

Motives for Revolution

Trace how beliefs, needs, and choices shaped resistance.

SS.8.A.3.8 "Examine individuals and groups that affected political and social motivations during the American Revolution."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each political or social motivation in the passage. Circle the action or choice connected to each motivation so you can see how people and groups affected the Revolution.

Many Reasons to Resist

- ① In the 1760s and 1770s, many colonists believed Parliament was taxing them without their consent. The Sons of Liberty, a group of merchants, artisans, and laborers, organized protests against the Stamp Act and other taxes. Their political motivation was to defend what they saw as their rights as English subjects, including representation. Social ties also mattered. Public meetings, taverns, and crowds allowed members to build support and pressure tax collectors. Some protests destroyed property, showing how strongly conflict had grown.
- ② Women influenced resistance through the Daughters of Liberty and local communities. When colonists boycotted British goods, many women spun yarn, made cloth, and urged families to buy American-made products. These actions had a political purpose: boycotts challenged British trade policies. They also grew from social motivations. Producing goods at home let women support neighbors, manage household needs, and take a more visible role in public resistance. Their work connected daily life to the larger dispute with Britain.
- ③ Printed words shaped choices as well. In 1776, Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* argued that independence would protect colonists from a distant monarchy and allow self-government. It persuaded many readers to consider a complete break with Britain. Other people faced different motivations. Enslaved African Americans heard that the British offered freedom to enslaved people who escaped rebel owners and joined British forces, so thousands sought liberty with the British. Patriots also recruited Black soldiers, linking military service to hopes for freedom and equality.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What political belief motivated the Sons of Liberty, and what action did they take because of that belief?

2 Identify two social motivations that led women to make goods at home during the boycott.

3 How did Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* affect many readers' political thinking?

4 What opportunity motivated thousands of enslaved African Americans to seek liberty with the British?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences comparing two people or groups from the passage. Identify a political or social motivation for each, describe an action or choice by each, and explain how their motivations affected resistance or the war.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each political or social motivation in the passage. Circle the action or choice connected to each motivation so you can see how people and groups affected the Revolution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What political belief motivated the Sons of Liberty, and what action did they take because of that belief?	They believed colonists had rights as English subjects, including representation. They organized protests against the Stamp Act and other taxes.
2	Identify two social motivations that led women to make goods at home during the boycott.	Women could support neighbors, manage household needs, and take a more visible role in public resistance. Any two are acceptable.
3	How did Thomas Paine's <i>Common Sense</i> affect many readers' political thinking?	It argued for independence and self-government, persuading many readers to consider a complete break with Britain.
4	What opportunity motivated thousands of enslaved African Americans to seek liberty with the British?	The British offered freedom to enslaved people who escaped rebel owners and joined British forces.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Sons of Liberty were politically motivated by the belief that colonists deserved representation, so they organized protests against taxes. The Daughters of Liberty used boycotts and home production to oppose British trade policies. Both groups helped resistance grow by turning beliefs into organized action. However, the Sons used public protests, while the Daughters connected household work to the political struggle.

Accept accurately stated motivations and actions that are supported by the passage. In Part 3, accept different valid pairings when the comparison identifies motivations, actions or choices, and an effect on the Revolution.