

BOSTON TEA PARTY

The Boston Tea Party was a major event that happened in Boston, Massachusetts on December 16, 1773.

After the French and Indian War, which was fought between the colonists and Britain against New France for control of America, Britain was in a lot of debt (they owed money). Since the war was fought for the colonists, Britain believed it was fair to tax them to help pay for money they owed for providing troops and supplies. However, the colonists believed in their motto "no taxation without representation," which meant they shouldn't be taxed by Britain when they had no representation in the British government (Parliament).

Although the colonists didn't think the taxes were fair and voiced their opinions, Britain continued to impose many new taxes including a tax on tea. Protests started as tensions grew. A group of Patriots in Boston, who called themselves the Sons of Liberty, started protesting the taxes and laws. The Sons of Liberty, originally called the Loyal Nine, was a secret society of American colonists who wanted to fight taxation by the British government. The Loyal Nine was originally organized to protest the passing of the Stamp Act, a tax on printed goods. One protest that occurred in 1770, led to violence when British soldiers fired into a crowd of colonists, killing five men. This event became known as the Boston Massacre.

After the Boston Massacre, Britain repealed, or canceled, most of the taxes; however, they did not remove the tax on tea, since British colonists drank a lot of tea each year. In response, the colonists made the decision to boycott (refuse to buy) British tea and instead, smuggle (sneak in illegally) Dutch tea.

After colonists started boycotting tea, Britain lost a substantial amount of money on tea that was never bought. In response, Parliament passed the Tea Act, which allowed Britain to have a monopoly (to have full control) on tea. This

TEXT MARKING



Who were the Sons of Liberty?



What was the colonists' motto?



What was the Boston Massacre?



Who fought in the French and Indian War?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

impose -

substantial -

meant the colonists could not buy tea from any other country or place and had to pay the high tax on tea to Britain. The new law allowed the British-owned East India Company to bring tea in their ships directly to the colonies from China. Because the ships did not stop in England first, they avoided the tax on goods and could sell their tea more cheaply to the colonists.

On December 16, 1773, the Sons of Liberty had a meeting and decided they would not allow the incoming tea from Britain to leave the ships, be sold or used. Patriot leaders included John Hancock, Paul Revere, and Samuel Adams. However, when they refused to buy tea, the Governor would not allow the three ships to return to Britain without unloading.

That night, a group of men disguised as Native Americans boarded the three East India Company ships sitting in the Boston Harbor filled with tea. There was 180 men and they divided themselves into 3 groups. They threw 342 cases of tea into the water, about 90,000 pounds. The three British ships were named the Dartmouth, the Eleanor, and the Beaver. The British government knew the protestors were not actually Native Americans despite their disguises, but many of the people who participated were never known or revealed, and so they all went without consequences.

As punishment for the Boston Tea Party, Britain passed the Intolerable Acts, also known as the Coercive Acts in hopes of keeping their control and getting the colonists to stop rebelling. These acts included laws such as closing the Boston Harbor until they paid for the lost tea and removing their rights for free elections in the colonies. The British Royal Navy sent warships to patrol the area and made sure no one went in or out. However, instead of giving up, the colonists ended up uniting stronger than ever in their pursuit to freedom. The colonies worked together and sent supplies to Boston, because their harbor was closed, and continued to stand strong against Britain. The Boston Tea Party, among other events, led to the American Revolution in 1775.

TEXT MARKING



How many men boarded the ships?



What were the Intolerable Acts?



Who were the Patriot leaders?



What were the names of the three British ships?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

protestors -

patrol -

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Before America became the country it is today, it was made up of 13 colonies (an area under control of another country) under British rule. Britain began taxing the colonies to pay for the French and Indian War, a war for control of America against New France. However, the colonists did not believe the taxes were fair since they had no say in British Parliament (government).

In 1775, the Revolutionary War began because the colonies did not want Britain to continue forcing these unfair laws and taxes on them. But as some time went on, they decided they no longer wanted to be under the British rule and the abusive government. The Declaration of Independence was written as the document that declared America's independence from Great Britain.

After being at war with Britain for about a year, the Second Continental Congress (a meeting of representatives from each of the 13 colonies) decided to declare independence from the country of Britain. They did not want to be controlled by them or have to follow their laws and would fight Great Britain to become their own country.

On June 11, 1776, the Committee of Five was formed by the Continental Congress (the first government of the United States, created to make decisions on behalf of the colonies). This committee was created to write a document to explain why the colonies were declaring their independence. The five chosen people were Benjamin Franklin from Pennsylvania, John Adams from Massachusetts, Thomas Jefferson from Virginia, Robert Livingston from New York, and Roger Sherman from Connecticut. Thomas Jefferson was chosen to write the first draft of the document. After a few weeks and some changes made to it by the committee, the draft was presented to the Continental Congress on June 28, 1776.

The Declaration consisted of four main parts. The first part, called the Preamble, explains why they must form a new nation. The second paragraph,

TEXT MARKING



Why was the Committee of Five formed?



When did the Revolutionary War begin?



What was the Continental Congress?



What is a colony?

WORDS TO KNOW

UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE

draft -

abusive -

called the Declaration of Rights includes rights for the people including the famous words of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". This part of the document was influenced by philosopher John Locke. **The third part is the grievances (complaints).** This section states why the colonies wanted their freedom by writing out all the bad things the British government did to the colonies, such as high taxes and no respect. It includes 27 grievances about the actions of King George III. One grievance included the fact that King George III took away their right to have a trial by a jury. The colonists also were not permitted to trade freely. **The final part of the document is called the Resolution.** This section wraps up their thoughts and declares independence.

When it came time to vote, the Congress would only allow it to pass if the vote was unanimous (everyone voted yes). However, South Carolina and Pennsylvania voted no, and New York and Delaware did not vote. They continued to discuss the situation and voted again the next day, July 2nd. This time South Carolina and Pennsylvania voted yes, and Delaware decided to vote yes as well. New York still chose not to vote.

On July 4, 1776, also known and celebrated as Independence Day or Fourth of July in America, the final draft of the Declaration was accepted and adopted by the representatives from each of the 12 colonies. Although New York had not voted, they accepted it 4 days later. The actual signing of the official document was not until August 2, 1776. **56 members of the Congress signed the document.** Two of those signers later went on to become the president of the United States.

They printed the new Declaration of Independence in the newspaper for all to read and later made copies of the document and sent it to all the colonies. They also sent a copy to King George III in Britain, and Parliament, who were all very angry about it. The colonies, however, believed in what they wrote, and they would fight until they achieved their independence.

TEXT MARKING



What is the 3rd part of the Declaration?



How many members signed the document?



What is the final part of the Declaration?



What does unanimous mean?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

philosopher -

trial by jury -

SPARK SOME *creativity*

ESCAPE
ROOMS

SCAVENGER
HUNTS

SPY
MYSTERY

THINKTIVITY

SECRET
MESSAGES

TEXT
DETECTIVE

BREAKOUTS

READING
CHALLENGE

INTERACTIVE
NOTEBOOK

COLOR BY
NUMBER

DIGITAL
ESCAPES

DIGITAL
BOARD
GAME

GOOGLE
SLIDES

TASK
CARDS
GAME

GOOGLE
FORMS

PUZZLE
STATIONS

BOOM
CARDS

READING
PASSAGES

LET'S CONNECT

f

E

BLOG

p

Lisa@Thinktankteacher.com

GRAB A FREEBIE

Grab a FREE
Boston Tea
Party activity!

