

The War for Independence

*Revolution and the New
Nation (1754–1815)*



Tea and taxation

The Revolutionary War

Independence

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will learn about the different causes for colonial unrest in America and be able to answer these key questions:

- What role did taxation play in heightening unrest in America? Why?
- What conflicts led to the Revolutionary War?
- What was the significance of the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party?



Looking back timeline



Use this timeline to recap key historical events and contextualize the Revolutionary War. Either press on a date or drag the pointer along the timeline to find out information about what happened in each year.

Press **start** to begin.

start





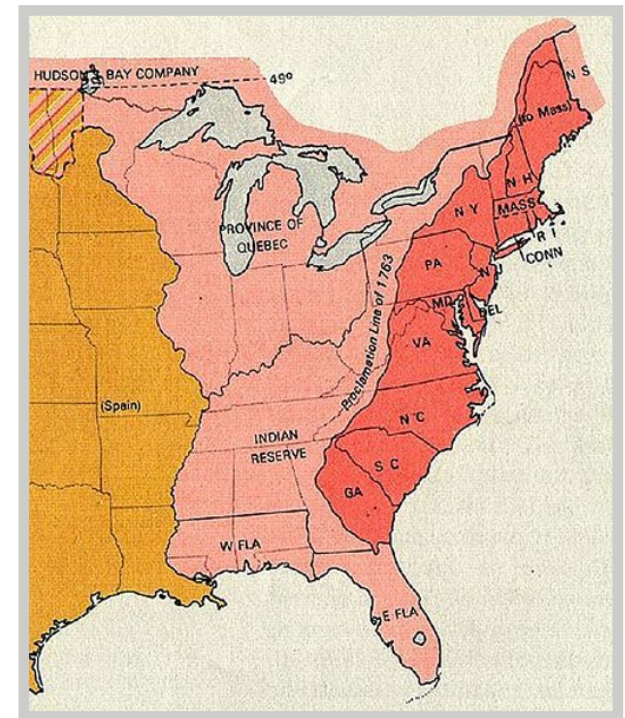
Legacy of war



Although Britain was victorious in the French and Indian War, the war's aftermath led to increased colonial hostility.

Tensions increased as a result of three main issues:

- British troops had gained a reputation of being conceited and cruel.
- The **Proclamation of 1763** was introduced to ban colonists from settling west of the Appalachians.
- Britain had incurred huge debts and needed new ways to raise funds.



Why do you think these factors increased tensions?



In order to reduce their debt and increase imperial revenue after the war, Britain passed several Acts involving taxation. Press on each image on the desk to find out more information about the different taxes and colonial reaction to them.

Press **start** to begin.

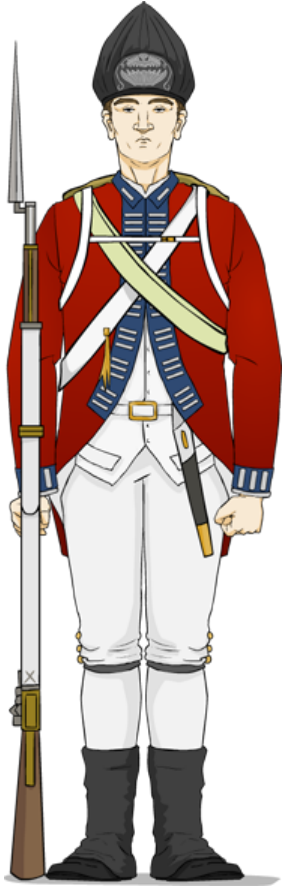
start



Why did taxation prove to be such a contentious issue?



After the French and Indian War, Britain stationed 10,000 soldiers in its American colonies to prevent further conflicts.



Then, shortly after passing the Stamp Act in 1765, the **Quartering Act** was also passed.

This stated that colonists had to supply British troops with housing, candles, food and firewood.

So, colonists were funding the British army, whose presence they detested and viewed with suspicion.

Some colonists taunted the Red Coats, and in return soldiers played their trumpets at all hours.

Why might the colonists distrust the Red Coats?



Hostility between colonists and British soldiers soon came to a head in Boston on March 5, 1770.

Colonists began to gather in front of a customs house where British soldiers were on sentry duty to prevent bribery.

A scuffle broke out and eventually shots were fired, killing five citizens and wounding seven more.



Colonial agitators, such as Samuel Adams, were quick to call this conflict the **Boston Massacre**.

Why do you think they did this? What does it imply?



In the trial following the Boston Massacre, the testimonies given by the colonists varied widely. Some indicated that the colonists provoked the attack and others the Red Coats.

Drag each person to one of the categories, depending on where you think their testimony places blame for the Boston Massacre.

Press **start** to begin.

start

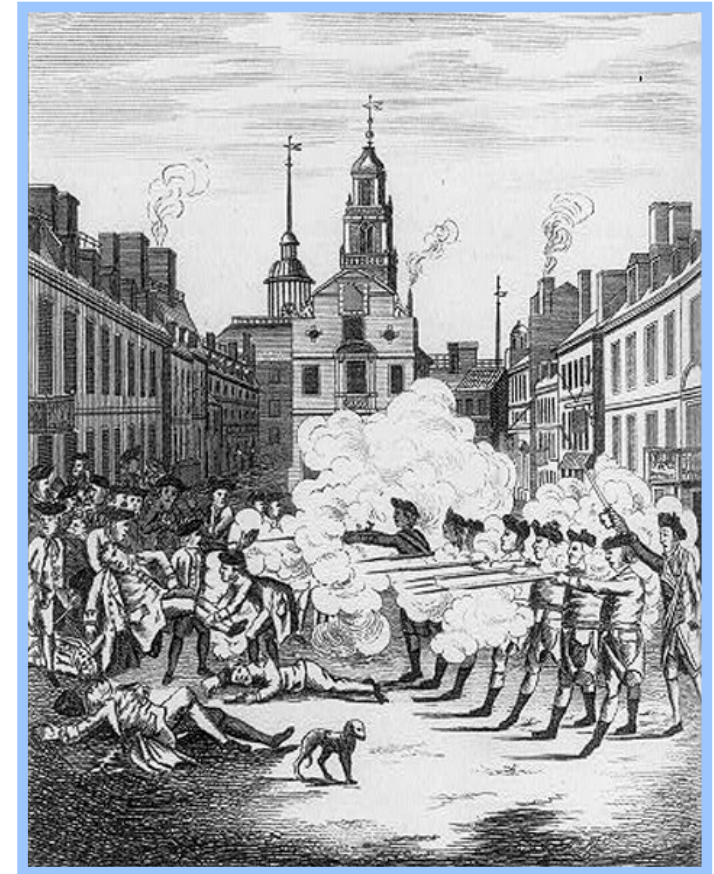


Which testimonies do you find the most convincing?



There were three key outcomes of the Boston Massacre:

- Britain agreed to remove its troops from Boston.
- Colonists used the incident to incite anger towards the British – **Paul Revere** etched a picture of the event depicting troops firing on innocent people.
- **John Adams** ensured that the troops received a fair trial, to show that justice ruled in the colonies.



Was Revere's depiction of the event fair?



The **Boston Tea Party** of December 1773 was an iconic act of colonial resistance against British rule and taxation policies. It was a key event leading to the Revolutionary War and Independence. Watch this animation to find out about the causes and events of the Boston Tea Party. Press **start** to begin.

start





This destruction of British property infuriated King George III, who put pressure on Parliament to take action to prevent this from happening again.



In response to the Boston Tea Party, Britain sought to exert its control over the lawless colonies. **The Coercive Acts**, termed the Intolerable Acts by colonists, shut down the port of Boston, limited town meetings, and brought troops back to Boston.

How did these Acts make the colonies feel?
Could Britain have eased tensions?



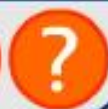
Political cartoons were often used to depict events during the war for independence.

Use this activity to explore a cartoon representation of the Boston Tea Party.

Press on parts of the image to reveal more information. Which side do you think printed this image?

Press **start** to begin.

start





First Continental Congress



The passing of the Coercive Acts made the colonists nervous and as a result the **First Continental Congress** was held.

In September 1774, delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies' assemblies met in Philadelphia to discuss colonial rights.

They agreed to:

- boycott British goods
- stop exports to Britain if the Coercive Acts were not repealed
- meet again in May 1775 if their demands were not met.



What effects do you think this decision would have?