

## High School Packet (Grades 9-12)



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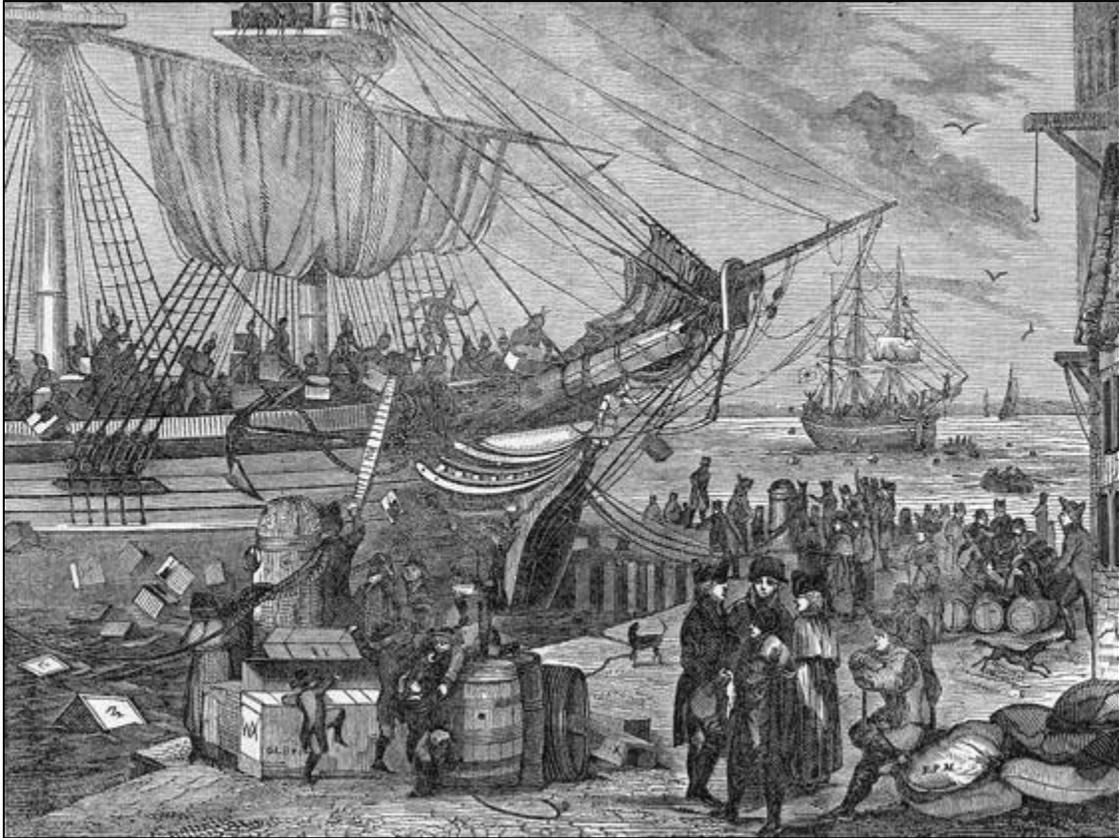
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**For High School and Advanced Students (Grades 8-12)**

Have your students read the following article, **The Story Behind the Boston Tea Party**, and then have them fill out the timeline, and answer the questions that follow.



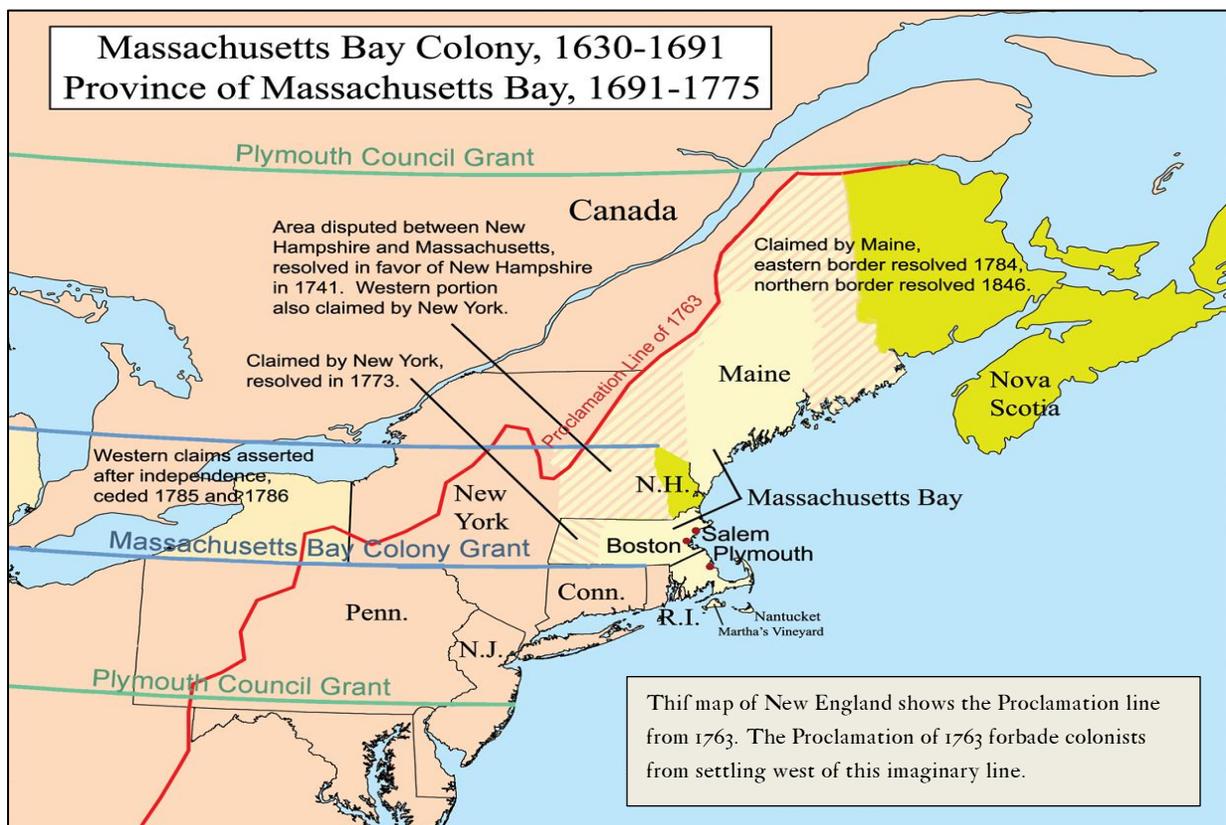
## The Story Behind the Boston Tea Party

### *The French and Indian War and the Royal Proclamation*

Before 1733, **Parliament** had never tried to tax the American colonies. The English government let the colonists rule themselves under the **Massachusetts Charter**, or the agreement setup between early colonial settlers and the King of England. In March 1733, Parliament passed the **Molasses Act** which taxed all molasses brought into the colonies.

The colonists did not have to pay taxes on other things, so they were pleased. They

fought alongside the English in the **French and Indian War** against the French and their Native American allies. The **colonists** believed that by fighting the war for the English, they had earned their respect. They were about to receive a rude awakening. Only eight months after the French and Indian War ended, **King George III** passed the **Proclamation of 1763** which prohibited colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains.

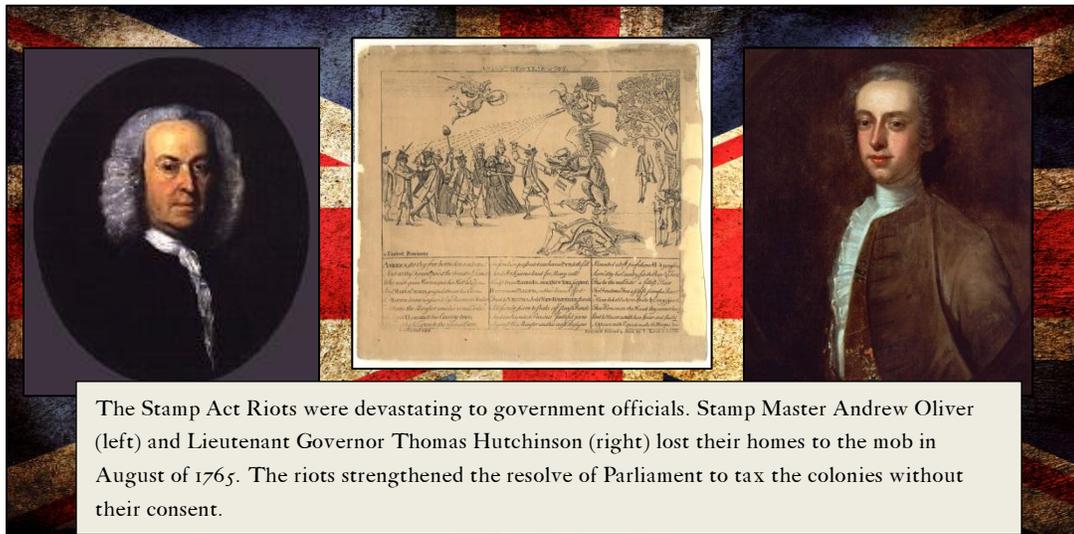


## *No Taxation without Representation! The Stamp Act (1765)*

As soon as the French and Indian War was over in 1763, English leaders started looking for new ways to make money to pay for the cost of the war. In 1765 Parliament passed the **Stamp Act**. This taxed everyone in the colonies. Whether you were rich or poor, you had to pay a tax on paper, ink, playing cards, and dice. Everyone in Boston, Massachusetts was very upset that they had been taxed by Parliament without their consent.

The colonists in Boston were not sure what to do. England was 3,000 miles away and back then letters took between one and three months to reach England! In August 1765, angry colonists started to **riot**. They destroyed two buildings owned by the Stamp Master, **Andrew Oliver**. Two weeks later, they tore down the house of Lieutenant Governor **Thomas Hutchinson**. English leaders were shocked and upset over the violent behavior of people in the colonies.

Parliament was so shocked by the violence that they canceled, or **repealed** the Stamp Act in 1766. Leaders in Parliament wanted to make sure that the colonies knew who the boss was, and who had the right to tax them. Right after the repeal of the Stamp Act, Parliament passed the **Declaratory Act** in 1766. This Act stated that Parliament would always have the right to tax the colonies without their permission in the future. **Patriots**, or people in the American colonies that were against Parliament and King George III, were outraged!



## *Tea and the American Colonies*

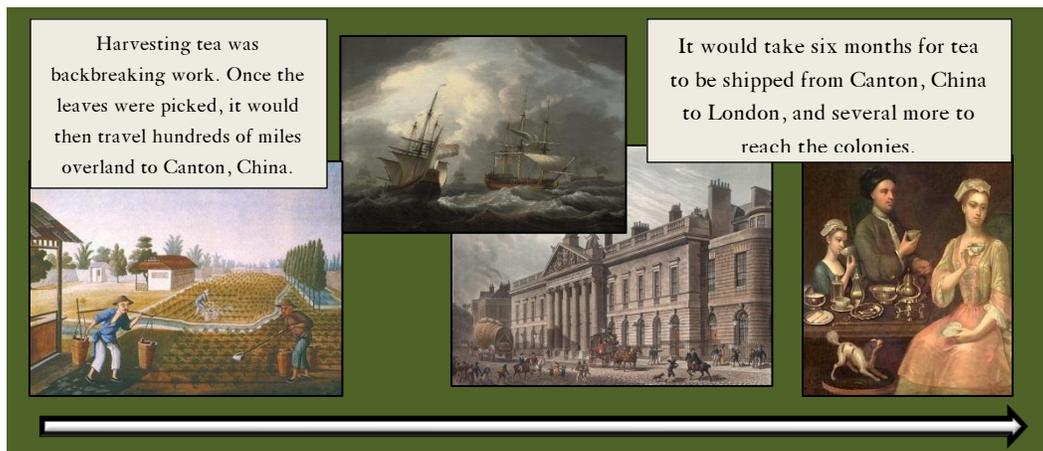
Tea was first brought into England in 1661. By 1770, everyone in the British colonies was drinking tea. The kinds of tea that the colonies used to **import** were singlo, hyson, bohea, congou, and souchong. Each tea had its own flavor, but the most popular tea by far was bohea. This tea was so cheap, that everyone in England and the colonies could afford it. Colonists would often host tea parties to show off their tea cups, trinkets, and tea pots to their friends. Many believed that this cheap drink was a necessity for all the colonists.

The tea that the colonists were drinking was grown in China. **The East India Company** would pick up the tea in Canton, China and send it to London, England. Once the tea made it to London, the East India Company would hold auctions. The auctioneer would light a one inch candle and the auction would go on until the candle burned out. The highest bidder would be rewarded the tea,

and then the tea would be sent to the colonies and sold there to thirsty Bostonians. The East India Company made a lot of money selling tea this way.

Tea was very popular not only in the colonies, but in England as well. The East India Company established a **monopoly** on the tea trade. This meant that *only* the East India Company could sell tea in England. Leaders in England grew rich off of the sale of the East India Company tea. They placed a **customs duty** or tax on all of the tea that was brought into England.

The English **government** wanted to make even more money. The East India Company noticed that the colonies in America did not have to pay a tea tax like the people in England. Starting in the year 1721, colonists could only buy their tea from the East India Company. It was illegal to buy tea anywhere else.



### *Smuggling on the High Seas: John Hancock and the Liberty Affair (1768)*

Colonists loved their tea, it was their favorite drink. They did not want to pay a tax for it. So colonists started to think of new and creative ways to get around paying the tax. Although it was illegal for colonists to buy tea from anyone but the East India Company, colonists started to **smuggle** in cheaper and better tasting tea from other parts of the world. They bought most of this tea in Holland. By 1773 more than three quarters of the tea colonists were drinking came from Holland!

English leaders knew that the colonists were smuggling tea and other things under the noses of **customs officials**. England had a hard time collecting taxes because there were many secret places along the coastline which made it easy for smugglers to sneak tea into the American colonies.



**Left:** Smugglers would look for isolated places along the coast to bring their goods into the colonies. Pictured left is the *Gaspee*, a British customs patrol ship that looked for smugglers along the coast. This time, the smugglers won. They caught the *Gaspee* off guard, cut all of the ropes in the rigging, and burned the ship to the waterline.

**Right:** Smugglers bringing barrels of rye into Boston under the cover of night.

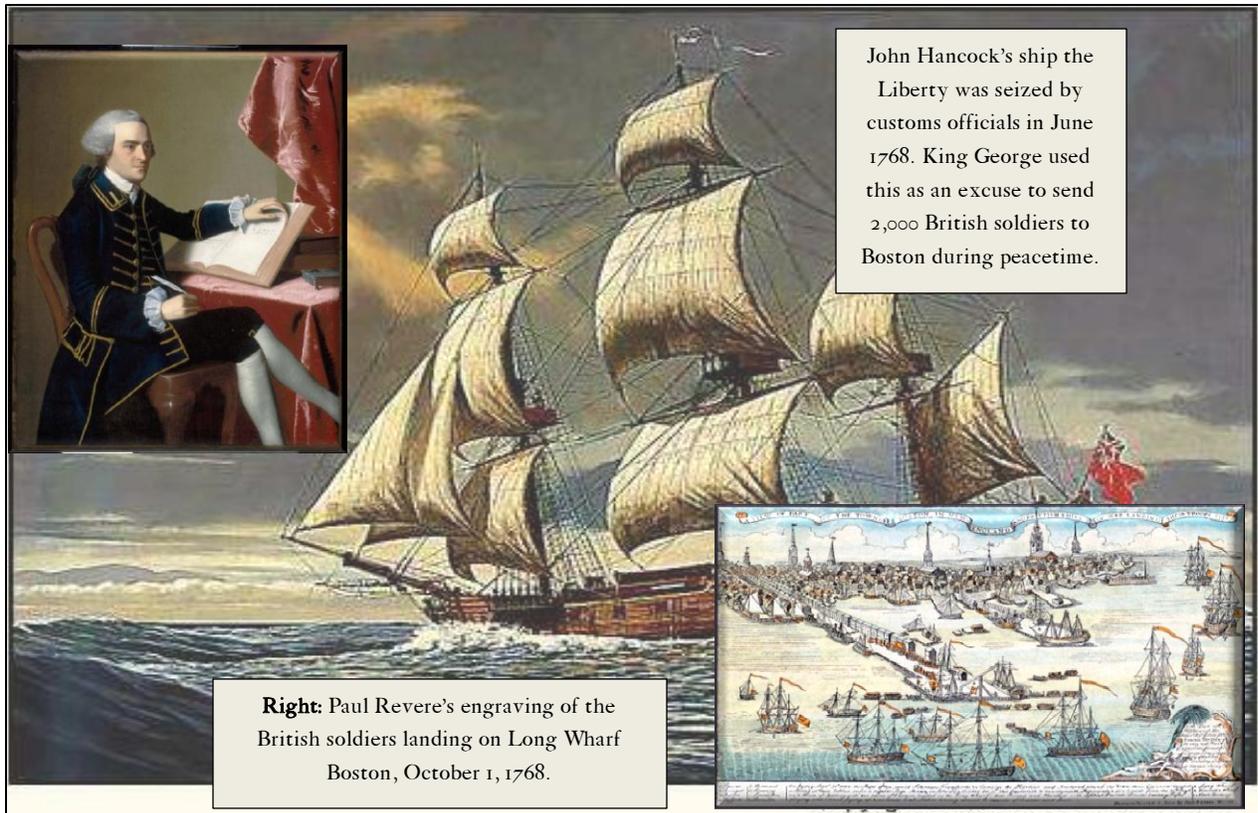


Smuggling goods into the colonies was a dangerous business. Smugglers ran the risk of being caught and punished for their illegal activity. English customs agents wanted to send the message that smuggling was not acceptable. The Patriot merchant John Hancock was their first target.

In April 1768, one of his ships the *Liberty* arrived carrying casks of Madeira wine, and other taxable goods under the Townshend Acts. Hancock was a seasoned smuggler, and he ordered his crew to unload the cargo under the cover of night. Customs officials saw this, and boarded the ship to discover that the cargo hold was only half full. Since

no taxes had been paid, he knew Hancock illegally unloaded his cargo. When John Hancock noticed that the customs officials were on his ship, he ordered his crew to lock them in the captain's cabin. In the hours that followed, the customs officials recalled hearing many hands hoisting goods up from the hold.

The customs officials used this against Mr. Hancock, and two months later, his ship was seized by the authorities. This angered Boston merchants. They called this event the **Liberty Affair**. Unfortunately, this was used as an excuse to send the British Army to occupy Boston.



John Hancock's ship the Liberty was seized by customs officials in June 1768. King George used this as an excuse to send 2,000 British soldiers to Boston during peacetime.

**Right:** Paul Revere's engraving of the British soldiers landing on Long Wharf Boston, October 1, 1768.

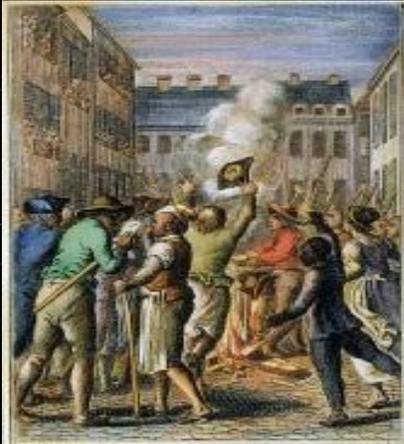
*The Townshend Acts and the Boston Massacre (1767-1770)*

Realizing how hard it was to enforce the tea tax, Parliament passed the **Indemnity Act** in 1767. This made both the East India Company and loyal **merchants** very pleased. There would be no more tax on the tea. Now the East India Company tea would cost less than the tea that was smuggled in from Holland.

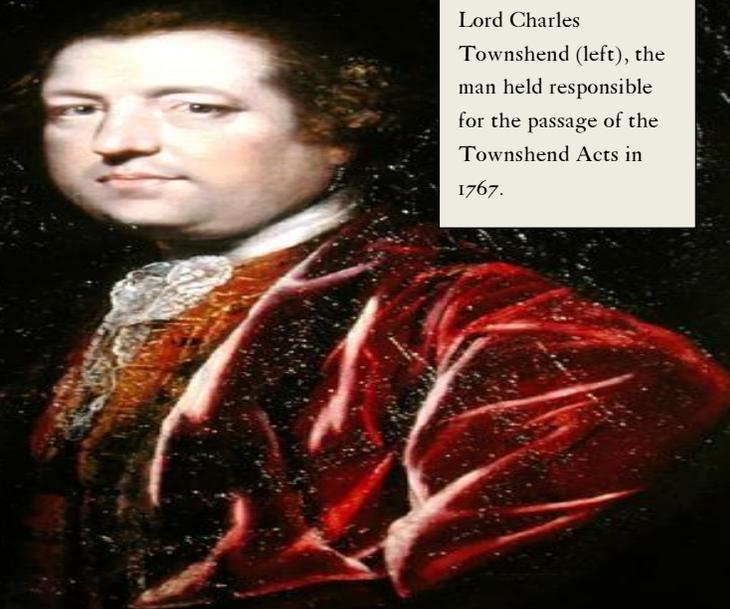
Another Act was passed in 1767 called the **Townshend Acts**. This Act placed a tax on glass, painter's colors, and lead. All of these goods were used by everyone in Boston which meant everyone would be forced to pay the tax.

The Stamp Act was repealed because of the **Stamp Act Riots**, but Parliament wanted to show the colonists that they were serious. The leaders in Parliament felt that they had not been tough enough on the colonies, and they wanted to show that they would not repeal any more taxes because of the violent acts of a few troublemakers.

Patriots in Boston were against the Townshend Acts. Colonists wanted Parliament to repeal the taxes, but they knew that violence would not work this time. They would not pay taxes to Parliament unless they had a say. None of the thirteen colonies in America had a representative in Parliament. The Patriots believed that all acts of taxation were illegal unless they could vote on them.



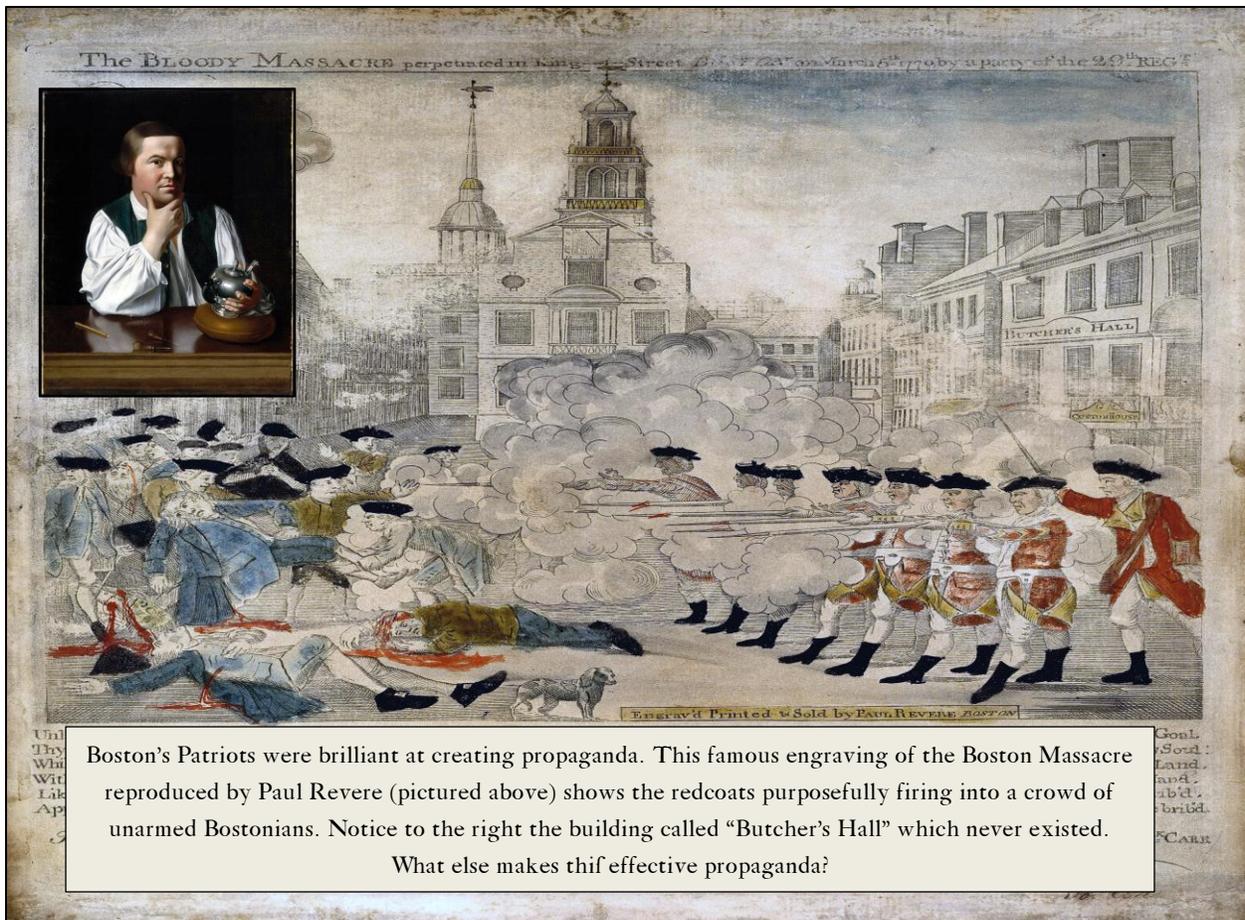
Violence that erupted during the Stamp Act Riots (pictured above) would no longer be tolerated by Parliament and King George III.



Lord Charles Townshend (left), the man held responsible for the passage of the Townshend Acts in 1767.

To make matters worse, what started out as a street brawl between a handful of dockworkers and a few redcoats on March 2, 1770 escalated into a bloody massacre on March 5, 1770. Throughout the day young men from Boston's lower classes were harassing the redcoats of the 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment by throwing snow balls, large paving stones, oysters in their shells, and wooden clubs at them.

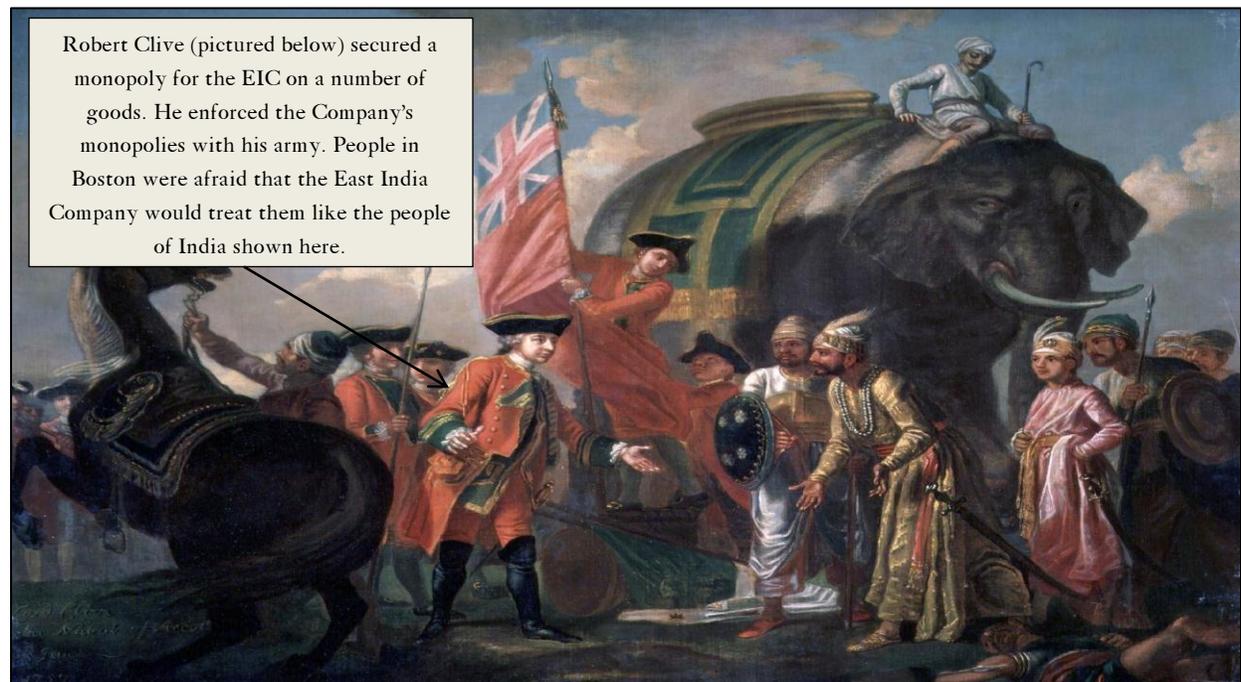
As the night dragged on, hundreds of angry Bostonians had surrounded them shouting "fire", and "shoot us if you dare!" causing confusion among the redcoats. According to witnesses, one club struck a redcoat in the head causing him to drop his musket which fired as it hit the ground. In a matter of seconds, all of the redcoats had fired their guns leaving five Bostonians dead in the street.



### *The East India Company and the Tea Act (1773)*

Even though the people of Boston were pleased that the Townshend Acts were repealed, they were still upset over the Boston Massacre. They were even more upset when they discovered that the East India Company was granted an illegal **monopoly** on the sale of tea in the colonies. By 1770, the East India Company was losing a lot of money. Parliament was worried because every year the East India Company would pay them a **tribute** of \$400,000. Now the Company did not have enough money to pay Parliament. In 1773 Lord North devised a new measure of taxation called the **Tea Act**. This was his clever plan to sell the tea, and make sure that Parliament and the East India Company made more money. The Tea Act would force people in the colonies to buy the East India Company tea.

The people of Boston were very upset when they heard that four ships *Dartmouth*, *Eleanor*, and *Beaver* were on their way from England with 340 chests of tea. The Sons of Liberty reminded all of the Patriots in Boston that the Tea Act would ruin the colonies. Merchants were just as angry. Many merchants had been smuggling Dutch tea from Holland illegally into the colonies. Under the Tea Act, the East India Company tea would be cheaper. This meant that the smugglers would lose a lot of hard earned money. The stage was set for a showdown between the Sons of Liberty and the British Empire.



*Hear Ye, Hear Ye! The Worst of Plagues, the Detested Tea is Headed this Way!*

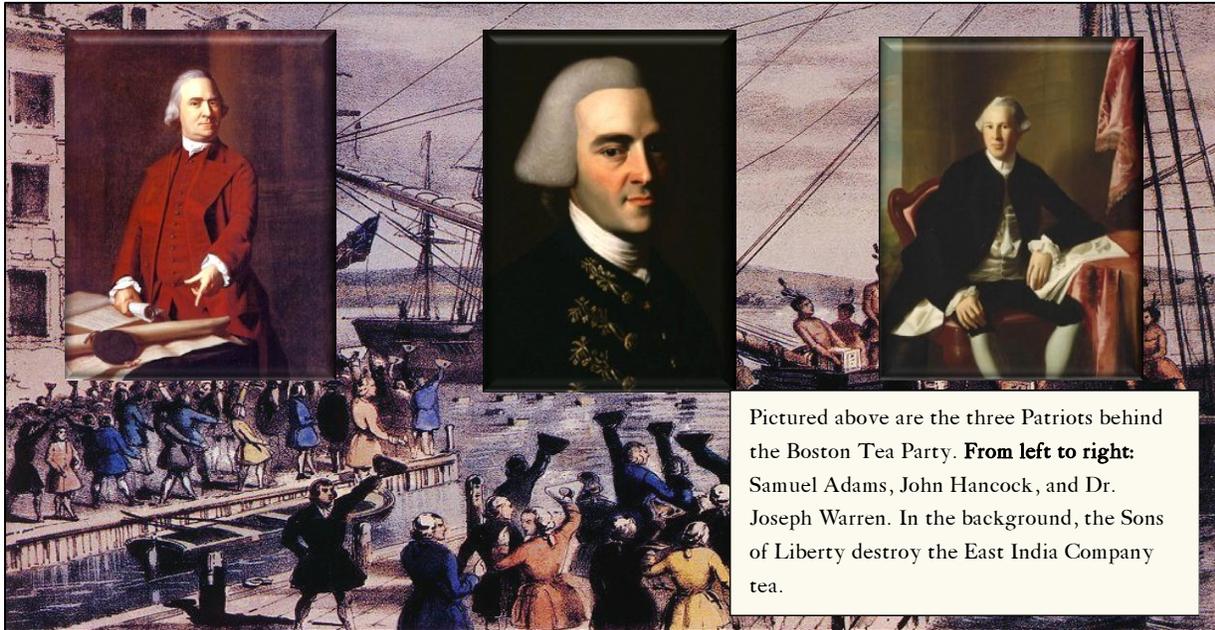
The first ship *Dartmouth* arrived in Boston Harbor on November 28, 1773. By Parliament's **Navigation Acts**, a ship had twenty days to unload the cargo and pay the tax on the goods. The twentieth day was December 17, 1773. This meant that the Sons of Liberty had to figure out what they were going to do about the tea. They held many meetings to decide what they should

do with the tea. Samuel Adams tried to convince the customs officials to send the three ships back to England with the East India Company tea aboard. The customs officials would not budge. On December 16, 1773, the Sons of Liberty still did not know how to solve the crisis.

They called for a public meeting at the **Old South Meeting House** in Boston. Everyone

was invited. Over 5,000 people attended the meeting at Old South Meeting House, with over 1,000 more outside. Samuel Adams sent Francis Rotch, the 23 year old ship owner of the *Dartmouth* and *Beaver* to ride his horse to Milton to speak with **Royal Governor** Thomas Hutchinson one last

time. Only Governor Hutchinson could grant the ships permission to sail back to England with the tea on board. But the Governor was miles away from Boston, so it took Francis Rotch hours to return to the Old South Meeting House with Hutchinson's final orders.



Pictured above are the three Patriots behind the Boston Tea Party. **From left to right:** Samuel Adams, John Hancock, and Dr. Joseph Warren. In the background, the Sons of Liberty destroy the East India Company tea.

Francis Rotch left from Boston at noon and returned at 5:00 PM. Thomas Hutchinson told Rotch that the taxes had to be paid on the tea before the three ships could sail back to England. Once everyone at the Old South Meeting House heard Governor Hutchinson's decision, they became very angry. Samuel Adams stood up and announced "There is nothing more a meeting can do to save this country." That was the secret signal for the Sons of Liberty to put on their **Mohawk disguises** and make their way down to **Griffin's wharf**.

Once they arrived at least 30 Sons of Liberty boarded each ship and set to work. They took special care not to damage any of the other cargo aboard the three ships, only the East India Company tea. They hoisted the tea crates up from the hold and used hatchets to crack open the wooden chests. Once the chest was opened, the Sons of Liberty dumped the tea into Boston Harbor. They did this until all 340 chests of tea were floating in Boston Harbor!

The Boston Tea Party was the single most important act that sparked the American Revolution. By destroying the tea, the Sons of Liberty were past the point of no return. Only sixteen months later, Patriots were fighting redcoats at the **Battle of Lexington-Concord**. What the Sons of Liberty did on Griffin's wharf on the night of December 16, 1773 will always be remembered as the event that started the American Revolution.

Questions for "The Story Behind the Boston Tea Party"



*Multiple Choice*

1. What groups of people were most affected by the Stamp Act?
  - A. Lawyers.
  - B. Dockworkers.
  - C. Newspaper publishers.
  - D. All of the above.
2. Which act gave Parliament the authority to tax the colonies whenever they pleased, and without the colonists' consent?
  - A. Stamp Act.
  - B. Townshend Acts.
  - C. Declaratory Act.
  - D. Both B and C.
3. During the Stamp Act Riots of August 1765, whose house was torn down by the Patriots?
  - A. Andrew Oliver.
  - B. Ebenezer Richardson.
  - C. Thomas Hutchinson.
  - D. Both A and C.
4. Where was tea grown by the East India Company, and where was it auctioned?
  - A. China, Boston.
  - B. India, Boston.
  - C. China, London.
  - D. India, London.

*True or False*

5. According to the Navigation Acts, each ship that arrived in Boston Harbor had three months to unload its cargo and pay the duties.

T  
F
6. Colonists were upset over the Tea Act because the tea would cost *more* than the tea they had previously been drinking.

T  
F

7. On the night of the Boston Tea Party, the Sons of Liberty dressed up like Indians with full headdresses and war paint.  
T  
F
  
8. Parliament responded to the Boston Tea Party by passing the Coercive (Intolerable) Acts in 1774.  
T  
F

 *Short Answer* 

Read the question below and in three to four paragraphs answer to the best of your ability.

9. On May 10, 1773, the Tea Act went into effect instituting a nominal three pence tax on every pound of East India Company tea. In three to four paragraphs, list the three groups of people that were going to benefit from the distribution of the East India Company tea and how they were going to benefit. Why were the colonists so upset over this arrangement?
  
10. In three to four paragraphs describe three methods used by Bostonians to resist taxation without representation. How did Parliament respond to colonial resistance? Did colonists adjust their methods of resistance as new measures of taxation were imposed on them? If so, briefly explain the lessons they learned with each successive Act of taxation.

# Glossary



1. **Boston Massacre:** On March 5, 1770 British Regulars in Boston were attacked by patriots that were throwing oysters, stones, and wooden bats. After hours of this, the British fired their muskets at them leaving five patriots dead.
2. **Boycott:** The effort of a group of people to refuse to buy or sell goods from a shop or country. Patriots in Boston led a boycott against goods that were being taxed by Parliament.
3. **British:** People from England or any part of the world that was controlled by England.
4. **Colonist:** A person who leaves their native country and settles in another land that is still ruled by the native country.
5. **Consignee:** A loyalist merchant that was handpicked by Parliament to sell the tea.
6. **Customs Official:** A person that was appointed by the crown to enforce rules and laws in British ports. These men would usually count the cargo aboard each ship once it arrived in harbor and calculate how much the ship owner would have to pay the crown in taxes.
7. **Declaratory Act:** A law passed by Parliament in 1766 right after the repeal of the Stamp Act. This Act announced that Parliament had the right to tax colonists without their permission whenever they pleased.
8. **East India Company:** A company that traded goods from many different parts of the world. In 1773, Parliament granted them a monopoly to sell tea in the colonies. Most of this tea had been expired for four years!
9. **French and Indian War:** A war fought between the French and the British in North America from 1754 to 1763. Both sides had Native American allies in the fight. The war had cost so much money that Parliament thought the colonists should pay for some of it.
10. **Goods:** Things that were bought and sold by merchants or shopkeepers. This is what Parliament wanted to tax.

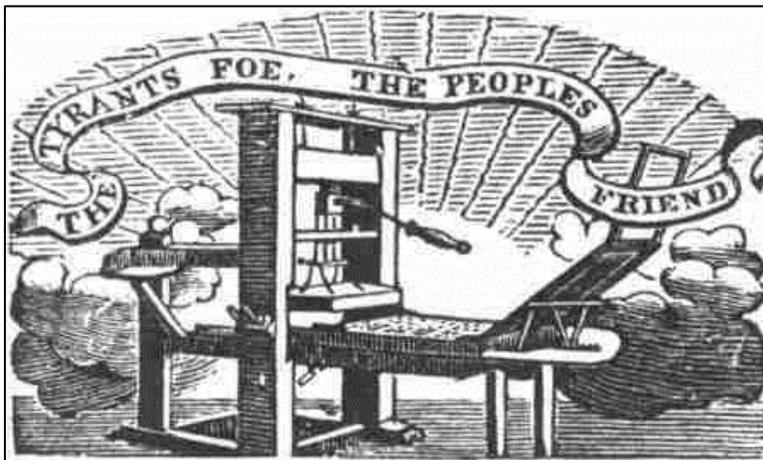
- 11. Government:** A collection of people that rule a nation. In 1773, Parliament and King George III together were the government of the British Empire that ruled over the North American colonies. On July 4, 1776 the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, making this the new government of the thirteen colonies.
- 12. Intolerable Acts:** In England these were called the Coercive Acts. They were Parliament's response to the Boston Tea Party. The point of the Intolerable Acts was to punish Boston for the tea party.
- 13. Liberty Affair:** In 1768 customs officials tried to count the amount of cargo on John Hancock's ship the *Liberty* but were locked in a cabin below deck while Hancock's sailors illegally brought the cargo into town. The crown seized the *Liberty* and turned it into a patrol boat because of this.
- 14. Loyalist:** A person who supports King George III, Parliament, and the laws they created.
- 15. Massachusetts Charter:** An agreement or pact between the King of England and the governing body in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Charter allowed the colonists to rule themselves since 1691.
- 16. Merchant:** A person who makes money by buying and selling goods. Merchants often owned fleets of ships and would buy goods in one place of the world, and sell them in another place.
- 17. Mohawk disguises:** The Sons of Liberty loosely disguised themselves as Mohawk Indians before they destroyed the tea in Boston Harbor. They stuck feathers in their tricorne hats, smeared burnt cork on their faces, and wore blankets over their coats so nobody would recognize them.
- 18. Monopoly:** A business that controls the selling of a good or service. It could be illegal for anyone else to sell the same good or service. The East India Company had a monopoly on tea.
- 19. Navigation Acts:** A series of laws passed by Parliament as early as 1651 that stated the rules for trading across the high seas.
- 20. Old South Meeting House:** The largest public building in Boston. This is where Boston citizens met on December 16, 1773 to decide what should be done with the East India

Company tea. Sam Adams, John Hancock, and Dr. Joseph Warren kept the meeting going while the Sons of Liberty threw the tea into Boston Harbor.

- 21. Patriot:** A person that was against King George III and Parliament, and questioned their right to rule over the colonies.
- 22. Parliament:** A collection of men that made laws in England. They also made laws for the colonists in America. Parliament still makes the laws in England today.
- 23. Protest:** An activity performed by a group of people that dislike or refuse to obey the wishes of someone.
- 24. Repeal:** To cancel or remove. When an Act was repealed, the colonists no longer had to pay taxes for that Act.
- 25. Representative:** Person that is chosen to act based on the wishes of the people that elected them. No colony in America had a single representative in Parliament.
- 26. Royal Governor:** Person that was put in place by the King to rule over Massachusetts. Thomas Hutchinson was the Royal Governor during the Boston Tea Party.
- 27. Sons of Liberty:** A group of Patriots in the colonies that protested against the authority of King George III and Parliament.
- 28. Smuggle:** To bring a good in or out of a country illegally. Many merchants in Boston smuggled goods into the city without paying taxes. This was illegal.
- 29. Stamp Act:** A law passed by Parliament in 1765 which forced colonists to get their papers stamped. The Act taxed legal papers, playing cards and dice.
- 30. Stamp Act Riots:** In August 1765, Bostonians that were angry over the passage of the Stamp Act tore down the houses of British government workers. Stamp Master Andrew Oliver, Lieutenant Governor Thomas Hutchinson, and William Story all lost their homes.
- 31. Tax:** Money that people in a country have to pay to support the King and Parliament.
- 32. Tea Act:** A law that was passed in 1773 that forced the colonists to pay a 3 penny tax on every pound of tea. This Act gave a monopoly on the selling of tea in the colonies to the East India Company. This meant that colonists were forced to buy the East India Company tea; they could not buy tea from anywhere else.

- 33. Townshend Acts:** Laws passed by Parliament in 1767 which taxed commonly used goods such as glass, paper, lead, paint, and tea. The tax was repealed on March 5, 1770, the same day as the Boston Massacre.
- 34. Tyrant:** A brutal person who rules their people unfairly. King George III was often called a tyrant by Patriots and the Sons of Liberty.
- 35. Wharf:** A wooden dock along the shore where ships unload their cargo. In December 1773, the three ships carrying the East India Company tea were tied up at Griffin's Wharf.

## *The Power of the Printed Word*



Below are two examples of primary sources from Boston's struggle to resist Parliament, King George III, and the British army sent to occupy the city. A **primary source** is something that was recorded by a person who witnessed the time period firsthand. On the other hand, a **secondary source** is text that is recorded years after the event took place. The author of a secondary source has no direct link with the time period under study. An example of a secondary source would be your history textbook.

**Instructions:** Read this excerpt from the *Boston Gazette* and then answer the questions below.

### **The British Occupation of Boston**

**Description:** This letter was written by an anonymous source in Boston. Notice the date in which the letter was sent. In August of 1768 Bostonians were now aware that 2,000 redcoat soldiers had been sent by the crown to occupy their city. This letter was in reaction to that. The author also asserts that the colonies would continue to resist Parliament even when the army arrived on October 1, 1768.

## **Boston Gazette**

Boston, August 18, 1768.

Author(s): Anonymous.

### *The Englishman Deceived*

The tendency of the late measures adopted by [Parliament], are exhibited to the public in a striking light, and I hope they will soon be convinced of their impracticality. I am sorry to find you are so averse on your side of the water to hearken to reason, and that your people in power will not bear to have the right of Parliament to tax us disputed. We shall never be convinced by a naval or military power, that the

Parliament has a right to tax us without our consent. This point will never be conceded: however, I expect we shall gain more by perseverance in measures of industry, frugality, and economy, and in determining not to import goods from Great Britain.

The merchants here have lately had several meetings, and have agreed not to import any goods from Great Britain. We are frequently threatened with naval and military force [from Great Britain] to execute the latest Acts of Parliament. But fifty thousand troops with fifty [warships] will never be able to oblige us to import, buy, or consume English goods! It is infallibly in our power by our virtue and self-denial to prevent the execution of all revenue projects. The more we are threatened and dragooned, the more united resolute, and firm we shall be in such self-denying measures.

### Primary Source Questions

1. When was this letter written?
  - A.) 1774
  - B.) 1776
  - C.) 1773
  - D.) 1768
2. Which newspaper was this source printed in?
  - A.) *Boston Post Boy*
  - B.) *London Times*
  - C.) *Boston Gazette*
  - D.) *London Times*
3. Why do you think the author of this article wishes to be anonymous?
4. Which method of resistance to Parliament and King George III does the author reference? Provide proof by quoting one or two sentences.

**Instructions:** Read this excerpt from the *London Evening Post* and answer the questions below.

### The Boston Massacre

**Description:** The King's soldiers landed in Boston on October 1, 1768 and made their presence known immediately. Boston citizens complained of being beaten up in the streets. The *Boston Gazette*—a Patriot newspaper-- did everything it could to publish these accounts for the world to see. Seventeen months later, the occupation of Boston still dragged on. On March 2, 1770, a fight broke out between some dockworkers and British Regulars. One redcoat was looking for work to supplement his income as a soldier. The dockworkers told him he could have work cleaning their chamber pots. The soldier was so offended, he told the other redcoats and a fistfight ensued between the British Regulars and the dockworkers. Three days later, this minor street brawl boiled over into what became known as the Boston Massacre. Below, Samuel Adams and his allies printed this account of what happened in Boston on the evening of March 5, 1770.

## London Evening Post

London, April 21, 1770.

Author(s): Samuel Adams, Dr. Joseph Warren, John Hancock, William Molineux, Joshua Henshaw, W.M. Phillips, Sam Pemberton.

*The following report of the Committee of the town of Boston, transmitted to Governor Pownal, is the only authentic account of the late tumult there.*

The town of Boston, now legally convened at Faneuil Hall, have directed us their committee to acquaint you of their present situation, occasioned by the exorbitancy [sic] of the military power, which, in consequence of the intrigues of wicked and designing men, to bring us into a state of bondage and ruin, in direct repugnance to those rights which belong to us as men, and as British subjects, have long since been taken away from us.

The soldiers, ever since the fatal day of their arrival [October 1, 1768], have treated us with [disrespect], and we have discovered in them an early prejudice against us, as being that rebellious people which our implacable enemies had maliciously represented us to be. They landed in [Boston] with all the appearance of hostility! They marched through the town with all the ensigns of triumph, and evidently designed to subject the inhabitants to the severe discipline of a garrison! They have been continuing their enormities by abusing the people, rescuing prisoners out of the hand of justice, and even firing upon the inhabitants in the street.

On Friday, [March 2, 1770] a quarrel arose between some of the soldiers of the 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and the ropemakers, journeymen, and apprentices, which was carried to that length as to become dangerous to the lives of each party. This contentious disposition continued until Monday evening following [March 5, 1770], when a party of seven or eight soldiers was detached from the main guard, under the command of Captain Preston, and by his orders fired upon the inhabitants promiscuously in King Street, without the least warning of their intention, and killed three on the spot. Another has since died of his wounds, and others are mortally wounded. Captain Preston and his [soldiers] are now in jail.

This horrible transaction has occasioned the greatest anxiety and distress in the minds of the inhabitants, who have ever since been necessitated to keep their own military watch; and his Majesty's Council were so soon convinced of the imminent danger of the troops being any longer in the town, that upon application made by the



*For Students Grades 8-12*

## *The Loyal Nine*



The Loyal Nine was a secret society that started meeting at Chase & Speakman's Distillery next to the Liberty Tree as early as 1765. Their mission was to organize a protest movement in Boston against the laws of Parliament and King George III. Members of the Loyal Nine were responsible for the Stamp Act

Riots on August 14, 1765 and again on August 26, 1765. While many textbooks do not mention this underground organization, the Loyal Nine was the first group to openly defy Parliament and King George III. In the coming years, the Loyal Nine would be responsible for forming the Sons of Liberty, the secret society that was responsible for destroying the tea on December 16, 1773. These secret societies later became the foundation for democracy in America.



**Objective:** Form into groups of five and create your own secret society! Follow the steps below to turn your secret society into a formidable force for political change.

1. Name your society.
2. Give everyone in your society a title. **For example:** President, Chief, Chairman, Writer, Vice-President, Senator etc. (Someone should be chosen to write everything down).
3. Choose one of the three topics below for your secret society to argue:
  - Taxes are not fair.
  - We *should be* represented in Parliament.
  - We have a right to govern ourselves.
4. Once you have picked one issue that everyone can agree on, your group should come up with five reasons to back up the argument you have picked. Only spend one or two sentences per reason.
5. Finally, list three ways or methods to go about making change happen. Some members of your group might wish to start a revolution; others might want to negotiate with Parliament and King

George III. Be creative! No answers are wrong; just make sure that everyone in your group agrees on the method!

6. Present your secret society to your class. Tell them your name, the titles of people in your group, the issue you care most about, and how you plan to go about changing the world around you.

### **Analyze your Secret Society's Success**

**Instructions:** Working alone, in one or two paragraphs write a journal entry about what happened when you met with your group. Did some of your classmates disagree with the issue you picked or the method you chose to bring about change? How did you come to an agreement? Do you think meeting in a group and compromising with each other is the best way to change the world around you?

*For Students Grades 3-12*

## *The Boston Committee of Correspondence*

In an attempt to rally support for his cause, Samuel Adams proposed that Boston Patriots form a committee of correspondence. On November 2, 1772 the Boston Committee of Correspondence was established. While many textbooks make little mention of the committee's activities, its role was crucial in resisting the laws of Parliament and King George III. The Boston Committee of Correspondence wrote letters to other colonies in British North America to keep them informed on the protest movement led by the Sons of Liberty in Boston. One year later, New York, Philadelphia, and Boston used their committees of correspondence to communicate with each other in deciding what they were going to do with the East India Company tea.

**Directions:** Create your own committee of correspondence! Choose one of the options below, and write a one or two paragraph letter to Paul Revere. Remember, it will take at least two weeks for this message to reach him overland. If the weather is bad and the roads are rocky it will take even longer! Address your letters to Paul Revere at **306 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210**.

1. Tell Paul Revere and the Sons of Liberty about your weekend. What did you do last weekend? Was it fun or interesting? What do you plan to do next weekend?
2. Tell Paul Revere about what you are doing in class. Do you enjoy the subjects being covered? What subjects would you like to learn about next and why?

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