

Elementary School Packet (Grades 3-5)



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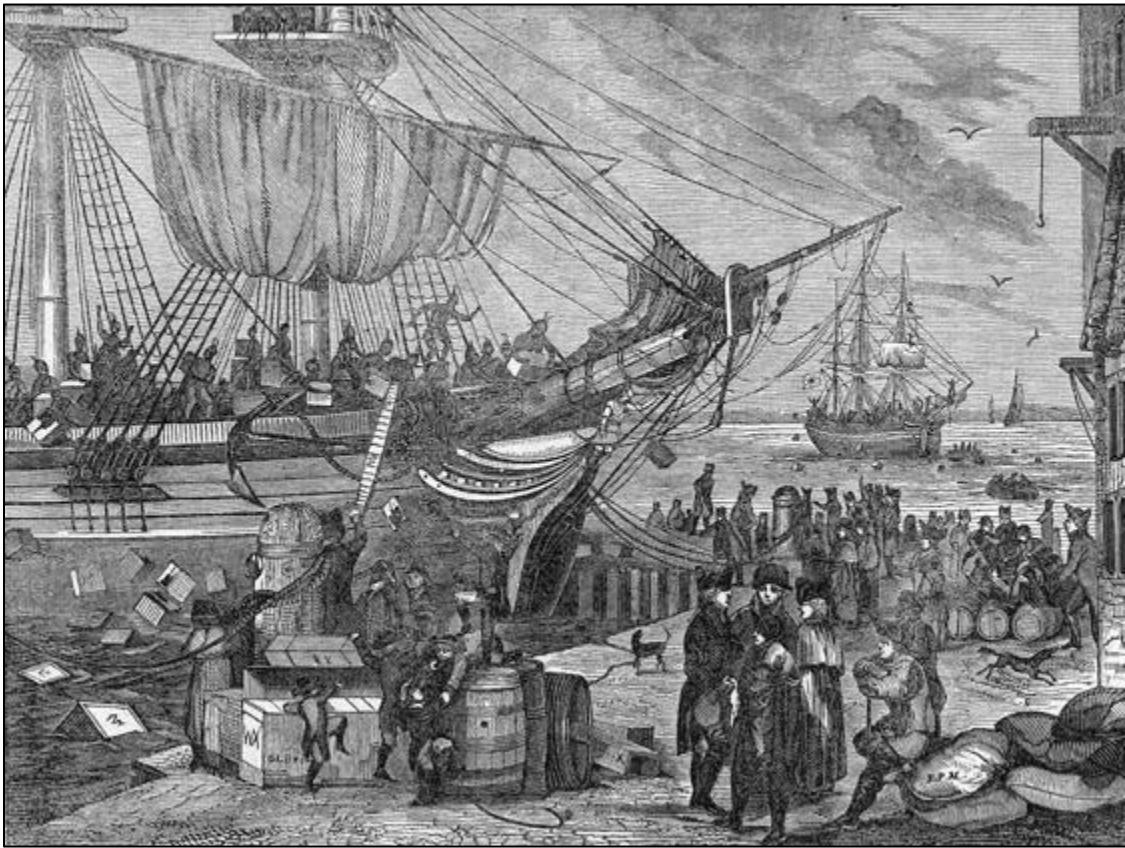
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Have your students read the following article, **To Griffin's Wharf!: The Boston Tea Party**, and have them answer the questions that follow.



To Griffin's Wharf!: The Boston Tea Party

The colonists were fed up. 340 chests of tea were on their way to Boston on three ships, the *Beaver*, the *Dartmouth*, and the *Eleanor*. People in Boston were upset that they would have to pay a tax for their favorite drink. They were even more upset that they would have no say in the matter. **Parliament** and King George III would force them to pay the tax whether they liked it or not.



Left: King George III.

Above: Tea was the drink of choice for Europeans, and colonists. They did not want to pay taxes for it.

Many people in Boston did not like King George III or his taxes very much. They called themselves **Patriots**. They believed that King George and Parliament had no right to tax the colonies without asking permission of the colonies first. Other people in Boston believed

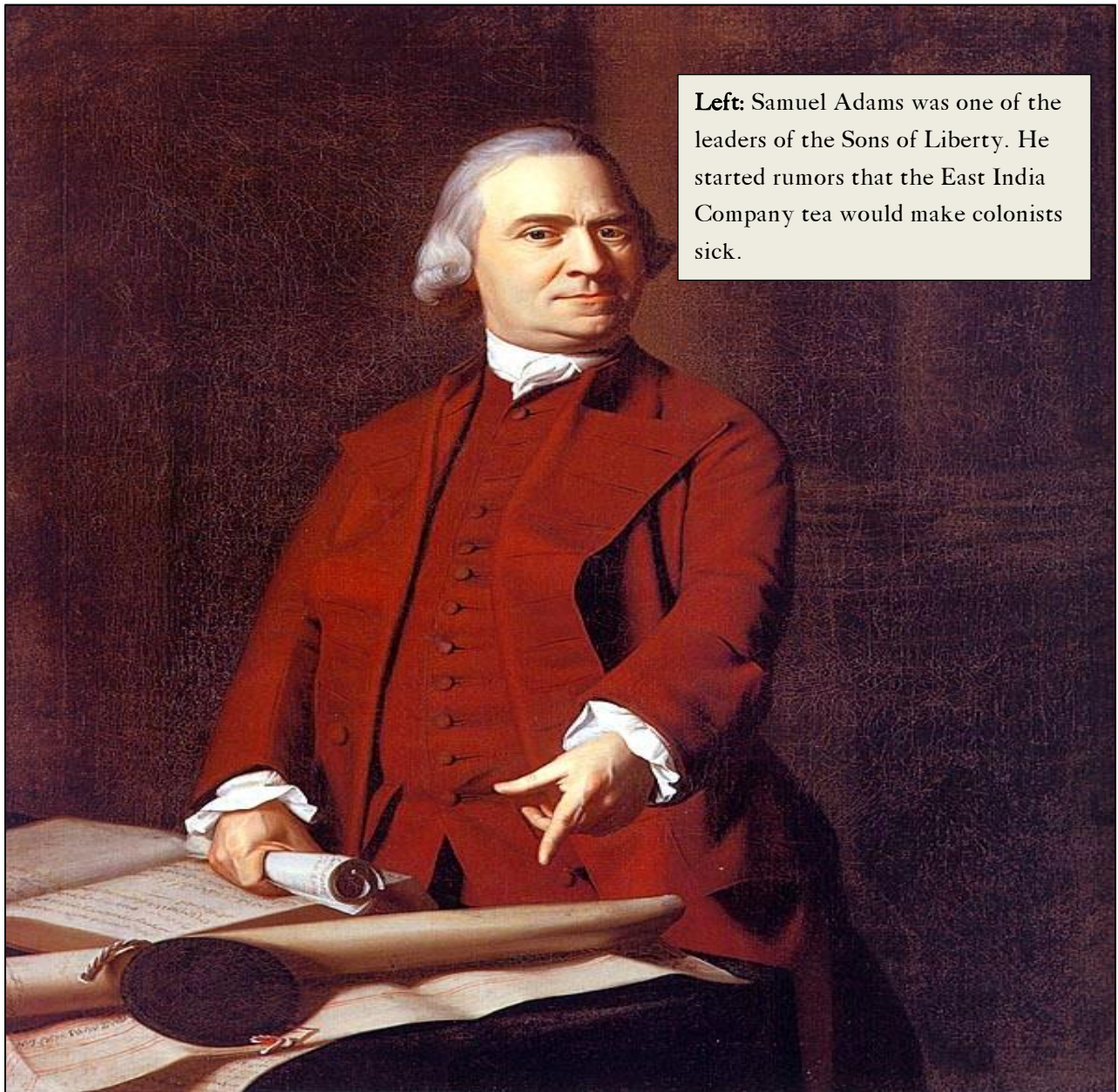
that King George and the British army of redcoats protected them during the **French and Indian War**. They thought paying a few taxes to the King was a small price to pay. They called themselves **Loyalists**.

Right: George Washington was one of many British colonists that fought alongside the redcoats during the French and Indian War.



Sam Adams and the **Sons of Liberty** led the protest. The Sons of Liberty was a group of Patriots that were against King George III and all of his laws. Sam Adams was their leader. He told people that King George III would keep taxing them unless they stood up to him. Sam Adams even tried to tell everyone that tea was bad for their health! The Loyalists would not listen to him. They told him that it was his duty

to pay taxes to King George III and Parliament. Sam Adams knew that something had to be done. So he tried to convince British customs officials working in Boston to send the tea back to London. The customs officials told him it was their job to make sure that everyone paid the tea tax. They refused to send the tea back to London.



Left: Samuel Adams was one of the leaders of the Sons of Liberty. He started rumors that the East India Company tea would make colonists sick.

The **Sons of Liberty** supported Samuel Adams. They worked together to protest taxation without representation since the **Stamp Act** was passed eight years earlier in 1765. The Sons of Liberty were determined to make sure that the East India Company tea would never enter into Boston. Some of them suggested turning the ships

around to bring the tea back to London. Others suggested burning the ships with the tea onboard. A few of them devised a clever plan to destroy the tea by dumping it in Boston Harbor. All of them agreed that they would not pay the tax on the tea.

Below: The Sons of Liberty paraded through the streets of Boston crying "No taxation without representation!" They were determined not to pay the tea tax.

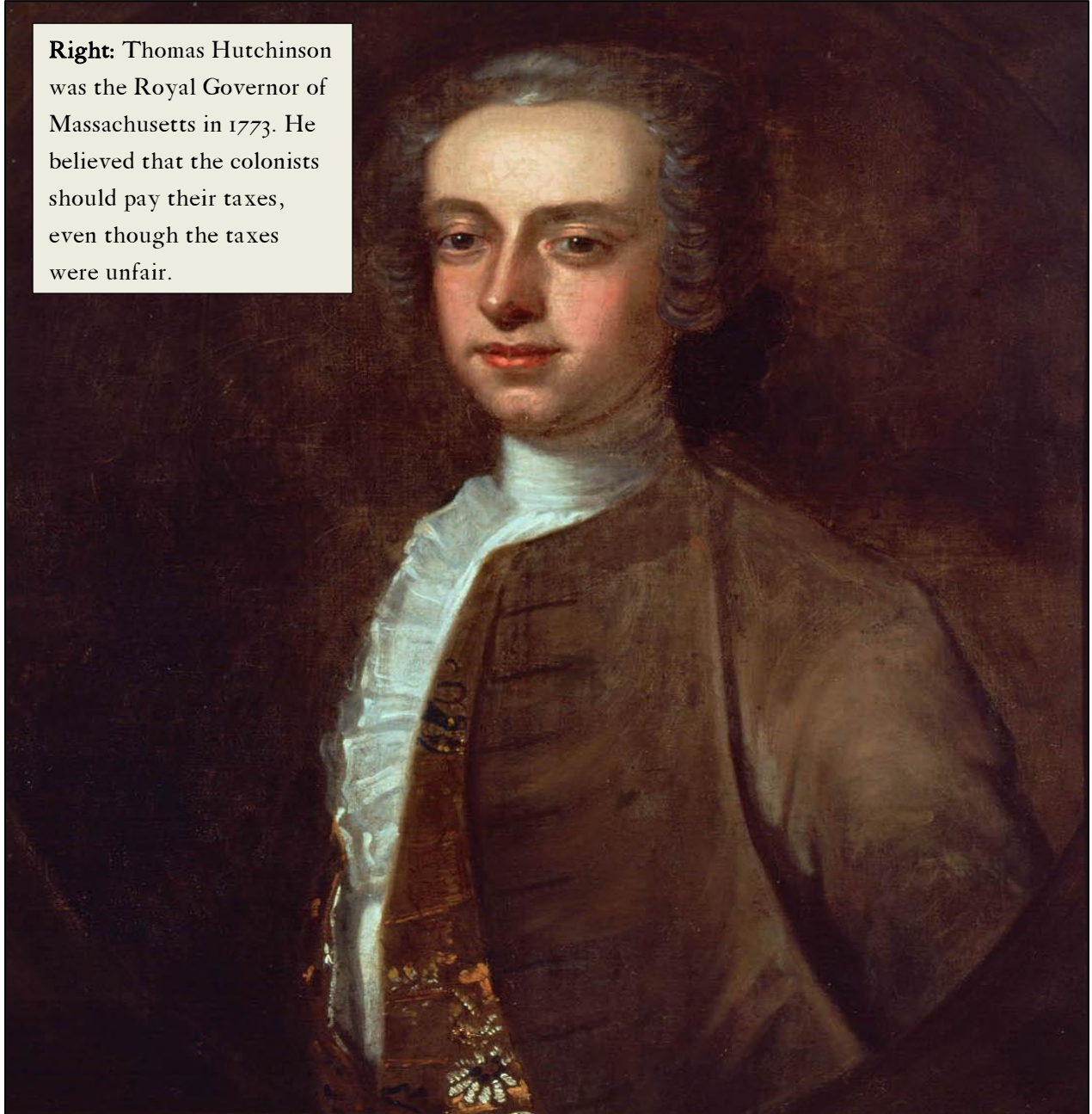


*Die Americaner widersetzen sich der
Stempel-Acte, und verbrennen das aus
England nach America gesandte Stempel-
Papier zu Boston. im August 1764.*

The Sons of Liberty could not agree on what should be done next. Sam Adams had spoken to customs officials many times. Each time they told him it was their job to make sure the tea tax was paid by the colonists. Sam Adams had one last trick up his sleeve. He would send the ship owner Francis Rotch to speak with **Royal Governor** Thomas Hutchinson one last time. He had the final say on whether or not the tea could

be sent back to London. On December 16, 1773 a meeting was held at Old South Meeting House, the largest public building in Boston, to decide what should be done with the East India Company tea. Over five thousand people crammed into Old South for this very important meeting. They waited patiently for Francis Rotch to return with the Governor's decision.

Right: Thomas Hutchinson was the Royal Governor of Massachusetts in 1773. He believed that the colonists should pay their taxes, even though the taxes were unfair.



At 5:00 PM Francis Rotch returned from his talk with Governor Hutchinson. The Governor ordered the tea to be unloaded and the taxes paid. He told Sam Adams and the Sons of Liberty not to get in the way of customs officials while they did their job. After hearing what Francis Rotch had to say, Sam Adams stood up in front of the entire meeting and said "There is nothing more a meeting can do to save our country". This was a secret signal for the Sons

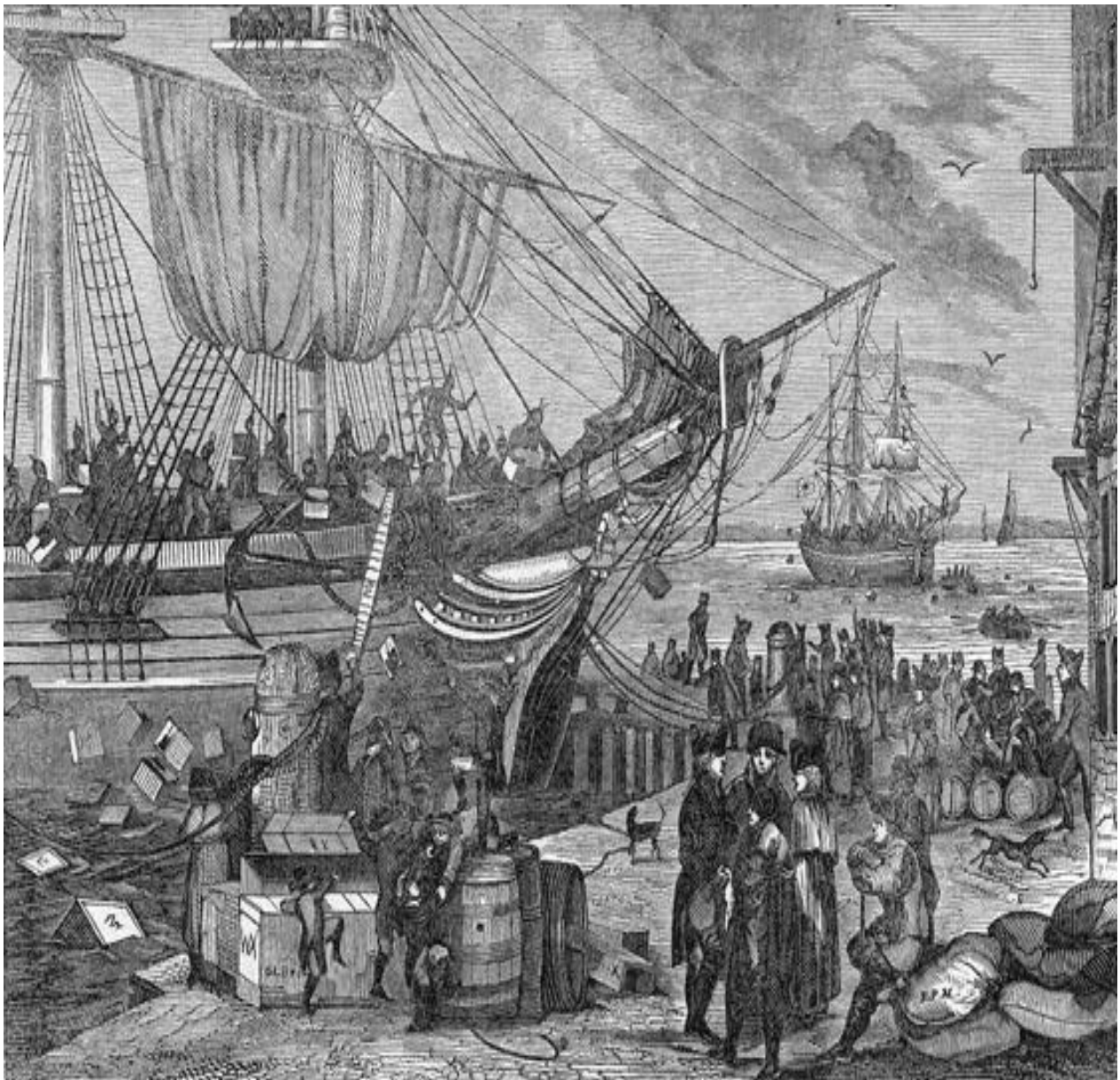
of Liberty to destroy the East India Company tea. Cries went up in the audience of "Boston Harbor a teapot tonight!" and "Perhaps saltwater and tea will mix tonight". They went home, and donned their **Mohawk disguises**. They smeared burnt cork over their faces, stuck feathers in their hats, and wore blankets over their coats. This way no one would know who they were while they destroyed the King's tea.



*Americans throwing the Cargoes of the Tea Ships into the River,
at Boston*

It took the Sons of Liberty three hours to destroy all of the 340 chests of tea. They used ropes and pulleys to haul the heavy chests up out of the cargo holds of the three ships. Once the chest was on deck, they used hatchets to crack through the wooden lid. After that, all that could be heard was the hissing sound of the tea leaves mixing with salt water. Over one thousand

people turned out to cheer them on from Griffin's wharf as they emptied the chests of tea into Boston Harbor. On their way home, they took special care to wipe the burnt cork off of their faces, and remove the feathers from their hats. They knew if the redcoats caught them destroying the tea, they would be thrown in jail.



The Boston Tea Party made King George and Parliament really angry. They wanted to punish Boston for destroying the tea. It took Parliament only one day to pass the Coercive (Intolerable) Acts. Boston would be punished until they paid for the tea that was dumped into the ocean. Nobody in Boston was willing to pay. Instead, they gathered as many guns as they could and hid them from the redcoats to prepare for a fight. In Concord, Massachusetts, the colonial

militiamen collected a huge supply of weapons to fight the British army. The redcoats marched out to Concord on April 19, 1775 to take these weapons from the colonists, but on their way, they were stopped at Lexington Green where the first battle of the American Revolution began. The battle of Lexington-Concord was the first battle of American Revolution. Once the tea was thrown into Boston Harbor, it was clear to the Patriots there would be no turning back.



Above: The redcoats march through Lexington and onto Concord to take away the muskets that minutemen and colonial militiamen were collecting to fight the British army.

Questions for "To Griffin's Wharf: The Boston Tea Party"



Instructions: Use the article you just read and the Glossary of terms to answer the questions below.

1. What is a **boycott**?
 - A. The combined effort of a group of people who *refuse* to buy goods from a country or shop.
 - B. When friends get together and drink a lot of soda.
 - C. The combined effort of people to buy as many goods from a country or shop as they can.
2. Why did King George III tax the colonies?
 - A. He needed money for a video game.
 - B. To pay for the British soldiers in the colonies.
 - C. Because he wanted to buy ice cream.
 - D. All of the above.
3. Who are the Sons of Liberty?
 - A. Patriots that were against King George III and all of his laws.
 - B. Loyalists that supported the King and Parliament.
 - C. Indians.
 - D. All of the above.
4. What is a **monopoly**?
 - A. When a lot of businesses sell the same thing at the same time.
 - B. When *only one* business is allowed to sell a good or service, and nobody else can.
 - C. A cheeseburger with bacon and lots of ketchup.

True or False



Circle true if the statement is correct, or false if the statement is wrong.

1. Sam Adams was best friends with King George III.

True

False
2. The Battle of Lexington-Concord was the first battle of the American Revolution.

True

False

3. **Patriot** is someone who is loyal to King George III and all of his laws.

True

False

4. Patriots were angry because they would not be able to sell their smuggled tea once the **East India Company** tea made it to Boston.

True

False

5. To **repeal** an Act means that the Act has been canceled, and colonists do not have to pay the tax.

True

False

Match the Act!

Draw a line from the Act on the left, to the year it was passed and the goods that were taxed on the right.

Townshend Acts

Passed in 1773, this Act forced colonists to drink the East India Company tea.

Stamp Act

This made it illegal for colonists to settle west of the Appalachian Mountains.

Tea Act

Passed in 1767, this Act taxed paint, lead, and glass.

Proclamation of
1763

Passed in 1765, this Act taxed newspapers, playing cards, and dice.

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 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.

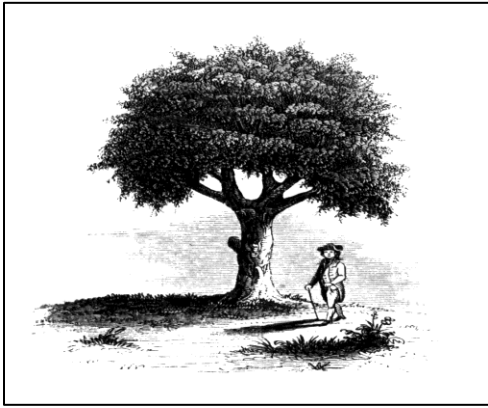
Directions: Create your own committee of correspondence! Choose one of the options below, and write a one or two paragraph letter to Paul Revere. Remember, it will take at least two weeks for this message to reach him overland. If the weather is bad and the roads are rocky it will take even longer! Address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

❧ 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: Separate 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?

Suggested Readings for Disciples of Liberty



These titles are suggested for students who have not yet learned about the British government's administration of North America, and the War of Independence which followed. They have been categorized as fiction and non-fiction. While the fictional books are great for sparking a student's interest, they should be used in combination with the non-fictional works listed below. In addition, parents and teachers should work with students to make sure they know the difference between historical fiction and non-fiction.

Fiction

I. *Johnny Tremain*

Author: Esther Forbes

Published: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, 1943.

Rating: 

Review

This fictional account of revolutionary Boston immerses students in the movement for independence. *Johnny Tremain* tells the story of the early revolutionary period through the eyes of a silversmith's apprentice, Johnny Tremain. The story follows Tremain in his discovery of the independence movement through his work for a Whig newspaper, the *Boston Observer*. Here, he comes into contact with influential revolutionaries and decides to join the struggle for liberty. While this book was only loosely based in reality, its vivid account of colonial Boston goes unmatched. This book should be on every student's summer reading list!

Illustrations: No

II. *The Boston Tea Party*

Author: Rod Espinosa

Published:



Rating:

Review

This is an excellent novel for students who are just beginning to learn about the Boston Tea Party and the War of Independence. This text chronicles the effects of the French and Indian War on colonial America, the acts of taxation which sparked the protest movement in British North America, the Boston Massacre, and the Boston Tea Party. In addition, this book provides the reader with the viewpoints of patriots, as well as Tories (loyalists). The text coupled with the graphic illustrations gives students a snapshot of the period along with the personalities and perspectives of eighteenth century colonial America. This book is great for students who have not yet studied the American Revolution, but is too simple for advanced students.

Illustrations: Yes.

III. Why Don't You Get a Horse, Sam Adams?

Author: Jean Fritz

Published: Penguin Putnam Books, 1974.

Rating: 

Review

Jean Fritz has written many children's books about the American Revolution, and this novel is perfect for the novice reader. The story follows Samuel Adams and his dog Queue around Boston. The book paints an accurate portrait of Samuel Adams and his perspective on the world in early revolutionary Boston. While this book is digestible for students 3rd grade and up, younger readers may require a reading partner.

Illustrations: Yes.

Non-fiction

I. *The American Revolution Battles and Leaders*

Editor: Aaron R. Murray

Published: D.K. Publishing Inc., 2004.

Rating: 

Review

This book is wonderful for advanced readers, 5th Grade and up who wish to gain a better understanding of the American Revolution. Starting with the Battle of Concord in April 1775, this book takes its readers through the War of Independence ending with the Treaty of Paris signed on September 3, 1783. While it gives an account of the battles in the American Revolution, it does not cover the protest movement that led up to the outbreak of war. I would recommend this book only to students who have previously studied this topic.

Illustrations: Yes.

II. *The American Revolution for Kids*

Author: Janis Herbert

Published: Chicago Review Press Inc., 2002.

Rating: 

Review

This book offers a number of features which make it ideal for students who are just starting to learn about the War of Independence. For one, it contains a comprehensive timeline which details the founding of Massachusetts Bay Colony, the protest movement against taxation without representation, culminating in the Boston Tea Party, and the outbreak of the American Revolution. In addition, this book contains twenty one activities to reinforce the text. The activities teach students about the principles of democracy and the town meeting, and also explain the complicated inner workings of Congress. This book is a great foundational piece because it covers the American Revolution, but also the early struggles the founding fathers faced in building an effective democracy.

Illustrations: Yes.

III. *The Declaration of Independence*

Author: R. Conrad Stein

Published: Cornerstones of Freedom

Rating: 

Review

Ideal for students who would like a more thorough understanding of colonial America from 1754-1783, *The Declaration of Independence* offers everything from a detailed timeline, to a comprehensive glossary of terms. In addition, this book covers the founding of British North America, the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and everything in between. While this book is a great foundation for young historians, it is probably best for students with a reading level of 6th grade and up.

Illustrations: Yes (black and white).

IV. *The Boston Tea Party*

Author: R. Conrad Stein

Published: Cornerstones of Freedom

Rating: 

Review

This is another book in the series on U.S. History that Cornerstones of Freedom has produced. This book covers the complicated political events which led to the destruction of the East India Company tea, and the events that were precipitated by it. While it covers a period of history which is seldom covered in textbooks, it contains some embellished stories. Nonetheless, this book still makes the list as a good source for students grades 3-5.

Illustrations: Yes.

Suggested Readings for Advanced Readers

All of the books on this list below are for advanced readers, and could easily be found on a college syllabus. These sources are rated on their accuracy and ability to draw on primary

sources to connect events with complicated political and economic trends in the British North American colonies on the eve of the American Revolution.

I. *Defiance of the Patriots*

Author: Benjamin L. Carp

Published: Yale University Press, 2009.

Rating: ★★★★★

Review

This book offers a wealth of knowledge on the colonists' early struggles with the British government. Carp not only covers the Acts of taxation and the colonial protests, but also investigates the production, distribution, and consumption of tea. In addition, Carp uses a plethora of primary sources in order to place Boston's political struggles with Parliament within the scope of the Sons of Liberty's resistance to the Tea Act in New York and Philadelphia. Even still, he places the struggle of Boston's patriots at the center of his analysis. While this book tackles complicated political, economic, and social issues, it presents them in a manner which is both fascinating, and informative.

II. *As If an Enemy's Country: The British Occupation of Boston and the Origins of Revolution*

Author: Richard Archer

Published: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Rating: ★★★★★

Review

As the title suggests, Archer's work focuses on mob violence committed by Boston patriots, the decision of government officials to send regiments to occupy Boston, and the consequences which followed. While the scope of this book does not entail the Boston Tea Party, it still covers the era of political protest which preceded the destruction of tea, and chronicles the occupation of Boston which inevitably

led to the Boston Massacre and the American Revolution. *As If an Enemy's Country* offers a fascinating take on the Stamp Act Riots and Liberty Affair which persuaded Royal Governor Francis Bernard to request troops for the occupation of Boston. Further, Archer uses primary sources to demonstrate the extensive public relations campaigns in which Samuel Adams and the Sons of Liberty engaged in to demonize the British regulars, and those royal officials who requested their presence in the first place. *As If an Enemy's Country* does an excellent job of shedding light on material which is seldom covered in most works on the American Revolution. For this reason, I would highly recommend this piece to anyone who would like to learn about the effects of the occupying British army during peacetime.

III. *Samuel Adams: A Life*

Author: Ira Stoll

Published: Free Press, 2009.

Rating: 

Review

Ira Stoll, a journalist by trade, sets out to shine light on the place of Samuel Adams within the context of the American Revolution. In this biography of one of Boston's leading patriots, Stoll asserts that Adams was deeply religious, and even went so far as to link his religious convictions with the political struggles between Boston and the British government. While this book offers the reader a glimpse at the persona of Samuel Adams, it falls short of answering questions about his involvement in the protest movement which is still a highly debated topic.

IV. *John Adams*

Author: David McCullough

Published: Touchstone, 2002.

Rating: 

Review

John Adams by David McCullough masterfully pulls together the letters and correspondence of John Adams into a logical and cohesive narrative of his involvement in the Glorious Cause and later, in the foundation of the republic. In between great events, McCullough paints Adams as a man who was filled with insecurity and doubt. But these personal anxieties became the driving force behind his character,

allowing him to fulfill his destiny as a founding father of the United States. This non-fictional account of Adams' life reads like a novel, but offers the reader a rare glimpse at the complex figure of John Adams, and his role as a founding father. This book is a must read!

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