Tea Time: A Social Response to British Taxation

After the conclusion of the French and Indian War (1761-1763), Great Britain had a large war debt and began to tax the colonies to increase its intake of revenue. This exhibit features the various taxations the British imposed on the colonists, the timeline of the Boston Tea Party, and the role of the Sons of Liberty. Initially, the colonists did not want to separate from the rule of Great Britain; however, after being continually taxed and denied representation in parliament, the colonists planned

The Boston Tea Party as a social response to the unfair taxation by the British.

Group members: Chelsie Beck, Renee Buesking, Kevin Gates, Raelyn Heslop and Kristen Weidenmuller
The Sons of Liberty

**John Hancock:** Though only a financier of the American Revolution in the beginning, he quickly became involved in the overturning of Britain’s rule after the Boston Massacre. John Hancock’s boycott on tea through the East Indian Trading Company helped lead the Sons of Liberty toward the Boston Tea Party.

**Paul Revere:** Became a messenger for The Committee of Public Safety and would ferry messages between New York and Philadelphia. Paul Revere is most popularly known for alerting John Hancock and Samuel Adams that the “Red Coats are coming”.

**Samuel Adams:** Played a major role in the Boston Tea Party, going door to door sometimes asking for support for the cause of the Sons of Liberty. Stressed unity among the patriots and later would serve in the Continental Congress.
**Patrick Henry:** Famous for his “Give me liberty or give me death” quote, Patrick Henry served on the House of Burgesses. During the Revolution he led a militia against the Royal Governor Lord Dunmore of Virginia.

**James Otis:** Resigned from the Advocate General of the Admiralty Court when he would not agree for the “writs of assistance” which allowed British soldiers to enter into the homes of the British colonists homes with no notice or probable cause. Was elected to the House of Representatives and held a seat in the Massachusetts legislature.

**Thomas Paine:** Known as the Father of the American Revolution. He was the author of *Common Sense*, which was an influence to the Continental Congress when choosing to create a *Declaration of Independence*. 
“Friends! Brethren! Countrymen!--That worst of plagues, the detested tea, shipped for this port by the East India Company, is now arrived in the harbor.”

This phrase appeared on a handbill passed around on November 29th, 1773 in the harbor city of Boston. After many months of paying what the colonists considered to be an unfair tax on tea, tempers had come to a roiling boil.

Though at first the Colonists did not want to separate from the rule of Great Britain they sought to have representation in Parliament. Time and time again the colonies were denied the right of representation and were still taxed. The colonists had tried everything that they could think of including boycotts of British tea and other merchandise.

The Boston Tea Party was a social response to the tariffs inflicted on colonies by the British government in order to regain money after the draining French and Indian War.

On the evening of December 16, 1773, a group called the Sons of Liberty dressed as Mohawk or Narragansett Indians, boarded several ships containing British-owned tea and dumped it out of its chests into the ocean.

Tea washed up onto the Boston shore for weeks, and colonists cheered at its symbolism. British response, however, was not warm. They imposed the Intolerable Acts upon the city of Boston, while making it an example to all colonies of the unrelenting rule of Britain.

---

Tea Time: A Social Reaction to British Taxation

Chelsie Beck
Kevin Gates
Kristen Weidenmuller
Raelyn Heslop
Renee Buesking