**Events leading up to declaring Independence**

In the 1770’s the colonists living in America had grown used to being their own bosses in many ways. They thought that the British Parliament, government in Great Britain, and its King, [George III](http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/wwww/us/kinggeorgeiiidef.htm), were making too many laws that took away too many of their freedoms. Some examples of these are the [Stamp Act](http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/wwww/us/stampactdef.htm) and the [Sugar Act](http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/wwww/us/sugaractdef.htm). Both put very high taxes on things that the American colonists used every day: paper and sugar. The Americans had not voted for these taxes. They had not even elected the members of Parliament who had passed the laws that created those taxes. To the colonists, this was "taxation without representation." They thought they had no say in what their government did to them. People who lived in Britain could protest and even choose not to re-elect lawmakers who voted for such taxes. But the colonists, even though they were also British citizens did not have that option.

The citizens in Boston Massachusetts were extremely upset. On March 5, 1770 five colonists were shot by British soldiers, an event that became known as the Boston Massacre. The colonists were outside a government building yelling insults and throwing ice at the British soldiers because they were unhappy with England’s laws. Five colonists were killed including a former slave named Crispus Attacks. Nearly every part of the story is disputed by both sides. Did the colonists have weapons? Did the British commander say “fire”? No one knows for sure. What we do know is how the event ended, the British had guns, and they did open fire injuring6 and killing 5 people. The Boston Massacre deepened American distrust of the British military presence in the colonies.

After the Boston Massacre, England repealed, took back, most of the taxes. The King of England knew the colonists were upset and hoped by taking back some taxes the colonists would not be so mad. The King left the tax on tea, the Tea Act. This tax upset the colonists because tea was a very popular drink. So some

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What country owned the 13 colonies in America? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why were the colonists upset at the King? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name 2 laws that upset the colonists:

1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What items did the laws tax? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What does “taxation without representation” mean? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Were the British citizens who lived in England treated the same as the British citizens (colonists) who lived in America? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What date did the Boston Massacre occur?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What were the colonists throwing at the British soldiers? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many colonists were killed and injured? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

T or F: The Boston Massacre made colonists distrust the British soldiers.

(If False fix the sentence to make it true.)

After the Massacre what did the King do? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What item was still being taxed? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

colonists, called the Sons of Liberty, who were men that held protests against the British, decided to dress up like Mohawk Native Americans and sneak onto the boats in Boston Harbor. The colonists dumped all the tea they could find off boats coming in from England into Boston Harbor. This event was called the Boston Tea Party.

The King of England was very upset because the amount of tea wasted would equal up to 1 million dollars today. He decided to make new laws called the Intolerable Acts to punish Boston and to scare the rest of the colonies from protesting. The colonists called the laws, the Intolerable Acts because they thought the laws were so unbearable. One of the Intolerable Acts closed down Boston Harbor until the colonists paid England for all the tea they dumped and another act allowed the British soldiers to move in with the colonists without the colonist’s permission. But the Intolerable Acts had the opposite effect. American colonists everywhere were angry. The following months saw the first meeting of the 1st [Continental Congress](http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/wwww/us/continentalcongressdef.htm). Among other things, this group of delegates from all 13 colonies wanted to boycott, stop buying, British goods throughout the colonies. Not even a year later, the [Revolutionary War](http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/wwww/us/revolutionarywardef.htm) had begun.

The Battles of [Lexington and Concord](http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/wwww/us/lexingtonconcorddef.htm) and [Bunker Hill](http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/wwww/us/bunkerhilldef.htm) were just the beginning. British and American troops fought all over the 13 colonies and even in Canada. Many people thought the Americans needed a rallying cry, something they could all fight for. People like [Patrick Henry](http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/wwww/us/patrickhenrydef.htm) were calling for independence.

Summary of the article (5 sentences minimum): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*\_*\_

Who were the Sons of Liberty? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What did the Sons of Liberty do? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What was the protest named? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How much money did the colonists waste in tea (in today’s money)?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What were the laws called the King passed? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What 2 things did the Intolerable Acts do?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Did the Intolerable Acts calm down the colonists or make them more upset? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What did the 1st Continental Congress want to do? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What battles started the American Revolution? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Some colonists were starting to call for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_from England.