

Pressure and Protest

Trace how British control efforts sparked colonial resistance.

11.2a "Following the French and Indian War, the British government attempted to gain greater political and economic control over the colonies. Colonists resisted these efforts..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each British action meant to increase control, then circle the colonial response connected to it. Use your marks to trace how actions and reactions increased tension.

From Imperial Rules to Colonial Resistance

- ① After the French and Indian War ended in 1763, Britain faced heavy debt and expanded imperial responsibilities. Ministers sought colonial contributions to defense and tighter enforcement of trade rules. The Proclamation of 1763 restricted settlement west of the Appalachians to limit conflict with Native nations and regulate expansion. Colonists seeking western land objected. Customs enforcement also challenged smuggling. British officials viewed these measures as imperial administration; many colonists saw threats to customary rights and local control.
- ② The Stamp Act of 1765 taxed legal papers, newspapers, and other printed materials. Critics argued that Parliament, where colonists elected no representatives, lacked the right to impose such taxes. Petitions, the Stamp Act Congress, and boycotts helped pressure Parliament to repeal it. The 1767 Townshend duties taxed imports and provoked renewed nonimportation. Troops sent to Boston intensified friction. In the 1770 Boston Massacre, soldiers fired during a confrontation with townspeople, killing five; Patriot accounts turned the event into a symbol of oppression.
- ③ The Tea Act of 1773 aided the troubled East India Company with favorable trading terms while retaining the existing tea duty. Opponents feared accepting Parliament's taxing power and undermining colonial merchants. Boston protesters destroyed tea cargoes. The 1774 Coercive Acts closed Boston's port and restricted Massachusetts government, among other measures. Colonists organized through the First Continental Congress, supporting a coordinated boycott and asserting rights. Resistance grew, but colonists disagreed over methods and loyalty; independence was not everyone's goal.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What were two ways Britain tried to increase control soon after the French and Indian War?

2 Why did many colonists oppose the Stamp Act as a political issue, not only as a tax?

3 How did colonial boycotts and nonimportation agreements resist British economic policy?

4 How did the Boston Tea Party and the Coercive Acts increase tension between Britain and the colonies?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences about one British measure from the passage. Name the measure, explain how it increased political or economic control, describe the colonial response, and explain how the response or British reaction increased tensions.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each British action meant to increase control, then circle the colonial response connected to it. Use your marks to trace how actions and reactions increased tension. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What were two ways Britain tried to increase control soon after the French and Indian War?	Britain restricted settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains and increased enforcement of trade laws through customs officials and courts.
2	Why did many colonists oppose the Stamp Act as a political issue, not only as a tax?	They had no elected representatives in Parliament and believed Parliament's internal tax violated their political rights.
3	How did colonial boycotts and nonimportation agreements resist British economic policy?	Colonists refused to buy British goods, putting pressure on British businesses and challenging British taxes and trade duties.
4	How did the Boston Tea Party and the Coercive Acts increase tension between Britain and the colonies?	Boston protesters destroyed tea cargoes in response to the Tea Act. Britain punished Massachusetts with the Coercive Acts, including closing Boston's port and altering its government, which led colonies to coordinate broader resistance.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Tea Act favored the East India Company while retaining an existing duty. Opponents feared Parliament's taxing authority and harm to colonial merchants. Boston protesters destroyed the tea. Britain's Coercive Acts punished Massachusetts, encouraging broader coordinated resistance.

Accept accurately stated cause-and-effect connections supported by the passage. For Part 3, the student must use one British measure, a related colonial response, and a clear explanation of rising tension in exactly four sentences.