

What is the purpose/significance of colonies?

- To benefit the mother country in terms of money, prestige and raw materials.
- Mercantilism.
- To receive protection from mother country.
- The removal of the external threat posed by Spain and France allowed the colonials to lessen their dependence on England

Conditions arising from the French and Indian Wars set the stage for the American Revolution. With victory, the British sought to reorganize itself, particularly in relation to the colonies.

- Prior to 1763, colonists largely were left to fend for themselves; post-1763 London sought to tighten control of the colonies
- England sought more profit from the colonies in order to resolve war-related debt.
- With the 1763 Treaty of Paris, England got control of all land east of the Mississippi River and all foreign (European) forces were removed from North America. England gained sole influence over this land.
- Royal Proclamation of 1763

Prohibited colonial settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. Purpose was to organize England's North American empire and stabilize relations with Indians. Colonists resent measure; never enforced.

Post-1763 victory, colonists try to re-establish their ties with British to reflect their pre-1763 relationship.

Their wants include a reestablishment of British protection of trade routes to the colonies and freedom within the colonies, both of which had been suspended in 1763.

The philosophy of a 'social contract' (John Locke) takes hold in influential parts of the colonies. Locke viewed government as an agreement between those who lead and those who followed.

Accumulation of Colonial Grievances Against England 1763-1775

(A Chronology; Page 1 of 2)

British imperial reorganization begins about 1763. "Act" means tax or law. The intent of many Acts was to raise money for England

Sugar Act of 1764. A tax on sugar

Currency Act of 1764

Prohibits the colonists from printing their own currency. The colonists created their own script prior to this, called "colonial script" which had no real value outside specific communities.

Stamp Act of 1765

A tax on all legal documents, permits, commercial contracts, newspapers, wills, pamphlets, and cards.

- There was much resistance:
 - ⇒ Petitions to the British parliament;
 - ⇒ Stamp tax distributors were intimidated into resigning their commissions;
 - ⇒ A figure resembling Andrew Oliver, distributor of the stamps, was hung in effigy from Liberty Tree. A threat!

1765, as a form of resistance to the Stamp Act, colonists implemented a non-importation agreement throughout the colonies, wherein all 13 colonies refused imports from England.

"No Taxation Without Representation"

Only Colonial Assemblies had a right to tax the colonies, the colonists argued while pointing to historical precedent; not England. A growing position in the colonies held that since the colonies did not have a representative in the British parliament whom they had voted for, the Parliament therefore could not represent the colonists nor import/impose laws over them.

Quartering Act of 1765

London orders all Colonial Assemblies to pay for and house Redcoats in the colonies.

1765, the British leave 6,000 Redcoats in the colonies, to protect them from the frontier.

- This claim is met with great suspicion from the colonists.
 - ⇒ The Redcoats attempt to do two things: 1. maintain control of the colonies, and 2. they drew a 'proclamation line' which said that no colonist could go west of the Appalachian Mountains.
 - ⇒ This angers the colonists; this was an attempt by the British to limit western expansion.

Declaratory Act of 1766

Emphasized the message that London maintains complete decision-making control over the colonies.

By 1766, six significant groups are opposed to British troops in the colonies

1. Non-Anglicans in the colonies
2. Non-English people in the colonies (Germans, Dutch, Scots, Irish, ...)
3. Colonists of German and Dutch heritage.
4. Slave owners in South Carolina who dislike the constant dialogue about whether or not to continue the slave trade.
5. New England Puritans, who view England as immoral.
6. Poor people in the southern colonies who view unhappily their inequity with the wealthy (they believe England supports the wealthy)

1767, The British parliament adopts a confrontational-approach to the colonies.

Townsend Acts of 1767

Requires the colonies to pay an import tax on tea and other goods

- This is designed to force the colonists to pay the wages of the civilian and administrative British personnel sent by the King.
 - ⇒ Pre-1767, all money went through the colonial legislator; this shifts it to the British agencies!
- Protests and widespread boycotts are initiated throughout the colonies in response.

1767, large colonial demonstration in Boston in response to the Townsend Act.

- Colonists refuse to pay the tax
 - ⇒ The response: Redcoats, who had previously been on the outskirts of town, are now moved into Boston.

All Townsend Acts are repealed in 1770, except for the tax on tea.

England suspends the (elected) New York governor and legislature in 1767 and 1769 for failing to comply with Quartering Act.

All 13 colonies were continuously running trade deficits with England.

- Shipping gold and silver to England was the only way to balance this.
- British merchants engaged in credit sales to the colonies
- Severe credit crisis of 1772 caused the British merchants to call in their debts.
- The bankruptcy rate within the colonies doubled!

For over a century colonists had insisted upon their rights as Englishmen, to be taxed only with their consent

↳ The general widespread belief is that the colonists should have the same basic rights as British citizens

"Tory/Tories" and "Loyalists"

↳ Colonists who remain loyal to England and to the King.

Mutual dislike between the British and the colonists continues to be cultivated.

- The British seem arrogant
- Double standard seen in London, whereon the England-born and colony-born British and neither viewed nor treated as equals.

"Son's of Liberty"

A colonial protest organization, lead by Samuel Adams. The group attacked the apparatus and symbols of British authority, such as British property and Tory supporters.

The British viewed them as seditious rebels and referred at the group maliciously as "Sons of Violence" and "Sons of Iniquity." The British viewed them as a terrorist group.

Some major figures are quick to join the movement to break from England: Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Patrick Henry

Circa 1770, much of the colonial population remained proud to be British, and in so doing grudgingly accepted how they were treated by the crown. Britain's Act's and behavior made daily life tougher and unpredictable, but not intolerable.

Some prominent colonial figures are reluctant to break from England, until specific events . . .

- Benjamin Franklin – he had a fondness of England until three events: 1. he witnessed how poorly the Irish were treated after centuries of British occupation of Ireland; and 2. a private letter from Thomas Hutchinson to the King was intercepted and shared with Franklin which spoke of the need to further control the colonies; 3. he was verbally lambasted (criticized) by the British Parliament.
- John Adams – while supportive of liberty, it was the Intolerable Acts, particularly the clause about no trials in the colonies, drove him to join the Sons of Liberty after years of moderation.

“Liberty Tree” and/or “Liberty Poles”

A tree or flagstaff pole which were rallying points for growing resistance against England. It was viewed as a living symbol of popular support for individual liberty and resistance to tyranny. Often decorated with lanterns/banners. Almost every colonial town had its own Liberty Tree by 1770!

Battle of Golden Hill, 1770

British sawed down Liberty Pole in New York. Violence erupts as colonists express their anger over the British action.

Accumulation of Colonial Grievances Against England 1763-1775

(A Chronology; Page 2 of 2)

Boston Massacre, 5 March 1770

Redcoats guarding the Customs House were approached by a colonial mob. Colonists yell obscenities and throw shells. Captain Preston brings in Redcoat reinforcements. Shots are fired and 5 colonists are killed. Crispus Atturks, born into slavery, was the first black killed.

- John Adams defends the Redcoats at trial
- At trial, Atturks is singled out as a scapegoat; colonists found to have incited the riot and violence; all but one soldier found not guilty.

⇒ Colonists are furious; John Adams loses half of his law practice, although he does develop a respectable reputation for transcending law over politics. The British offer him a job at Court (in England reporting to the King) and the leaders of Boston encourage him to enter politics as a voice for the Massachusetts colony.

Some colonists accuse the British of tyranny.

British tarred-and-feathered Thomas Ditson, a colonial farmer who tried to purchase a musket rifle. They forced him to march in front of a Liberty Tree, as they tried to disparage the symbol and make it an object of ridicule. They sung ‘Yankee Doodle Dandy’ as an insult.

Growing opinion in America: self-government is important

The Gaspee Affair of 1772

Gaspee was a British boat which was enforcing unpopular trade regulations in accordance with British law. It ran aground. The Sons of Liberty, lead by Abraham Whipple and John Brown, ransack the ship and burn it.

- Previous attacks by colonials on British naval vessels had gone unpunished. By this point, the British have had enough.
 - ⇒ The Dockyard Act of 1772 allowed for those suspected of burning British ships to be tried in England, and the British want to charge the defendants with treason. Colonists are terrified at the idea of the captives being sent to England for trial, where they did not believe a fair trial was possible.

Minister John Allen, visiting from London, preached a sermon in Boston in which he spoke of the greedy monarchs, corrupt judges and conspiracies in British government.

- ↳ Reprinted throughout the colonies, the colonists came to believe the rhetoric which contributed to the distrust and fear of Britain.

38 newspapers in the colonies in 1772

11 wrote of the Gaspee incident within one week of the event; others followed thereafter. Over 30 published a majority of John Allen’s sermon.

Paul Revere and Samuel Adams distributed anti-British propaganda: images, slogans or stories designed to cast the British in a negative light.

Tea Act of 1773

The British say that all ships may only transport specific types of tea from the East India Tea Company (and not other companies)

⇒ This is a financial monopoly!

Colonists rebel; do not let the tea be unloaded. Governor Hutchinson invested in the tea and is under orders for the King; he loses money and stature of the tea is not unloaded. Captain Hall is in a bad situation.

1. If he unloads the teas, colonists will be upset and the Sons of Liberty say they will burn down his boat
 2. If he does not unload the tea within 30 days, Hutchinson issued a decree saying the cargo would be forfeit and he will send Redcoats to take it without compensation.
 3. If he tries to sail away, the British battleship is under orders to sink the ship
- December 16 – \$50,000 worth of tea is thrown into bay; 3 ships. Organized by Samuel Adams.

Edenton Tea Party, 1774

A political protest in Edenton, North Carolina, in response to the Tea Act and inspired by the Boston Tea Party. It was a call for economic boycotts; led by Penelope Barker

- ↳ This was a landmark, not because of the stances taken – boycotts were commonplace – but because it was organized by women.
 - ↳ It is one of the first instances of political action by women
 - ↳ Reaction in England was largely derogatory and dismissive
 - ↳ Reaction in the Colonies was complimentary and inspired other women to participate in the boycotts, and were praised by many patriots.

Intolerable Acts of 1774 (aka. ‘Coercive Acts’)

This is in response to the Boston Tea Party

1. Boston Port Act: Closes Boston Harbor until all the tea is paid for.
2. Massachusetts Governing Act: King appoints the Massachusetts governor.
 - ⇒ Thereby taking away elected representatives.
3. Banned community meeting everywhere throughout the colonies.
 - ⇒ This was seen as unfair by the other 12 colonies; it was viewed as punishing them all for the outrages of only Massachusetts
4. Administration of Justice Act: mandated that any Redcoat charged with a crime be tried in court in England.
 - ⇒ The message: colonial law is second to the law in England.
5. Quartering Act of 1774 allowed for Redcoats to be housed anywhere in the colonies without permission, so long as the building was not occupied.
6. Quebec Act: The geographic jurisdiction of Quebec is extended to the Massachusetts border; Roman Catholic faith promoted
 - ⇒ This was seen as an attempt to further isolate Massachusetts and was interpreted as an example of a new model of administration and an effort to dissuade the prominent Protestant faith
 - Colonists found everything about the Intolerable Acts to be objectionable!*

The Continental Congress is formed illegally in response to the Intolerable Acts of 1774.

- Originally representatives of only 9 colonies participated.
- The Intolerable Acts unified the colonists.
- ‘Olive Branch Petition’ (a peace offering)
- ‘Petition of Causes and Necessity for Taking Arms’ (to justify militia buildup)
- Goal: to unify the colonies with a common message and (later) to arm the colonies.

Writ of Assistance of 1775

Allows the British to search anywhere they want to, without permission. This includes wide ranging search warrants

- Challenged by the colonists, claiming this violated Common Law (laws of England)
 - ⇒ The British said the Navigation Act of 1751 (designed to stop smuggling) granted the authority.

1775 Restraining Act

Colonial ships were barred from the North Atlantic fisheries, a measure which pleased British Canadians but which threatened considerable harm to the colonial economy.

1775, Militias (small groups of armed colonists) begin to gather and train throughout Massachusetts and elsewhere. They’re preparing for possible conflict with the British.

1775 witnesses a steady escalation of violence.

- The British send another 3,000 Redcoats to monitor Boston.
- British seek to arrest John Hancock and Samuel Adams. Hancock is wealthy and uses his money to purchase weapons to arm the colonists; Adams is the leader of the Son’s of Liberty and is producing anti-British propaganda. Lexington/Concord
- Effort to get stockpiles of colonial weapons leads to battles at Lexington and Concord.
- Battles at Bunker Hill and Breed’s Hill. In June, seen as unprovoked by Colonists.

‘Common Sense’ written by Thomas Paine, 1775

- ↳ Persuasively advocated for independence.

Word of the bloodshed at Lexington, Concord, Breed’s Hill and Bunker Hill reach the representatives at the Continental Congress, where debate rages as to whether or not to sever the colonial relationship from England.

- ↳ All four instances represent British soldiers shooting at their own citizens.

Name: _____

Period: _____ Date: _____

Brainstorm review – Accumulation of Grievances

(1 point each, 3 on time points)

1. What was the Sons of Liberty?
2. What did the Currency Act of 1764 do?
3. What did the Stamp Act of 1765 do?
4. What was the Gaspee Affair of 1772?
5. What did 'Common Sense' do?
6. What do the bloodshed at Lexington, Concord, Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill all have in common?
- 7-10. What were the four reason why countries established colonies?
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)
- 11-13. Name three people who were quick to join the movement against England.
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)

- 14-19. There were six components of the Intolerable Acts. What did it do?
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)
 - e)
 - f)
- 20-25. By 1766, six significant groups were opposed to British troops in the colonies. Which were they?
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)
 - e)
 - f)
26. The upper-right hand corner of the first page of the handout has a underlined sentence. What does it say?

- 27-29. What events led Benjamin Franklin to join the movement against England?
- a)
 - b)
 - c)
30. What were Liberty Trees or Liberty Poles?
31. Who was Crispus Atturks?
32. What happened to John Adams in the immediate aftermath of the Boston Massacre trial?
33. What events led John Adams to join the Sons of Liberty?
34. What was the goal of the Continental Congress?
35. What was the Edenton Tea Party of 1774 (hint, it is not the same as the Boston Tea Party) and why was it significant?
36. What caused the violence at Golden Hill?
37. When the British left 6,000 redcoats in 1765, they drew a “proclamation line”. What was this and why did this anger the colonists?
38. What happened to Thomas Ditson?
39. Historically, in the eyes of the colonists, what had the authority to tax them?
40. The Townsend Acts shifted where the tax money went. Explain the change.
41. What did the colonists do in response to the Townsend Acts?
42. What did the Writ of Assistance of 1775 do?
43. What was the message of Minister John Allen’s sermons?
44. How might John Allen’s sermons have contributed to the mood (for or against the British) in the colonies?
45. What did the Quartering Act of 1765 do?
46. How did John Locke view the relationship between the governed and government?
47. What was the Tea Act of 1773?
48. How might the credit crisis of 1772 have affected the emerging conflict?
49. What was a militia?
50. To what does the term “Act” refer?

What were the grievances? How are they illuminated through the homework? How is the homework material relevant to the big idea of this era of history? Consider the following way in which to look at this . . .

Removal of civil liberties and any sense of independence

Fairness of trials and evidence gathering in question

Dockyard Art 1772 (Gaspee Affair)

Intolerable Acts 1774

Writ of Assistance 1775 (search anywhere)

Prohibited colonists from printing currency

Currency Act of 1764

Ridicule

Thomas Ditson (farmer), tar-and-feathered

Reaction to Boston tea party was derogatory

Reaction to Edenton tea party was dismissive

Banned freedom to meet in groups

Intolerable Acts 1774

Military presence increased / forced to house soldiers

Quartering Act 1765

1765, 6000 Redcoats to colonies

1767, Redcoats moved from outskirts of town into Boston

Intolerable Acts 1774

Restrictions on westward expansion and on the seas

Royal Proclamation Act of 1763

another proclamation line in 1765

Intolerable Acts 1774

Restraining Act 1775 (restricted from fisheries)

Taxation

“No taxation without representation”

Stamp Act 1765, Townsend Act 1767, Tea Act 1770 . . .

Take away elected representatives

England suspects NY governor/legislature, 1767 and 1769

Intolerable Acts 1774

British troops fire upon British civilians

Boston Massacre 1770

Lexington and Concord, 1775

Bunker Hill and Breeds Hill, 1775

Anti-Crown Propaganda

Son's of Liberty

John Allen (minister)