

The War of Independence

Part One



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.



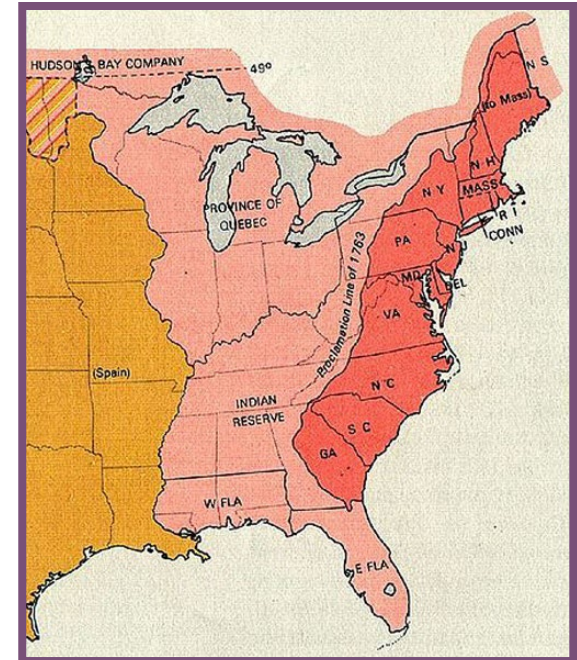




Although Britain had been victorious in the French and Indian War, the war's after led to increased colonial hostility.

Tensions increased because 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 Appalachian mountains.
- Britain had worked up huge debts and needed new ways to raise funds.



Why do you think these factors increased tension?



To help recover from the large debt created by the French and Indian Wars, the British government wanted the colonies to contribute more to their own defense.

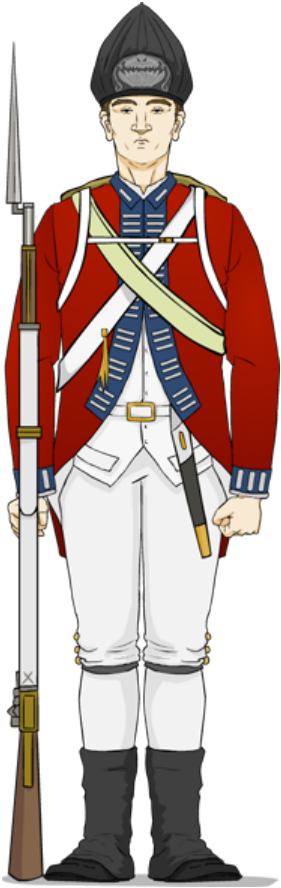
To raise money, the British parliament imposed the **Sugar Tax** (1764) and **Stamp Act** (1765) on the American colonies.



These new taxes were hated by the colonists, who could not legally challenge their introduction.



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

Although many colonists hated the British army, they were forced to pay for its existence.

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

Why might the colonists distrust the Redcoats?

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

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

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



Opponents of British rule, such as Samuel Adams, were quick to call this conflict the **Boston Massacre**.

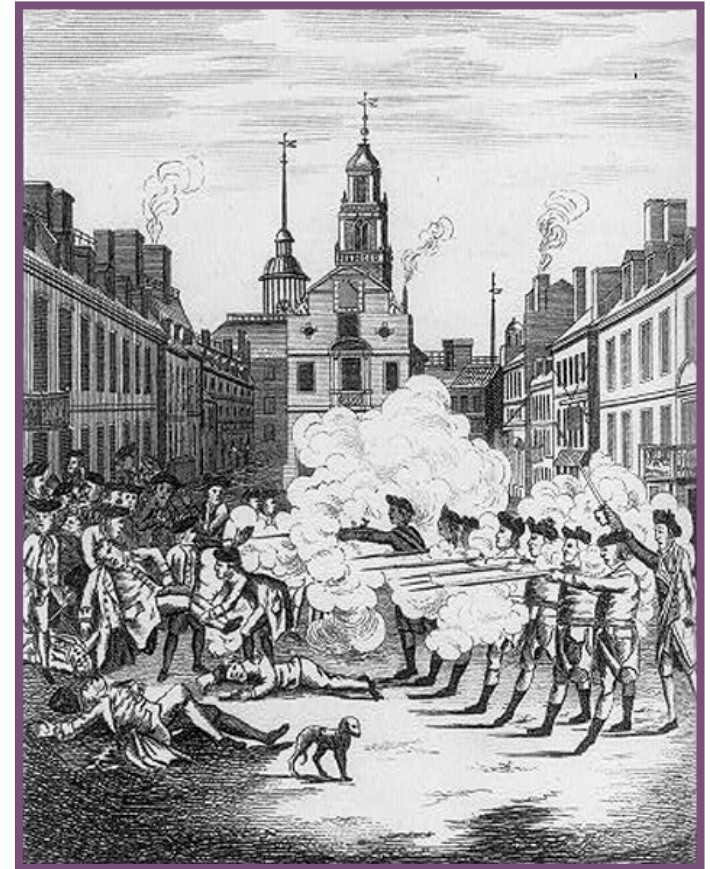
Why do you think agitators labelled this event a “massacre”?





The Boston Massacre was a very important event and had three key outcomes:

- Britain agreed to remove its troops from Boston.
- Colonists used the incident to incite anger towards the British – **Paul Revere** drew a picture of the event showing troops firing on innocent people.
- **John Adams** defended the soldiers when they were put on trial, to show that justice ruled in the colonies.





The Boston Tea Party



In 1773, protesters against British rule prevented most merchants from importing British tea into America. Only Boston's merchants held out.

On the night of December 16th, Samuel Adams and the **Sons of Liberty**, disguised as Native Americans, boarded three ships in the harbor and threw 342 chests of tea into the sea.



45 tons of tea was lost: in today's money the tea company's losses would equal a million dollars.



How do you think the British government reacted?





King George III was furious about the destruction of British property. The king put pressure on Parliament to take action to prevent this from happening again.



In response to the Boston Tea Party, Britain wanted to exert its control over the lawless colonies.

Parliament passed Acts called **The Coercive Acts**. These Acts shut down the port of Boston, limited town meetings and brought troops back to Boston.

How do you think the colonists felt about these Acts?



Reactions to the Boston Tea Party





The **First Continental Congress** was held as a response to the Coercive Acts.

In September 1774, delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies met in Philadelphia to discuss their rights and liberties.

The Congress agreed to:

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



