. American tea merchants were angry because they would lose their businesses with this new law. Even colonial tea drinkers were upset with this law. They saw it as a British trick to get the to pay the tax on tea.

Colonists continued their boycott of British tea and the **Daughters of Liberty** made American made tea from raspberries called "Liberty Tea" and the Sons of Liberty enforced the boycott by keeping the British East India Company from unloading their tea at the docks.

Boston Tea Party

Three ships loaded with tea reached Boston harbor in late November 1773. The British had insisted that they unload their cargo. But Sam Adams and the Sons of Liberty had other plans. On the night of December 16th, they met in the Old South Meetinghouse. They sent a message to the British officers demanding that the ships leave the harbor. When they rejected the demand, Adams stood up and declared, "this meeting can do nothing further to save out country." Adams's words seemed to be a signal. As if on cue, a group of men dressed in Indian disguises burst into the meetinghouse shouting, "Boston harbor a teapot tonight!"

The disguised colonists left the meetinghouse and headed for the harbor. Others joined them along the way. Under nearly a full moon, the men boarded the ships, split open the tea chests, and dumped the tea into the harbor. By 10 p.m., the **Boston Tea Party**, as it was later called, was over. The contents of 342 chests of tea floated in the harbor.



1. Define the following:

Committee of Correspondence - Letter Writing Campaign
~~used~~ to inform other colonies of events that
were occurring in Boston.

Parliament - British Government

Repeal - Cancel

Boycott - Refuse to buy

Tea Act - The British East India Company would sell
directly to the colonist, by passing the colonial
merchant

Daughters of Liberty - Women who favored the rebellion
against Britain.

Boston Tea Party - Colonist dressed like Native Americans
and boarded a British ship in the Boston
harbor. The colonist dumped 342 chests of tea in the harbor.

2. Why did Paul Revere create an image of the Boston Massacre that wasn't accurate?
Paul Revere wanted to create anti-British
feelings in the colonies.
3. What part of the Townshend Acts were repealed and what part wasn't?
The quartering Act was repealed however, the
tax on tea was not.
4. Why were the colonists so upset with the Tea Act? Tea was tremendously
popular in the colonies. The Tea Act bypassed
the colonial merchant
5. What did the Daughters of Liberty do to support the boycott of British tea?
They made tea from raspberries
6. What was the Boston Tea Party? December 16th 1773 colonist
dressed like Native Americans ~~loaded~~ boarded
a British ship and dumped 342 chest of tea into the
Boston Harbor.
7. How do you think the King George III will react when he hears about the Boston Tea
Party?