

The American Revolution



California Academic Standard 5.5.1:

Understand how political, religious, and economic ideas and interests brought about the Revolution (e.g., resistance to imperial policy, the Stamp Act, the Townshend Acts, taxes on tea, Coercive Acts).

Contributing Factors

King's Governors

1660 Navigation Act

1733 Molasses Act

1756 Seven Year War

1763 Proclamation

1764 Sugar Act

1765 Stamp Act

1767 Townshend Act

1770 Boston Massacre

1773 Tea Tax

1774 Coercive Acts

Governors

- Colonists chose representatives for *assemblies* who could make laws and set taxes
- The king appointed governors for the colonies who could *veto*, reject, these laws
- Many of these governors were cruel or incompetent

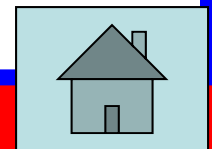
Navigation Acts, 1660 & 1696

- Tobacco, sugar, and certain other goods could only be shipped to Britain or its colonies
- Colonists were not permitted to sell these goods to other countries



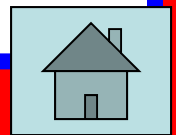
Molasses Act of 1733

- Molasses was used to sweeten many foods made by the colonists
- Colonists had to pay six pence on each gallon of molasses brought from French or Dutch colonies in the Indies
- This tax was lowered in 1764



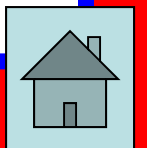
Seven Years War, 1756-1763

- This war was also known as the French and Indian War because those were the enemies of the colonists and British soldiers
- Because of the money spent on fighting the Seven Years War with the French, the British Parliament decided to tax the colonies to pay for the war



Proclamation of 1763

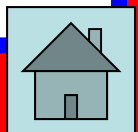
- In 1763 King George made a law that stated American colonists could not move west over the Appalachian mountains
- After helping to win that territory from the French by fighting in the Seven Years War, the colonists felt a rich prize had been snatched from them





Sugar Act, 1764

- This was a revision of the Molasses Act
- It increased the number of custom agents to enforce the law and the amount of the tax
- Eight colonial assemblies asked Parliament to repeal the law
- The colonists were upset that they were being forced to pay taxes but had no voice in the decision

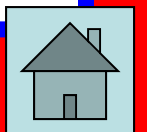


The Sugar Act

1764

The Stamp Act, 1765

- In 1765 Parliament passed the Stamp Act
- This was a charge on 54 kinds of papers, including newspapers
- Payments varying from 1¢ to \$10 had to be made in gold or silver
- James Otis, a Boston lawyer announced, “No taxation without representation!”

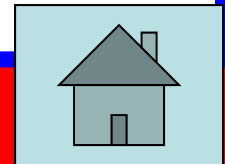


Sons of Liberty, 1765

- The huge outcry over the Stamp Act led to the formation of the Sons of Liberty
- They beat tax collectors and burned stamps
- Daughters of Liberty also helped in the effort to defeat the Stamp Act
- The act was finally repealed

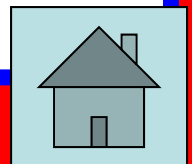
The Townshend Act, 1767

- In 1767 Parliament tried a third tax on paper, glass, lead, painters' colors, and tea
- Charles Townshend was the British financial official who sponsored this act
- One again the colonists proclaimed, "No taxation without representation!"
- The colonist *boycotted*, refused to buy, anything from Britain
- The boycott worked – the only tax was left on tea



The Boston Massacre, 1770

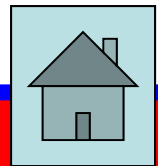
- Because they were worried by the colonists' anger, in 1768 Parliament sent about 4,000 soldiers to Boston
- On March 5, 1770 a group of about 100 Bostonians threw rocks and snowballs at the soldiers
- Crispus Attucks, a black leader, and 4 other colonists were killed





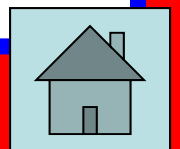
The Tea Tax, 1773

- Protests against the Stamp Act had just died down, when Parliament passed a new tax
- This act gave a monopoly on tea trade in the Americas to the East India Tea Company
- The king's governor in Massachusetts, Thomas Hutchinson, insisted that tea be unloaded in Boston Harbor



The Boston Tea Party, 1773

- On the evening of December 16, 1773, a large crowd of Bostonians came to hear Samuel Adams protest the tea tax
- A group of about 60 of the American colonists disguised themselves as Native Americans
- They boarded 3 vessels and threw about 90,000 pounds of tea into Boston Harbor

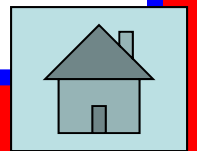




Coercive Act 1, 1774

Angered by the Boston Tea Party, Great Britain's Parliament passed four measures to punish the American colonists

- The *Boston Port Bill* stated that Boston Harbor would be closed until the colonists paid for the destroyed tea



Coercive Acts 2 & 3, 1774

- The *Administration of Justice Act* said British soldiers committing crimes in the colonies, even murder, could not be tried in the American colonies
- The *Quebec Act* moved all the American colonies between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to Canadian control

Coercive Acts 4 & 5, 1774

- The *Massachusetts Government Act* put Massachusetts under the control of a British officer, General Thomas Gage, and permitted no town meetings without his approval
- An addition to the *Quartering Act* of 1765 stated that British troops could now occupy the homes of American colonists without the permission of the owner



Review



Bibliography

Armento, Beverly; Salter, Christopher; Nash, Gary; and Wixson, Karen. America Will Be. Palo Alto: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1991.

“American Revolution.” Encarta. CD-ROM. Seattle: Microsoft, 1997 ed.

Countdown to Independence: Causes of the American Revolution. Rainbow Educational Media. 1993. unitedstreaming. 5 September 2005 <<http://www.unitedstreaming.com/>>

American Revolution, The: From Colonies to Constitution: The Road to Revolution: 1763 - 1775. United Learning. 2001. unitedstreaming. 6 September 2005 <<http://www.unitedstreaming.com/>>

Seeds of Liberty: Causes of the American Revolution. Rainbow Educational Media. 1993. unitedstreaming. 6 September 2005 <<http://www.unitedstreaming.com/>>