

CAUSES
of the
American
Revolution

French and Indian War

- In the 1750s, Britain and France went to war over the Ohio River Valley.
- Many American Indians lived in the Ohio River Valley.
- Both the British and the French wanted this area to trade fur.
- Many American Indians sided with the French, although some Native American nations, were allies of the British.
- In 1754, representatives from the colonies met to discuss how they could fight France.
- Benjamin Franklin believed that if the colonies were to unite, they would have a better chance. The colonies did not accept this plan.
- Britain was losing the war until 1757. William Pitt became the leader of Parliament and was determined to win the war. He sent ships and soldiers to North America to help him the fight.
- By 1763, France was ready to make peace with Britain.
- The two countries signed an agreement called the Treaty of



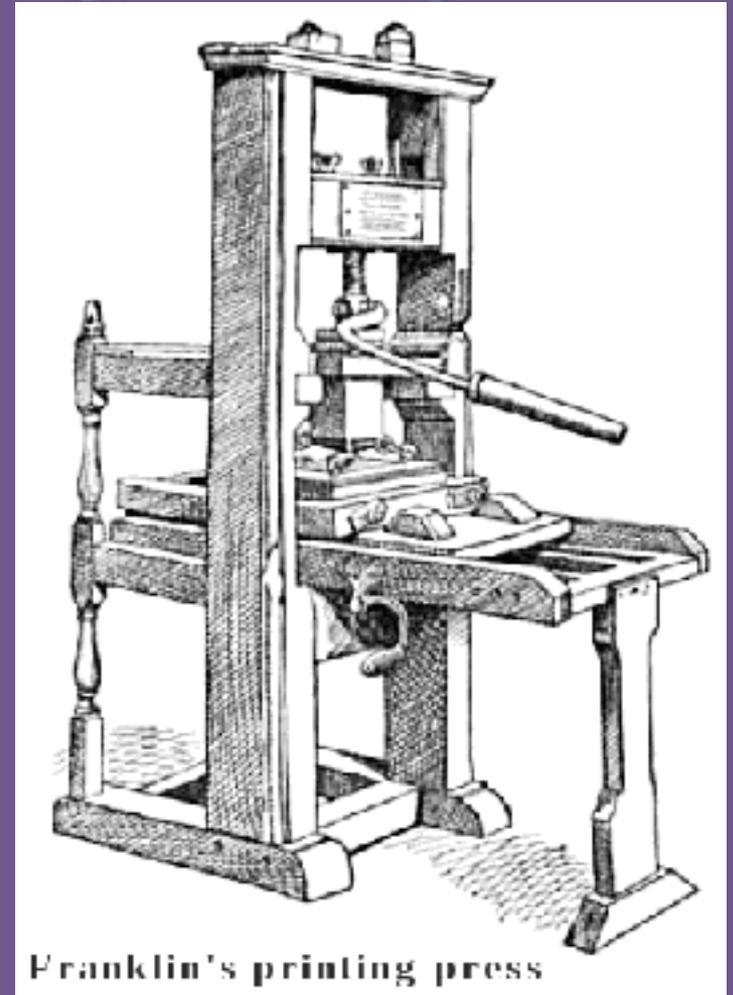
Sugar Act



- After the French and Indian War, British Parliament decided to tax American colonists to help pay back the costs of the war.
- A tax is money that people pay to their government in return for a service.
- In 1764, Britain implemented the Sugar Act.
- The Sugar Act taxed not only sugar, but coffee, cloth, indigo, and wine.

Stamp Act

- A year later, in 1765, Parliament created the Stamp Act.
- This act taxed anything that was printed on paper.
- To buy an item printed on paper, colonists had to pay for a tax stamp.



Franklin's printing press

“No taxation without representation!”



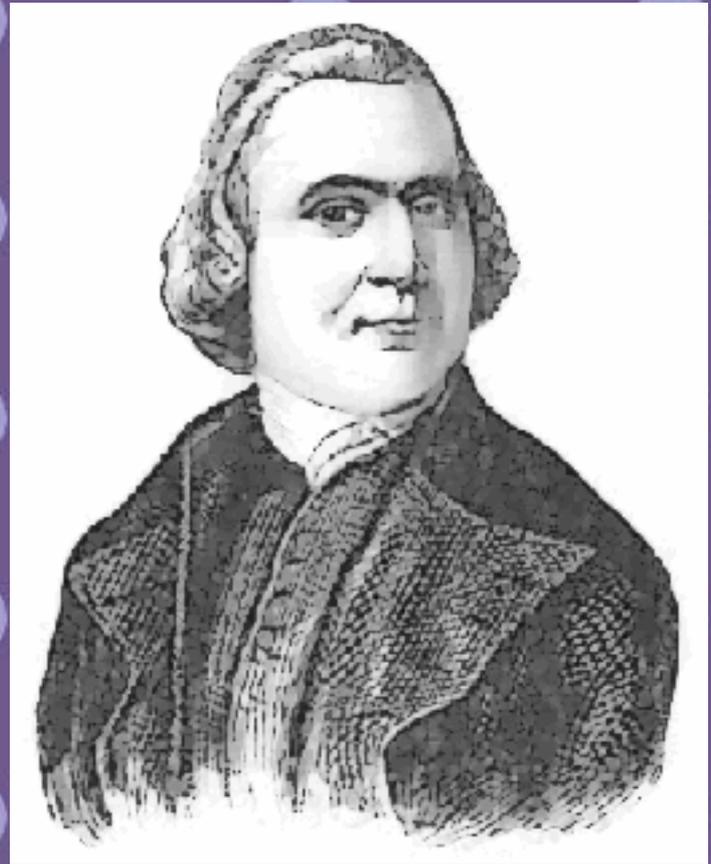
“Give me liberty or give me death!”
- Patrick Henry

- The colonists were very unhappy with the new taxes.
- They felt as though their local representatives should be the ones to pass tax laws, not British Parliament.
- The colonists had representatives in their local government, but not Parliament.
- Thus, “No taxation without representation!”
- Patrick Henry, a member of the House of Burgesses, made an angry speech against the Stamp Act. He felt as though Britain was using its power in an unfair way. Many American colonists heard the speech and many agreed with him.

Sons of Liberty

- Groups, called the Sons of Liberty, formed across many colonies.
- Liberty means to be free of control by another country.
- Samuel Adams lead of the Sons of Liberty in Boston.
- Samuel Adams and the Sons of Liberty led protests against the Stamp Act.

- The protests and boycotts worked.
- Parliament repealed, or canceled, the Stamp Act in 1766.



Samuel Adams

Townshend Acts



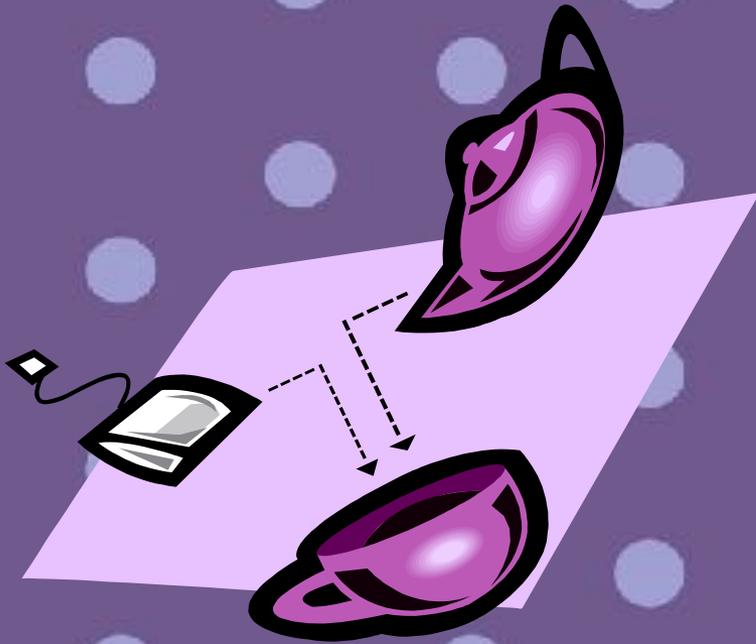
- In 1767, Parliament passed the Townshend Acts.
- These acts taxed tea, glass, lead, paints, and paper that the colonies imported.
- Colonies were once again angry about the new taxes.
- Colonists threatened to use violence against British tax officials.
- The British government sent soldiers to Boston to help protect the British tax officials.
- Colonists boycotted buying the British goods and made their own.
- As a result of the boycotts, British merchants lost money.
- Parliament removed the taxes on glass, lead, paints and paper.

Boston Massacre

- The people of Boston were unhappy that there were British soldiers in their city.
- As a result, they often fought with the British soldiers.
- On March 5, 1770, a fight broke out between people in Boston and a British soldier.
- The crowd yelled and threw snowballs at the soldiers.
- More British soldiers arrived and one fired a shot. This led to several other British soldiers firing shots.
- Five colonists were killed.



Tea Act



- In 1773, Parliament passed the Tea Act.
- This act allowed the East India Tea Company of Britain to sell tea in America at a cheap price.
- The Tea Act made taxed tea even cheaper than smuggled tea.
- If the colonists bought the taxed tea, they would be paying a British tax, which still upset them.
- Boston merchants refused to sell the British East India tea. It sat unloaded in the Boston Harbor.

Boston Tea Party

- Colonists decided to get rid of the unwanted tea in the Boston Harbor.
- On the night of December 16, 1773, dozens of Sons of Liberty dressed up as Mohawk Indians and boarded the ships illegally.
- They threw the unwanted tea into the Boston Harbor.



Intolerable Acts

The Intolerable Acts

- Stopped trade between Boston and Britain
- Ended town meetings
- Gave Britain more control over government in the colonies
- British soldiers returned to Boston
- People living in Boston were required to quarter (give food and shelter) to British soldiers

- Parliament was stunned after the Boston Tea Party.
- In response, the leader of Parliament, Lord Frederick North, passed the Coercive Acts to punish the colonists.
- The colonists called these laws the Intolerable Acts because they were unbearable.
- Colonists felt the laws were too harsh.

First Continental Congress

- On December 5, 1774, delegates, or representatives, from each colony met in Philadelphia to discuss the Intolerable Acts.
- Congress wrote a letter to the British government and the American colonists.
- It stated that colonists should have the same freedom as British citizens.
- The letter asked to remove the taxes and Intolerable Acts.
- The colonists began to train for war with Britain, in case it came to that.
- King George III responded by sending more troops to Boston.
- He declared that the colonists had begun a rebellion.



Moving Toward War



- In 1775, colonists were still upset about the Intolerable Acts.
- Colonists who were against British rule were called Patriots.
- Many colonies were ready for a war with Britain.
- Militias, or everyday people training for battle, began to prepare for war.

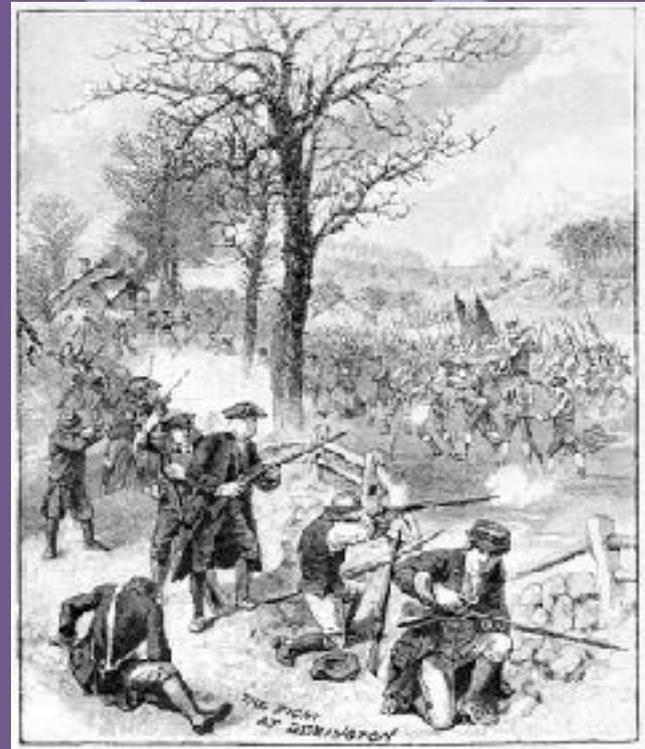
Battle of Lexington & Concord

- April 19, 1775
- General Thomas Gage, the British governor of Massachusetts, learned that Patriots were storing gunpowder and cannons in Concord, Massachusetts.
- He sent soldiers to destroy the supplies.
- The soldiers were going to march at night, so that they could surprise the Patriots.
- General Gage's plan was not kept a secret. Patriots soon found out what was happening.
- Patriots, Paul Revere and William Dawes, rode on horseback to alert the minutemen (militia) that "The Regulars are coming out!"



Battle of Lexington & Concord

- The British reached Lexington just before sunrise.
- They were met by a small group of minutemen. The British told them to leave. As they turned to leave, a shot was fired.
- No one knows which side, the British or the colonists, shot first.
- Both sides began shooting at one another.
- The British marched on to Concord.



Battle of Lexington & Concord

- Minutemen gathered in Concord, as the British searched for the hidden gunpowder and cannons.
- Fighting broke out. The minutemen forced the British to retreat back to Boston.
- More than 250 British soldiers were wounded or killed before the British reached Boston.
- The news about the Battle of Lexington and Concord spread quickly.
- Militias gathered in Boston.
- The British in Boston were trapped.
- The American Revolution had begun.

