



DISTANCE LEARNING PACKET

4TH GRADE

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies Week 2 Day 1

Read "The Stamp Act"

Write a paragraph explaining how the British government should have tried to gain money to pay the debt for the French and Indian War. Make sure to use the text to answer the question.

Social Studies Week 2 Day 2

Read "Trouble is Brewing: A Tax on Tea"

Imagine tea is your favorite drink and you are currently living in the North American Colonies in 1765. Explain why you would or would not continue drinking tea. Make sure to include information from the text in your answer.

Social Studies Week 2 Day 3

Read: "Unrest in Boston- Read the Section about the Boston Massacre"

The article states that Paul Revere created an engraving showing the Boston Massacre that was not entirely accurate. What should Paul Revere have included in his engraving to make the engraving more accurate. Write a paragraph stating the details that are missing from the engraving.

Social Studies Week 2 Day 4

Read "Complaints, Grievances and Preparations"

The article states that many felt war was unavoidable while others thought it was not too late to patch up relations with the king and his government. What is your opinion? Was war unavoidable? Could the colonies have patched things up with the king? Write a paragraph giving your opinion on whether the war was unavoidable or if things could have been worked out.

Social Studies Week 2 Day 5

Imagine you are a colonist. Write a paragraph explaining if you would have stayed loyal to King George and the British government or if you would have been a patriot (someone who was against the British government.) Be sure to include information you have learned from the articles this week.

The Stamp Act

This text is adapted from an original work of the Core Knowledge Foundation.

Between 1754 and 1763, the British fought the French and Indian War. They fought the French for control of land in North America. Although the British eventually won, their victory came with some serious costs.

The British government had borrowed a lot of money to fight this war. A lot of that money had been spent on protecting the colonists from the French and their Native American allies. All of the money had to be paid back, and the British government felt that the colonists should pay their share. In addition, more money was continually needed to protect the colonies as well as the newly acquired land.

To raise the needed funds, the British government imposed new taxes, including several that would have to be paid by the colonists. In 1765, King George III and his government proposed the Stamp Act.

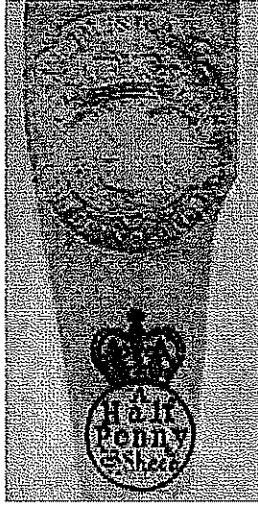


Stamps were imprinted or embossed on paper.

The Stamp Act was a tax on printed materials. Colonists were required to buy stamps when they bought printed items such as newspapers, pamphlets, even playing cards. These were not gummed stamps, but rather impressions imprinted or embossed on paper. Many people were upset about the Stamp Act. They thought it was unfair that the king and his government in London were making decisions about taxes the colonists had to pay, while the colonists had no say in the matter.

[...]

When the colonists became upset about the Stamp Act, they expressed their unhappiness in various ways. They held protest meetings. They wrote pamphlets. They sent petitions to London. They tried to explain why they thought the Stamp Act was unfair.



The Stamp Act was seen as an unfair tax.

Trouble Is Brewing: A Tax on Tea

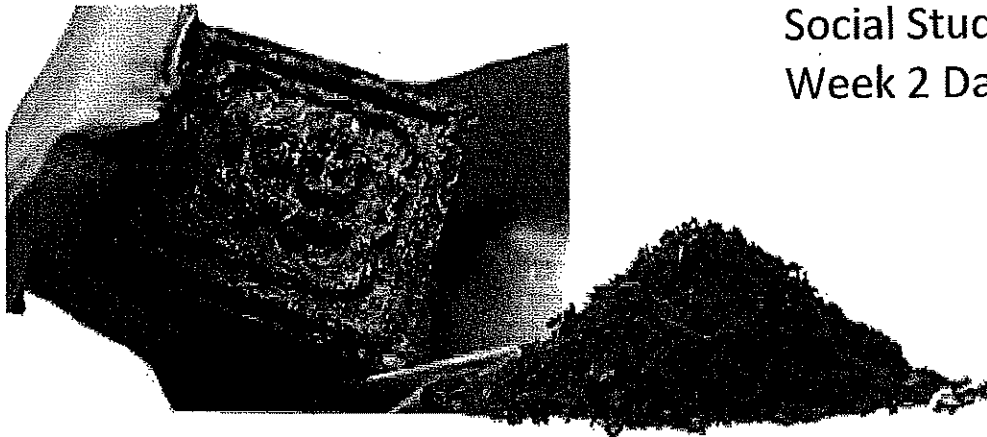
This text is adapted from an original work of the Core Knowledge Foundation.

In 1765, the British government imposed the Stamp Act on its North American colonies. This tax was heavily protested by colonists, who were upset that they had had no say in the decision.

Some of the most passionate protests against the Stamp Act took place in Boston, Massachusetts. There, angry crowds took their frustration out on tax collectors.

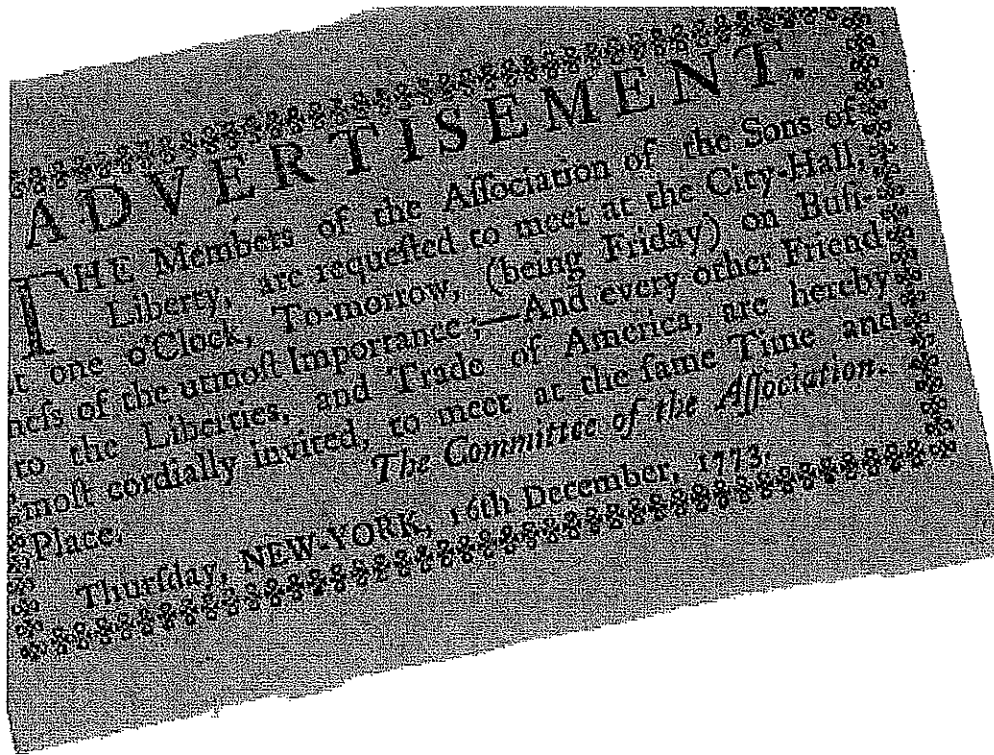
A new group of protestors formed in Boston in response to the Stamp Act. The group met under a tree that they called the Liberty Tree. They made public speeches against taxes and the British government. They cried, "No taxation without representation!" This group became known as the Sons of Liberty.

Eventually, after much protest, the British government decided to repeal the Stamp Act in 1766. Parliament eliminated the tax on paper products, but in 1767 it replaced it with other taxes -including taxes on imported goods, such as tea. These taxes were officially called the Townshend Acts.



Social Studies
Week 2 Day 1

Buying, selling, even drinking tea became a political act in 1773.



Advertisement for a Sons of Liberty meeting

Debates and protests about the British government's role in colonial affairs continued, especially in Boston.

Unrest in Boston

Social Studies
Week 2 Day 3

This text is adapted from an original work of the Core Knowledge

In 1767, the British government imposed the Townshend Acts on its American colonies. These placed a tax on many imported goods, including tea. Colonists protested these taxes, not just because they did not want to pay them, but because the taxes were imposed without colonial representation in Parliament. Many protests were centered in Boston.

The Boston Massacre

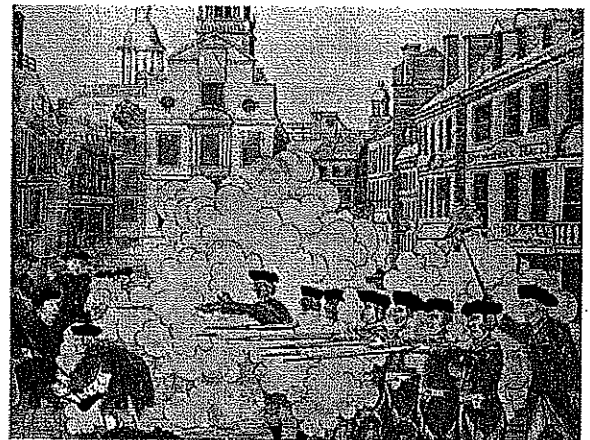
In 1768, in response to the protests about the new taxes, the British government sent soldiers to Boston to keep an eye on the Sons of Liberty. Because the British soldiers wore red uniforms, the colonists sometimes referred to them as "redcoats" or "lobster backs."

In March 1770, several Bostonians got into a tussle with a redcoat. The Bostonians surrounded the soldier and called him names. They threw snowballs at him, and some members of the crowd even threatened him with sticks and clubs.

More British soldiers arrived on the scene. They ordered the Bostonians to go home, but the angry protestors refused. The situation became more serious when even more people poured into the streets. Soon a crowd of 300 angry Bostonians was pressing in on the outnumbered British soldiers.

Some of the Bostonians shouted at the soldiers, daring them to fire their guns. One of the Bostonians threw something at the soldiers. It may have been a snowball. It may have been a rock. Whatever it was, it hit one of the soldiers and knocked him down.

Perhaps thinking his life was in danger, the soldier fired his musket. One of the Bostonians fought back, attacking the soldier with a club. After that, the other British soldiers responded. They fired into the crowd. When it was over, five people were dead.



Paul Revere's engraving of the event that became known as the Boston Massacre

The Sons of Liberty were outraged. They began making speeches about the incident, which became known as the Boston Massacre. They insisted that

Complaints, Grievances, and Prej

This text is adapted from an original work of the Core Knowledge Foundation.

In 1774, in response to rebellious acts in the American colony of Massachusetts, the British Parliament approved a series of new laws. These laws, called "the Intolerable Acts" by colonists, punished the people of Massachusetts. The colonists were very angry about these new laws. So in September, 1774, representatives from twelve of the thirteen colonies went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for a meeting known as the First Continental Congress.

The 56 members of the First Continental Congress drafted a list of complaints and grievances against the king and his government. They agreed that all 13 colonies would stop importing goods from Great Britain—not just tea and other items that were taxed, but all British goods. They also agreed that, unless Parliament repealed the Intolerable Acts, the colonies would stop exporting colonial goods to Great Britain.

Some colonists began to think a war was unavoidable. They thought it was time to start stockpiling muskets and gunpowder. Others believed that it was not too late to patch up relations with the king and his government.

Representatives from Virginia debated this issue in March 1775. Several representatives argued that Virginia should do whatever it could to keep the peace and restore good relations with the king. But others felt that it was too late for that. A country lawyer named Patrick Henry proposed that it was time to stop talking about peace and to start fighting for liberty:

"Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace—but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! . . . Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? . . . Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

-Patrick Henry

Many people in Massachusetts agreed with Patrick Henry. They were organizing militias, stockpiling guns, and preparing to fight. Some of the Massachusetts militiamen were known as minutemen. These special troops were created to be ready to fight at a moment's notice!

The British government knew that these preparations were underway. In response, they sent a large army to Boston. British generals were told to confiscate any weapons they could find.