

Name: _____

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Causes of the American Revolution

In the 1760s, shortly after the French and Indian War, the British Parliament passed a series of laws and taxes on the American colonies. The colonists disagreed with Great Britain on the fairness of these laws and taxes due to being “enlightened” with new knowledge, which led to conflict between the two sides. Eventually, this conflict erupted into the American Revolution.

Objective: Analyze and explain how the American colonists were “enlightened” by the new knowledge that caused the outbreak of the American Revolution.

THE PROCLAMATION of 1763:

At the end of the French & Indian War in 1763, France surrendered Canada and much of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys - two-thirds of eastern North America - to England. The Proclamation of 1763 “preserved to the said Indians” the land west of the Appalachian Mountains and ordered white settlers “there forthwith to remove themselves from such Settlements,” forbade white settlement and restricted commerce with the American Indians to traders licensed by the British government. Power over westward expansion was in the hands of British officials, outside the colonists control. By preventing the colonial population from moving inland the British ministry hoped to avoid costly wars, protect the western fur trade and keep western land speculation under the control of the crown. The Americans, who looked at the new land as an opportunity for settlement without the interference of the British government, resented the terms of the proclamation.

British law/action that the American colonists thought were unfair.	Why did the colonists believe it was unfair?	Actions American colonists took to fight/resist British laws or actions.

THE SUGAR ACT OF 1764:

The Sugar Act was a first of a series of acts imposed upon the colonists following the French & Indian War. The act reduced the rate of tax on molasses from six pence to three pence per gallon. In addition, it also listed more foreign goods to be taxed including sugar, certain wines, coffee, cambric, and printed calico. It also further regulated the export of lumber and iron. The enforced tax on molasses caused the almost immediate decline in the rum industry in the colonies as it was designed to crack down colonial trade with countries other than Britain, especially France and Spain while increasing revenue to pay the British debt.

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THE QUARTERING ACT of 1764:

His majesty hereby requires the people to house and quarter his soldiers and officers in barrackers provided by the colonies; and if there shall not be sufficient room in these barracks, then in such a case the soldiers must be housed in the quartered in the homes of the people in the colony. They are also required to do the following:

- (1) Provide food for the troops
- (2) Provide beer and wine for troops
- (3) Provide bedding, utensils, candles and firewood for troops

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THE STAMP ACT of 1765:

The Stamp Act (1765) was enacted shortly after the French and Indian War as the colonists paid less than one-twentieth the taxes of British citizens living in England. This act imposed a tax on all legal, written documents throughout the colonies.

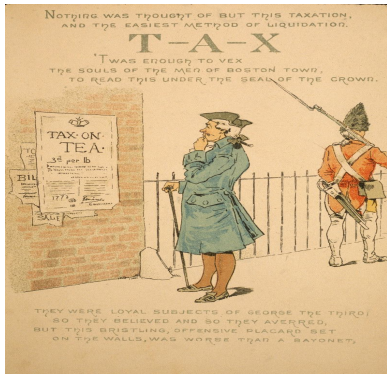
“We can under law be taxed only by our own representatives. We have no representatives in the British Parliament. So how can the British Parliament place this tax on us? It is simple; they cannot! The Stamp Act is against the law. We must not obey it...King George is a tyrant. He breaks the laws. He is an enemy of his own people.” -Speech by Patrick Henry to the Virginia House of Burgesses, May 1765 in response to the Stamp Act

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THE TOWNSHEND ACT of 1767:



The Townshend duties went into effect on November 20, 1767. They were a series of measures passed by the British Parliament that taxed goods imported to the American colonies, such as china, glass, lead, paint, paper and tea. The American colonists, who had no representation in Parliament, saw it as an abuse of power. The British sent more troops to America to enforce the unpopular new laws, further heightening tensions between the British and colonists. By December, two widely circulated documents had united colonists in favor of a boycott of British goods with the intention of making such goods on their own.

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BOSTON MASSACRE 1770:



Due to many colonists protesting the increase taxes and Quartering Act, Britain sent more soldiers to control the colonists. On March 5, 1770, a crowd in Boston grew to protest the British. People yelled and threw rocks and snowballs as the British soldiers. Order quickly broke down and the frightened soldiers fired into the crowd. When the shooting ended, several people were dead and more were wounded. Paul Revere, a leader of the Boston Sons of Liberty, was advertising his prints for sale in the Boston newspapers, three weeks after the occurrence. Revere’s historic engraving (side) is propaganda rather than historical fact. Patriotic propaganda called the incident a massacre to stir up feelings against the British government. He did this so more people would fight for independence.

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BOSTON TEA PARTY 1773:

“It was now evening, and I immediately dressed myself in the costume of an Indian, equipped with a small hatchet, which I and my associates denominated the tomahawk, with which, and a club, after having painted my face and hands with coal dust in the shop of a blacksmith, I repaired to Griffin’s wharf, where the ships lay that contained the tea. When I first appeared in the street after being thus

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disguised, I fell in with many who were dressed, equipped and painted as I was, and who fell in with me and marched in order to the place of our destination...We then were ordered by our commander to open the hatches and take out all of the chests of tea and throw them overboard, and we immediately proceeded to execute his orders, first cutting and splitting the chests with our tomahawks, so as thoroughly to expose them to the effects of the water.” -George Hughes December 16, 1773

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THE TEA ACT of 1773:

An act to allow a drawback of the duties of customs on the exportation of tea to any of his Majesty’s colonies or plantations in America; to increase the deposit on bohea tea to be sold at the India Company’s sales; and to empower the commissioners of the treasury to grant licenses to the East India Company to export tea duty-free...forty shillings for every tub and for every chest of tea; and in case any such person or persons shall refuse or neglect to make such deposit within the time before limited, he, she or they shall forfeit and lose six times the value of such deposits directed to be made as aforesaid, to be recovered by action of debt.

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INTOLERABLE ACTS of 1774:

The British called their responsive measures to the Boston Tea Party, the INTOLERABLE ACTS. Boston Harbor was closed to trade until the owners of the tea were compensated. Only food and firewood were permitted into the port. Town meetings were banned and the authority of the royal governor was increased. British troops and officials would now be tried outside of Massachusetts for crimes of murder.

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Opposition to these “coercive” acts was large. “This town has received the Copy of an Act of the British Parliament, wherein it appears that we have been tried and condemned and are to be punished by the shutting up of the harbor and other marks of revenge, until we shall disgrace ourselves by servilely yielding up, in effect, the just and righteous claims of America...The people receive this cruel edict with abhorrence and indignation. They consider themselves as suffering the stroke ministerial...I hope they will sustain the blow with a becoming fortitude and that the cursed design of intimidating and subduing the spirits of all America, will, by the joint efforts of all, be frustrated. -Samuel Adams, letter to James Warren (May 14, 1774)

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