



A STORM IS BREWING

Cause and Effect Analysis of the American Revolution

Learning Objectives: The students will...

1. Review events that played a role in causing the American Revolution.
2. Analyze the cause and effect relationship between the events in the years before the American Revolution.

TEKS: 8.4A

Materials Needed: One set of cards for each group of students.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Make copies of the cards and cut them apart. There are three types of cards:
 - a. Name and pictorial representation of an event in the years before the outbreak of the American Revolution.
 - b. The cause (bolded) and explanation of an event in the years before the outbreak of the American Revolution.
 - c. An explanation of the effect of an event in the years before the outbreak of the American Revolution.
2. Divide the class into groups of three to four students, depending of the class size. Explain that they will receive a set of cards to review the events from the era just before the outbreak of the American Revolution.
3. Give each group of students a set of cards. Their task is to match the three types of cards (event, cause, and effect) correctly. Once they have matched them all correctly, they should then place the sets in chronological order.
4. After the students have the sets correctly matched and in order, ask the following debriefing questions:
 - a. Explain how one event led to another and then another.
 - b. At which point do you feel that it was unavoidable that the colonies were going to go to war with the British?
 - c. With which side would you have supported? Why would you make that choice?



French and Indian War 1754-1763



Conflict between two European powers over colonial possessions in the New World

The war ended with a French defeat, but with a debt that the British felt the colonies should help with since they protected them during the war. This prompted strict enforcement of old trade laws as well as the passage of new ones.



EFFECT

Colonists resented the new policies after the war as they had been allowed to establish local self-governments and follow loose enforcement of trade policies in the past. They also began to argue they were not represented in Parliament when these laws were enacted.



Mercantilism



Economic policy strengthened by the British in governing their colonies after the war

The goal of the economic policy was to increase British wealth and power as well as gain and maintain better control of their growing empire. Examples of these new laws included requiring the colonists to transport their goods on British ships, export certain items only to Britain, and buy their imports from British merchants or pay an import duty.



EFFECT

Colonists, angry about this new enforcement of the economic policy, tried to defy the new stricter laws by smuggling goods in and out of the colonies.



Writs of Assistance



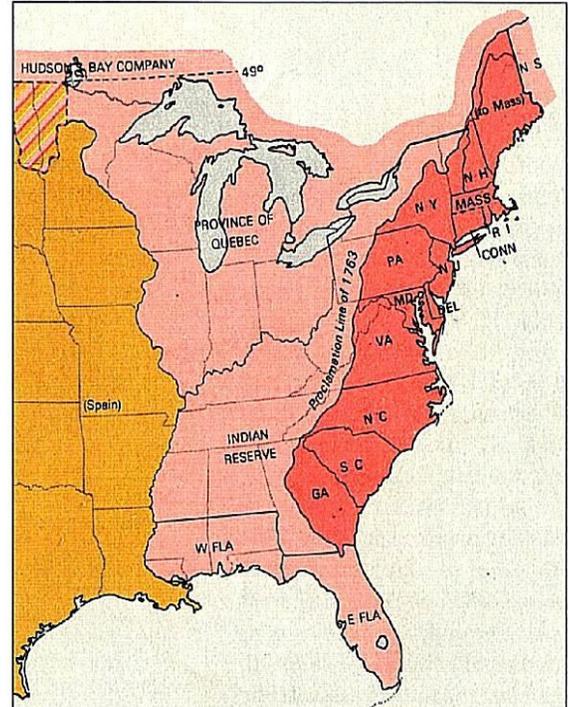
General search warrants authorizing British officials to search colonial homes, buildings, and shops for smuggled goods

These search warrants were an attempt to stop the increase in smuggling. These writs were different than most search warrants as they allowed British officials to search any place, any time and seize any smuggled good.

EFFECT

Colonists became angry as they said the blanket search warrants were a violation of their natural rights as British citizens. Attorney James Otis argued that the writs violated an English common law principle that stated, “a man’s home is his castle.” He also used the phrase, “Taxation without representation is tyranny.”

Proclamation of 1763



Boundary between Mississippi River and 49th parallel uncertain due to misconception that source of Mississippi River lay further north

1775

Decree by George III, the king of England

The decree prohibited the colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains. The intent was an attempt to protect the fur trade, remove a cause of Indian rebellion, and prevent the colonists from moving west which would require more British troops on the western frontier.

EFFECT

Colonists were angry they were not able to take advantage of settling the rich land gained from the French after their war. They wanted the right to move west as well as be protected from the Indians.

Stamp Act 1765



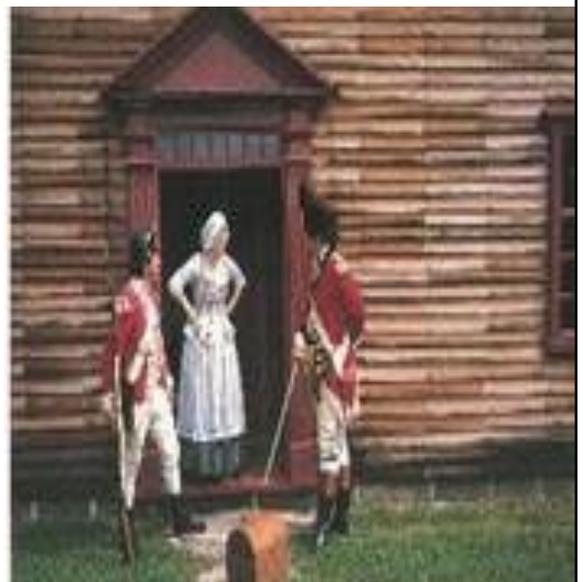
British act passed by Parliament that taxed every legal document, newspaper, and pamphlet published by the colonies

The stamp tax was the first tax levied that wasn't an export or import tax. Even though it was a relatively small tax, the groups that it most effected were some of the most influential in the colonies—lawyers, clergy, and printers. Colonists become openly hostile to the tax collectors.

EFFECT

The angered colonists from nine colonies met at the Stamp Act Congress to discuss a united resistance to the tax. They decided to boycott British goods. The Sons of Liberty organized much of the protest in Massachusetts and Committees of Correspondence were formed between the colonies to communicate about their opposition to British policies.

Quartering Act 1765





**British act that required
the colonists to provide
food and living quarters
for the British soldiers**

The British said they were there
to protect the colonists from the
Indians on the frontier.

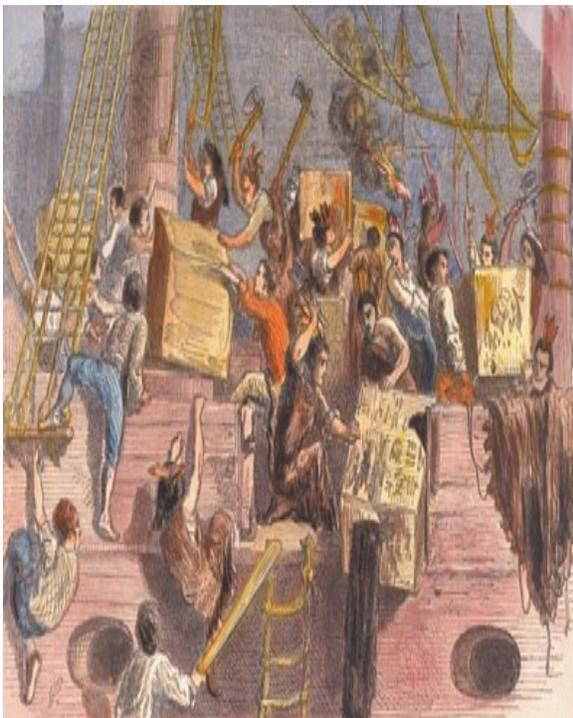


EFFECT

Colonists saw this act as
an attempt to put down
any colonial
resistance to the
restrictive policies passed
rather than to provide for
protection from the
Indians. Their proof was
that most of the troops
were stationed in New
York and Boston not on
the frontier.



Tea Act 1773



**Act that provided tea
from the East India
Company was to be
exempted from taxes
shipped to the
Colonies**

The British were surprised when
the colonists protested this act
since it offered them the
cheapest tea ever.

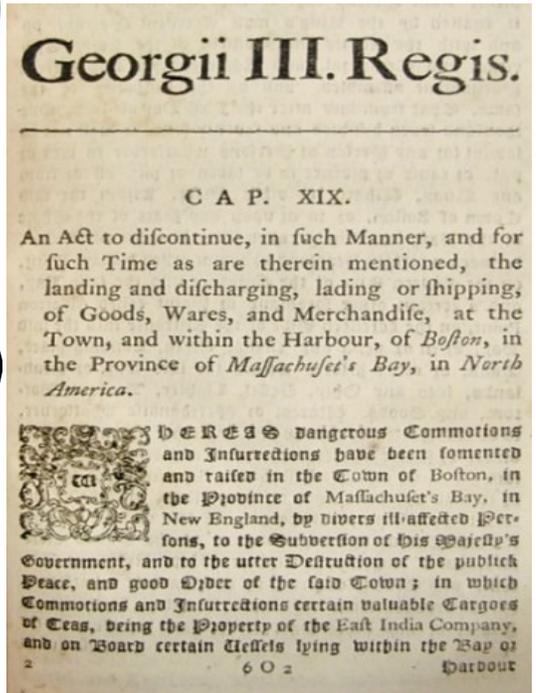


EFFECT

Colonists were still angry as they had no say in this act and would not allow the tea to land at the ports. In Boston colonists, dressed as Indians, dumped the tea into the harbor defying British authority and destroying British property.



Intolerable Acts 1774



Georgii III. Regis.

C A P. XIX.

An Act to discontinue, in such Manner, and for such Time as are therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading or shipping, of Goods, Wares, and Merchandise, at the Town, and within the Harbour, of *Boston*, in the Province of *Massachusetts Bay*, in *North America*.

WHEREAS dangerous Commotions and Insurrections have been fomented and raised in the Town of *Boston*, in the Province of *Massachusetts Bay*, in *New England*, by divers ill-affected Persons, to the Subversion of His Majesty's Government, and to the utter Destruction of the publick Peace, and good Order of the said Town; in which Commotions and Insurrections certain valuable Cargoes of Teas, being the Property of the East India Company, and on Board certain Vessels lying within the Bay or Harbour



Acts passed to punish Boston for the "tea party"

These acts severely limited local government in Massachusetts; said that people accused of crime in Massachusetts were to be tried in Britain; closed the Boston harbor until the tea was paid for; and authorized more quartering of troops in any colonial town they felt needed them.



EFFECT

The First Continental Congress met in 1774 to organize resistance to the harsh punishment of the Intolerable Acts. They issued a "Declaration of Rights and Grievances" to King George III and voted again to impose a boycott on British goods. Colonial patriots began training militia and storing military supplies.

Shot Heard Round the World 1775



First conflict of the American Revolution

The British decided to seize the colonial arms believed to be stored at Concord and Patriot leaders believed to be hiding at Lexington. This action was preceded by the ride of Paul Revere and William Dawes warning the Minutemen to be ready at a moment's notice to resist the British troops.

EFFECT

Fighting broke out and now colonists had to choose sides. They decided if they would be Loyalists (loyal to the British) or Patriots (willing to fight to resist the British). In one year, the Patriots would decide to formally declare independence at the Second Continental Congress.