

The Party Before the Revolution

The American Revolution had many causes. The colonists thought that the British were treating them unfairly, and that the laws governing the colonies were much too harsh. They wanted more say in their government. One of the most serious problems was the colonists' **resistance** to paying taxes to Britain.

Who Should Pay?

By the 1760s, Britain had been fighting expensive wars for 50 years. A huge amount of money had been spent defending the American colonies. Britain wanted some of that money back. British **Parliament** felt it made sense to ask the colonists to **contribute** money to pay for their own defense. They decided to start taxing goods sold in the colonies. These goods included foods such as sugar, coffee, and tea. Printed **documents** such as newspapers, calendars, playing cards, and legal papers were also taxed. These were items that almost everyone used often.

No Taxation Without Representation!

The colonists didn't like being taxed—especially since they didn't have any say in making the laws. They were not allowed to vote for members of British Parliament. This meant there was no one to stand up for their rights in Britain. As British citizens, they felt that they should have representation in Parliament. "No taxation without representation!" became a **rallying cry** for colonists who wanted to break away from British rule.

A Tea Party Protest

Things came to a head when some colonists refused to let British ships unload shipments of tea. A group of colonists dressed up as Native Americans and dumped boxes of tea into Boston Harbor. They did it to protest the taxes that they felt were unfair. This "Boston Tea Party" was one of the most important events leading up to the American Revolution.



All official documents had to have a tax stamp like this one.

MONDAY

Use the words from the passage to fill in the blanks.

contribute

documents

Parliament

rallying cry

resistance

1. Dad keeps copies of bank statements and other important _____ in a small safe.
2. The robber put up no _____ when the police arrested him.
3. Everyone was asked to _____ some money to buy a gift for the teacher.
4. Members of _____ made laws for British colonies.
5. "Give peace a chance!" was a _____ for antiwar protestors.

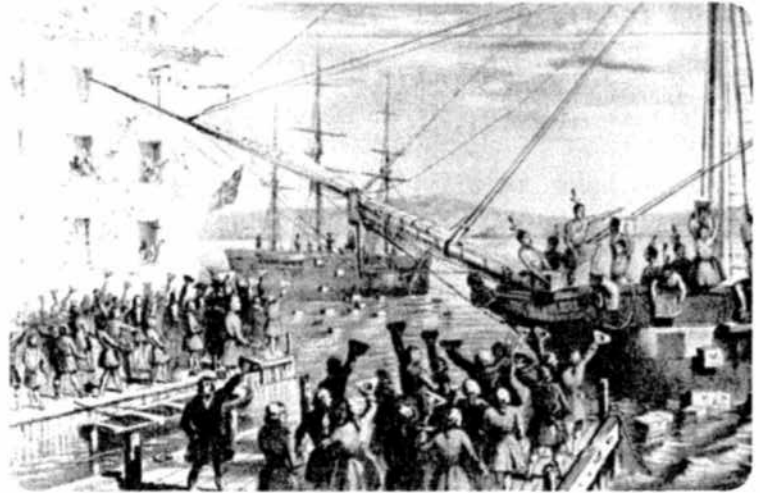
TUESDAY

Write F if the sentence is a fact. Write O if it is an opinion.

- _____ Britain spent too much money defending the colonies.
- _____ Colonists did not have representation in Parliament.
- _____ The colonists threw tea into the harbor to protest Britain's taxes.
- _____ It was unfair for Britain to tax the colonists.
- _____ Colonists should contribute money to pay for their own defense.

WEDNESDAY

Write a caption to go with this picture of the Boston Tea Party.



THURSDAY

Write the letter of each cause next to its matching effect.

Causes

- A Colonists thought British taxes were unfair.
- B Britain fought expensive wars.
- C Colonists were not allowed to vote for Parliament.
- D Britain wanted money back from the colonies.

Effects

- _____ Britain needed money.
- _____ Britain taxed goods sold in the colonies.
- _____ Colonists had no one to stand up for them.
- _____ The colonists protested with a "tea party."

FRIDAY

Do you think it was fair for Britain to tax the colonists? Why or why not?
