

REVOLUTIONARY WAR CAUSES

Reading Passage & Questions

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The French and Indian War lasted from 1754 to 1763. The French and Indian War took place between the American colonies and New France. In this war, British troops helped American colonists fight. The American colonies won the war, but only because they had help from British soldiers. King George III spent a large amount of money buying expensive supplies in order for his army to protect the colonies. King George III and the British government felt that the colonists should help pay for the expense of the war and the expense of British soldiers stationed in the American colonies.

Most of the 13 colonies were founded by people who wanted to escape persecution in England. Persecution is the act of being treated harshly, especially for their religious beliefs. As the British government became more involved with the colonies, tensions increased.

Originally, the British government had allowed the colonies to govern themselves. The colonies were proud to be British. In 1764, that all changed. The British government, known as Parliament, decided to pass the Sugar Act. Great Britain was far away from the American colonies. The colonists didn't want people all the way across the ocean telling them what to do or how to live.

In 1765, the Stamp Act tax was imposed on colonists to help pay for the French and Indian War. This law required colonists to pay a tax on all printed materials such as newspapers, legal documents, magazines and playing cards. The British felt they could tax the colonists because they received the help of British troops.

The American colonists did not agree with the taxes. The colonists felt the British government had no right to tax them. There were no representatives of the colonies in the British government. The colonies had no one to speak up on their behalf. In 1770, colonists began to protest the actions of the British government. Due to colonial protests, the British sent soldiers to Boston to keep order in the town.

One Boston protest in 1770 resulted in a fight and several colonists were shot and killed. This incident is known as the Boston Massacre. British soldiers fired at the colonists killing five men. Although it was not really a massacre, Paul Revere used that term to persuade people that the British were not looking out for their best interests.

Days before the massacre, British officers ordered the removal of all colonists staying at the Boston Manufactory House, a safe house for the poor, ill or

In what state did the First Continental Congress meet? *

- Massachusetts
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia
- New York

How many colonies were there originally? *

- 27
- 16
- 13
- 2

The Quartering Act forced colonists to house British soldiers. *

- True
- False

The British government is also known as Interpol. *

- True
- False

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Days before the massacre, British officers ordered the removal of all colonists staying at the Boston Manufactory House, a safe house for the poor, ill or

homeless. The British ordered the safe house to be evacuated so that British soldiers could stay there.

Following the Boston Massacre, the British started collecting a new tax on tea. On average, most American colonists consumed 2 to 3 cups of tea every day. At that time, about 90% of the tea was being smuggled into the colonies.

Three British trade ships named the Dartmouth, the Eleanor, and the Beaver sailed into Boston Harbor for weeks. Their tea delivery wasn't being unloaded because American colonists in Boston refused to buy or use the English tea. Their anger was directed at Great Britain, which had passed the Tea Act. The Tea Act was a law that required American colonists to buy their tea from the British owned East India Company. The Tea Act was passed by Parliament on May 10, 1773. The law lowered prices on tea, but the Tea Act placed a tax on tea sold by any other company.

Leading Boston patriots protested this tax by boarding British ships and dumping the tea into the waters of Boston Harbor. This was known as the Boston Tea Party.

A group of colonists named the Sons of Liberty was determined to let the British know they were unhappy. The Sons of Liberty was a secret society made up of American colonists who wanted to fight British taxation. Patriots like John Hancock, Paul Revere, and Samuel Adams were members of the group. The original purpose of the Sons of Liberty was to force British stamp agents to resign and to stop American merchants from carrying British goods.

The British government felt that American colonists needed to be punished for the Boston Tea Party. They issued new laws and taxes that the colonists called the Intolerable Acts, or Coercive Acts. They were given the name "Intolerable Acts" by patriots who felt they could not tolerate the unfair laws. These harsh laws closed the port of Boston completely.

The British Royal Navy sent warships to make sure no ships went in or out of the Boston harbor. The port of Boston would remain closed until the tea that was dumped was recovered. The British government also passed the Quartering Act which forced colonists to house and feed British soldiers.

The First Continental Congress took place in September of 1774. Representatives from each colony met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They discussed their concern of the Intolerable Acts and other unfair British laws. The representatives of the colonies sent a letter to King George III explaining their issues and concerns with taxes and unfair treatment. They requested that King George III, king of Great Britain, cancel the Intolerable Acts or they would refuse to use and buy British goods. King George ignored the request. Eventually, the colonists decided to fight for their independence from Great Britain in the Revolutionary War.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1** What year did the French and Indian War begin?
- A. 1702
B. 1754
C. 1776
- 2** What word means being treated harshly, especially for religious beliefs?
- A. Protraction
B. Permutation
C. Persecution
D. None of the above
- 3** Who was first to call an event the Boston Massacre?
- A. Paul Revere
B. Benjamin Franklin
C. Samuel Adams
D. John Adams
- 4** What year did the Tea Act pass?
- A. 1784
B. 1742
C. 1776
D. 1773
- 5** In what state did the First Continental Congress meet?
- A. Massachusetts
B. Pennsylvania
C. Virginia
D. New York
- 6** How many colonies were there originally?
- A. 27
B. 16
C. 13
D. 2

TRUE OR FALSE

- 7** The Quartering Act forced colonists to house British soldiers.
- TRUE FALSE
- 8** The British government's secret police was known as Interpol.
- TRUE FALSE
- 9** In 1763, the Paper Act tax was imposed on colonists.
- TRUE FALSE
- 10** About 90% of the tea was being smuggled into the colonies.
- TRUE FALSE
- 11** The Coercive Acts were also called the Intolerable Acts.
- TRUE FALSE
- 12** The 3 British ships were the Dartmouth, the Oliver and the Britannia.
- TRUE FALSE
- 13** One group of colonists were called the Sons of Anarchy.
- TRUE FALSE
- 14** King George III spent a lot of money buying expensive supplies.
- TRUE FALSE
- 15** The Navigation Act required that goods be shipped from the East India Company.
- TRUE FALSE