From Protest to Independence

Trace how British policies and colonial responses increased tension.

SS24.6.7 "Identify causes and events leading to the War for Independence, including salutary neglect, the Stamp Act, the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, the Intolerable Acts, Virginia Convention (1775), and the Declaration of Independence..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two British policies and circle a colonial response to each. Give each policy and its response the same number to show a cause-and-effect connection.

How Tension Grew

1. For years, Britain loosely enforced many trade rules in its American colonies, a practice called salutary neglect. Colonial assemblies grew used to making local decisions. The French and Indian War ended in 1763 with Britain deeply in debt. British leaders then sought more money from the colonies and enforced trade rules more closely. Protected trade routes helped some colonial merchants sell goods, but new taxes and tighter rules raised costs and limited choices. Colonists objected that Parliament taxed them although they elected no members to it.

2. In 1765, the Stamp Act taxed printed items, including newspapers. Colonists signed petitions, wrote letters and poems, gave speeches, boycotted British goods, and made cloth at home to avoid buying imports. Britain repealed the act, but arguments over its right to tax continued. In 1770, British soldiers killed five colonists in the Boston Massacre, deepening anger and distrust. In 1773, protesters dumped taxed tea into Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party. Britain answered with the Intolerable Acts, which closed Boston's port and restricted Massachusetts self-government.

3. Closing the port hurt workers and merchants, while other colonies sent aid to Boston. Some Loyalists feared that breaking with Britain would bring war and harm trade; they urged compromise. Patriots argued that Britain had ignored colonial rights. In 1775, Patrick Henry called for resistance in a speech at the Virginia Convention. That year, Congress sent the Olive Branch Petition seeking peace, but King George III refused it. In 1776, the Declaration of Independence said people are equal and governments get power from the people to protect their rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the French and Indian War change Britain's actions toward the colonies, and why did colonists object?

2. How were boycotts and making cloth at home alike as protests against British policies? How were they different?

3. How did Britain respond to the Boston Tea Party, and what was one economic effect of its response?

4. How did the Olive Branch Petition and the Declaration of Independence show a change in the colonies' relationship with Britain?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences as a Boston resident addressing a neighbor in 1774. Explain how a British tax and a colonial protest led to the Intolerable Acts, recommend one peaceful protest method from the passage, and answer one Loyalist worry.

ANSWER KEY

From Protest to Independence

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two British policies and circle a colonial response to each. Give each policy and its response the same number to show a cause-and-effect connection. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the French and Indian War change Britain's actions toward the colonies, and why did colonists object?	**War debt led Britain to seek more colonial money and enforce trade rules more closely. Colonists objected to taxes set by a Parliament in which they elected no members.**
2	How were boycotts and making cloth at home alike as protests against British policies? How were they different?	**Both reduced purchases of British goods. A boycott meant refusing to buy them, while making cloth at home provided an alternative to imports.**
3	How did Britain respond to the Boston Tea Party, and what was one economic effect of its response?	**Britain passed the Intolerable Acts, which closed Boston's port. The closure hurt workers and merchants.**
4	How did the Olive Branch Petition and the Declaration of Independence show a change in the colonies' relationship with Britain?	**Congress sought peace with the Olive Branch Petition in 1775, but the king refused it. In 1776, the Declaration stated principles for a government separate from Britain.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Neighbor, Britain taxed tea, and protesters dumped it into Boston Harbor. Britain answered the Boston Tea Party with the Intolerable Acts, closing our port. We should sign a petition asking Britain to reopen the port. You may fear lost trade, but the closed port already hurts workers and merchants.

Accept any accurate four-sentence response that connects the tax on tea, the Boston Tea Party, and the Intolerable Acts; names a peaceful method in the passage; and addresses a Loyalist concern about war or trade.