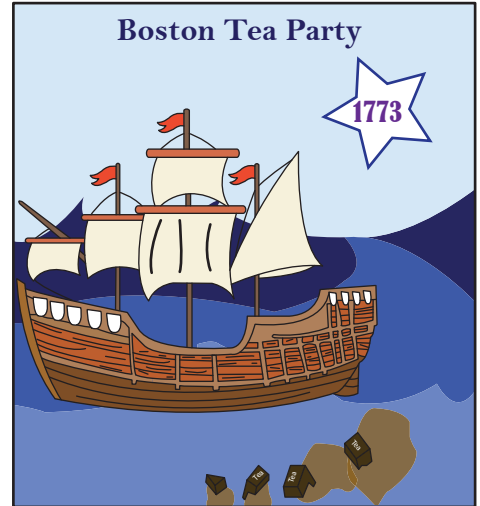


Name : \_\_\_\_\_

# The Boston Tea Party

by Katie Clark

The Boston Tea Party was no party at all. Instead, it was a protest by the American colonists against Great Britain. They were protesting against paying taxes to a country that refused to give them a proper say in how their lands were ruled.



You see, America's fight for independence did not start with the Revolutionary War. It began many years earlier. As more people came to the American colonies from Great Britain, the colonies grew. They took up more land and fought many skirmishes and battles to keep that land. Great Britain helped pay for those battles, and because of this they felt the people of the American colonies owed them back pay.

They decided the best way to get that back pay would be to make the colonists pay hefty taxes. They charged these taxes on everything from paper and ink to nails and tea.

The problem was that while King George of Great Britain charged the colonists taxes, he did not give them a say in how the American colonies were run. They did not get to vote on their laws or have a say in the way the government was set up.

This is called taxation without representation. The colonists saw this as unfair. They voiced their disagreement but it did not make a difference.

At last, a fight broke out between the colonists and the British soldiers who were stationed in the American colonies. The king relented. He took away many of the unfair taxes. However, he kept one high tax. This was the tax on tea.

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The American colonists were not happy. The high taxes on tea was still not fair. They stopped buying tea that came from the British company called the East India Company.

The king was unhappy about this. He tried to force the colonists to buy this tea, but they would not do it. They refused to do it until they had fair representation.

In December of 1773, three British ships docked in Boston, Massachusetts. These ships were carrying tea for the East India Company.

A group of angry colonists made a plan. They would show Great Britain that they were serious about fair treatment. On the night of December 16, 1773, they disguised themselves as Native American Indians. They entered the ships and took 342 chests of tea. They destroyed the chests and they dumped the tea into Boston Harbor so the tea leaves would be ruined.

No one was hurt during the event, and when it was over the colonists left peacefully. That did not mean there would be no punishment!

News of this event spread quickly. It became known as the Boston Tea Party. King George of Great Britain was not happy.

He imposed new laws and taxes on the colonists as punishment. He took away the power of the people in Massachusetts to elect their own town officials. He also closed the ports of Boston until the people agreed to repay the money lost due to the ruined tea. This meant the people of Boston could not do any buying or selling at their ports.

These laws were called the Coercive Acts, but they became known better as the Intolerable Acts. This was because the colonists refused to tolerate them. These rules made the colonists more determined to fight for their freedom from Great Britain.

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# The Boston Tea Party

- 1) Which is not true about the Boston Tea Party?
  - a. Giving vent to their anger, the colonists destroyed 342 chests of tea and dumped the tea into Boston Harbor.
  - b. Despite paying taxes, the colonists had no say in deciding how their colonies were run.
  - c. Officials of Great Britain and representatives of the colonies settled their disagreements over a cup of tea in a Boston restaurant.
  - d. King George imposed new laws and taxes on the colonists.

2) How did Great Britain justify levying hefty taxes on the colonies?

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3) Explain 'Taxation without Representation' in your own words.

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4) What punishments were imposed on the colonists after the Boston incident?

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# The Boston Tea Party

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5) Complete the paragraph using the words, phrases or idioms given.

height	deprived	refused	unreasonable	imposed
tit for tat	infuriated	destroyed	colonists	

The Boston Tea Party was a protest by the American \_\_\_\_\_ against Great Britain's taxation policies which they thought were \_\_\_\_\_ . This was because Great Britain \_\_\_\_\_ to give them a say in how their lands were ruled. At the \_\_\_\_\_ of this protest, the colonists entered the ships docked in Boston and \_\_\_\_\_ 342 chests of tea before dumping the tea into the Harbor. This \_\_\_\_\_ King George, who in turn, \_\_\_\_\_ new laws and taxes on the colonists. Giving them \_\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_\_ the people of Massachusetts of their power to elect their own town officials.

# The Boston Tea Party

1) Which is not true about the Boston Tea Party?

- a. Giving vent to their anger, the colonists destroyed 342 chests of tea and dumped the tea into Boston Harbor.
- b. Despite paying taxes, the colonists had no say in deciding how their colonies were run.
- c. Officials of Great Britain and representatives of the colonies settled their disagreements over a cup of tea in a Boston restaurant.
- d. King George imposed new laws and taxes on the colonists.

2) How did Great Britain justify levying hefty taxes on the colonies?

**As the colonies grew, many skirmishes and battles were fought to keep hold on the land. Great Britain helped pay for those battles, and thus felt that the people of the American colonies owed them back pay. This payback was in the form of taxes.**

3) Explain 'Taxation without Representation' in your own words.

**'Taxation without Representation' is when the rulers levy heavy charges as taxes on the colonists and yet do not allow them to vote or form governing laws to run the colonies.**

4) What punishments were imposed on the colonists after the Boston incident?

**New laws and taxes on the colonists were imposed as punishment. The power of the people in Massachusetts to elect their own town officials was taken away. The ports of Boston were closed until the people agreed to repay the money lost due to the ruined tea. This meant that the people**

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# The Boston Tea Party

**of Boston could not do any trading at their ports.**

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5) Complete the paragraph using the words, phrases or idioms given.

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The Boston Tea Party was a protest by the American **colonists** against Great Britain's taxation policies which they thought were **unreasonable**.

This was because Great Britain **refused** to give them a say in how their lands were ruled. At the **height** of this protest, the colonists entered the ships docked in Boston and **destroyed** 342 chests of tea before dumping the tea into the Harbor. This **infuriated** King George, who in turn, **imposed** new laws and taxes on the colonists. Giving them **tit for tat** he **deprived** the people of Massachusetts of their power to elect their own town officials.