



The American Revolution

Key Events in the American Revolution



The American Revolution

The American Revolution was a time when the British colonists in America rebelled against the rule of Great Britain.

Thirteen colonies rebelled against the rule of Great Britain. These were Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

The American Revolution took place between 1765 and 1783. The revolution eventually led to a war between the colonies and the British. This is known as the American War of Independence. It began in 1775 with the Battles of Lexington and Concord.



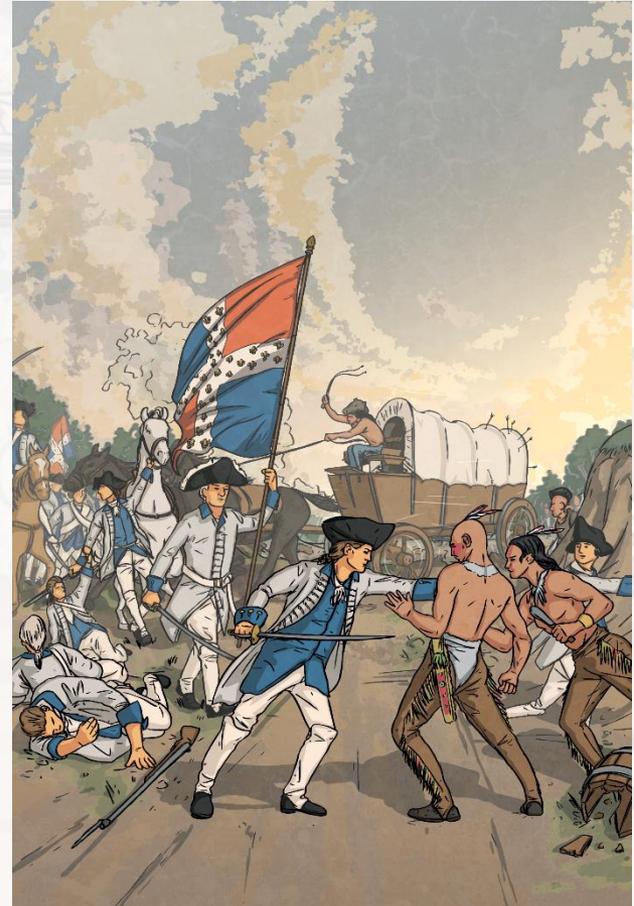
The Seven Years' War

1756-1763

In the 1750s, Great Britain and France had colonies in North America. However, the British colonies clashed with the French over control of land.

The war began over whether the Ohio Valley was part of the British Empire or the French Empire. The first real conflict of the Seven Years' War (also called the French and Indian War) began when the French moved into the Ohio country and built Fort Duquesne on the Ohio River. It was over the construction of this fort that the first battle of the war took place.

Both sides also allied with several American Indian tribes, including the Shawnee and the Cherokee.



The Seven Years' War 1756-1763



The French and Indian War ended on 10th February 1763 with the signing of a treaty of peace known as the Treaty of Paris. France was forced to give up all of its North American territory.

The war was expensive for the British government to fight. In order to pay for it, they imposed taxes on the American colonies.

The Stamp Act 1765

The Stamp Act was the first tax put on the American colonies by the British in 1765. The British felt the colonies should share the expense of the Seven Years' War.

This act stated that colonists had to pay a tax on printed materials such as newspapers and legal documents. The colonists were only supposed to buy paper from Britain that had an official stamp on it to show they had paid the tax.

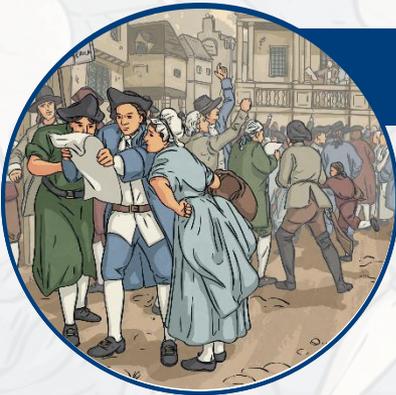
The colonists felt unfairly treated. They believed the British government did not have the right to tax them because the colonies did not have any representatives in the British Parliament.



The Stamp Act 1765

The famous slogan: **“no taxation without representation”** was used by colonists to show their frustration.

The Sons of Liberty was a secret organisation that formed after the Stamp Act was introduced. They protested the taxes by threatening tax collectors and burning stamped paper in the streets.



The Stamp Act was repealed on in March 1766.

The Townshend Acts

1767

The Townshend Acts were laws passed by the British government in 1767.

- New taxes were imposed on paper, paint, lead, glass, and tea. These goods were not produced within the American colonies and needed to be imported from Britain.
- An American Customs Board was established in Boston to collect taxes.
- A new court was established to prosecute smugglers.
- British officials were given the right to search colonist's houses and businesses for smuggled goods.



The Townshend Acts 1767



The British government felt that a tax on imports would be fair. The American colonists disagreed because they had still had no representation in the British Parliament, therefore had no say on taxes or laws which were imposed on the colonies.

The Townshend Acts were met with resistance in the colonies. The taxes were protested and many merchants refused to purchase goods imported from Britain. Many traders began to purchase smuggled Dutch tea.

Most of the taxes were repealed in 1770. However, the tax on tea remained in place. These protests eventually led to the Boston Massacre outside the Customs House in Boston in 1770.

The acts were introduced to the British Parliament by Charles Townshend, who was in charge of Britain's finances.

The Boston Massacre

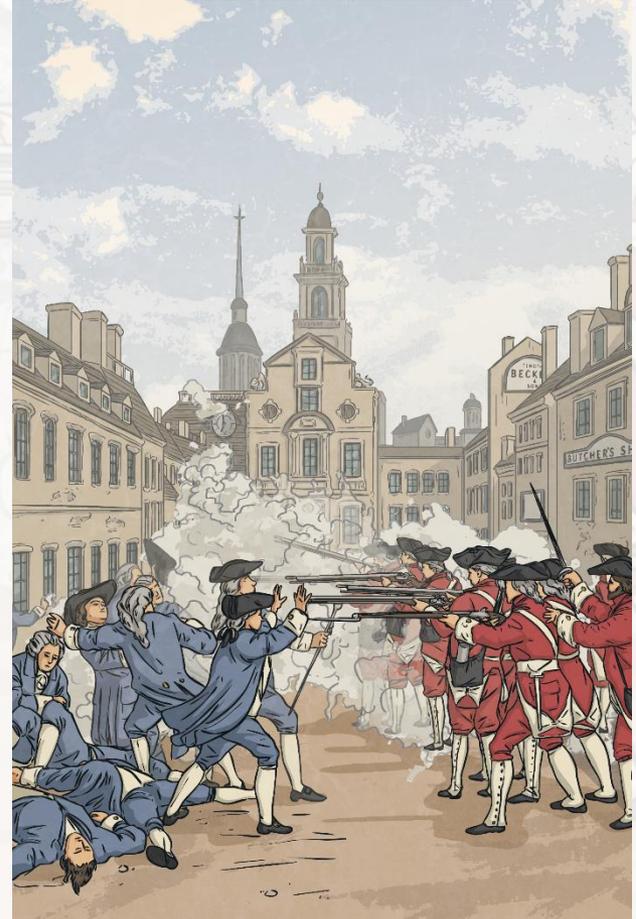
1770

The Boston Massacre occurred on 5th March 1770 when British soldiers opened fire on a group of American colonists, killing five men.

On 5th March 1770, American colonists began insulting and threatening a British sentry, Private Hugh White, outside the Customs House in Boston.

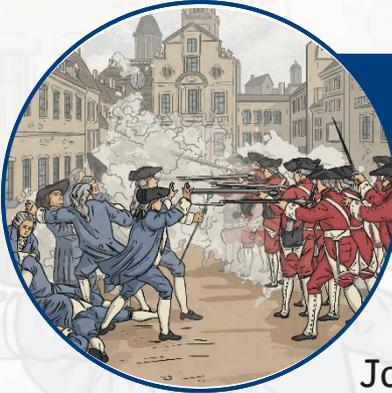
British reinforcements were called as more colonists joined the protest. British soldiers arrived, loaded their muskets and set up in a defensive position.

An object was thrown and struck one of the British soldiers, Private Montgomery, and knocked him down. He fired his rifle into the crowd.



The Boston Massacre

1770



After a few seconds of silence, other British soldiers began to shoot into the crowd. Three colonists died immediately. Two more died later as a result of their injuries.

Eight British soldiers were arrested following the incident. John Adams, an American colonist, represented the British soldiers at trial. He felt everyone deserved a fair trial. Six of the soldiers were found not guilty.

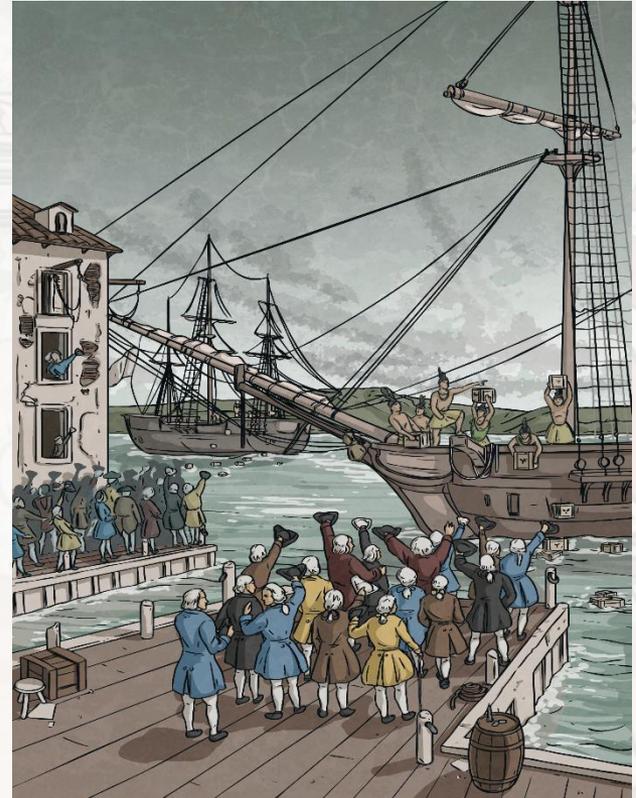
The Boston Tea Party

1773

In March 1773, the British government introduced the Tea Act, which imposed a high tax on tea.

The Boston Tea Party was a protest organised by the Sons of Liberty, which occurred on 16th December 1773 in Boston Harbour, Massachusetts.

American colonists, dressed as native Mohawk Indians, boarded three ships in Boston harbour and threw the ships' cargo of tea overboard into the ocean. In total, they dumped 342 chests of tea into the harbour's waters.



The Boston Tea Party

1773



There were mixed responses to the events in the Boston Harbour. Samuel Adams defended the actions of the colonists, insisting they were expressing their frustration over having no representation.

Others, such as Benjamin Franklin, condemned the actions of the colonists and even stated that the destroyed tea should be paid for.

The Intolerable Acts

1774

The Intolerable Acts were laws that were passed by the British Parliament against the American Colonies in 1774. The British government passed these laws as punishment for the Boston Tea Party.

The Boston Port Act closed the Boston Harbour until colonists paid for the tea which was destroyed in the Boston Tea Party. The citizens of Boston viewed this as cruel because it punished all Boston citizens.

The Massachusetts Government Act changed how Massachusetts was governed. It gave more power to the governor (who was appointed from Great Britain) and took power away from the colonists.

The Quartering Act stated that the colonies had to provide barracks for British soldiers. The soldiers would also be housed in buildings such as barns, hotels or unoccupied homes.

The Administration of Justice Act allowed the governor to move trials against government officials to Great Britain. Colonists felt this protected British officials because witnesses would have to travel all the way to Britain to testify. George Washington called this the “Murder Act” as he thought it would allow officials to get away with murder.

The Intolerable Acts

1774

The Acts were named the Intolerable Acts because colonists felt they they could not tolerate such unfair laws.

They felt these acts violated some of their basic rights. The Acts were viewed as a threat to America.



First Continental Congress

1774

In September 1774, the First Continental Congress met in response to the Intolerable Acts.

The Continental Congress was a meeting of representatives from twelve of the thirteen American colonies. Georgia did not send a delegate to the meeting.

They penned a letter to King George III explaining the issues the colonies had with the way they were being treated. They requested that the King stop the Intolerable Acts or the colonies would boycott English goods.



First Continental Congress 1774



However, the King chose to ignore their requests. Therefore, the Americans began to boycott British trade in December 1774.

The Continental Congress planned to meet again in May 1775 if the British did not meet their demands.

The Second Continental Congress met in May 1775. The American War of Independence had begun in April 1775 with the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Unlike the First Continental Congress, all thirteen colonies were represented at this meeting.



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