

Rules and Resistance

Trace how British policies led to different colonial responses.

7.3b “Stemming from the French and Indian War, the British government enacted and attempted to enforce new political and economic policies in the colonies. These policies triggered varied colonial responses, including protests and dissent.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the Proclamation of 1763, Stamp Act, and Tea Act. For each, circle a connected colonial response and draw a line between them.

After the French and Indian War

- ① The French and Indian War ended in 1763, but it left Britain with heavy debts and a larger empire to manage. British leaders decided that colonists should help pay for defense and follow tighter rules. The Proclamation of 1763 limited settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains, aiming to reduce costly conflicts with Native nations. Many colonists who wanted western land objected. They believed the rule ignored colonial interests, while British officials saw it as a way to control expenses and keep peace.
- ② In 1765, Parliament passed the Stamp Act, which required a tax on many printed items, including newspapers and legal papers. Colonists argued that Parliament should not tax them because they elected no representatives to it. Merchants and consumers organized boycotts, refusing to buy British goods. Groups such as the Sons of Liberty protested, sometimes intimidating stamp distributors. Parliament repealed the Stamp Act in 1766, but it continued to claim authority over the colonies. The dispute showed that colonists used both economic pressure and public protest.
- ③ Later, the Tea Act of 1773 helped the East India Company sell tea in the colonies while keeping a tax on tea. Patriots feared that buying the tea would accept Parliament's power to tax. In New York City, resistance helped prevent taxed tea from being unloaded. After the Boston Tea Party, Parliament passed the Coercive Acts in 1774 to punish Massachusetts. Some colonists supported resistance, while others favored order or remained loyal to Britain. British policies therefore produced different responses, from petitions and boycotts to protest and dissent.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the French and Indian War help lead to new British policies in the colonies?

2 What did the Proclamation of 1763 limit, and why did many colonists object to it?

3 What political argument did colonists make against the Stamp Act? Name one economic response they used.

4 Describe two different colonial responses to British policies after the Tea Act. Use one detail from New York City and one detail about another group of colonists.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that Parliament creates a new tax or trade rule for the colonies. Write exactly 3 sentences that name the policy, explain one colonial protest or boycott, and describe a different colonial response to the same policy.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the Proclamation of 1763, Stamp Act, and Tea Act. For each, circle a connected colonial response and draw a line between them. 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 help lead to new British policies in the colonies?	The war left Britain with heavy debts and a larger empire to manage, so British leaders wanted colonists to help pay for defense and follow tighter rules.
2	What did the Proclamation of 1763 limit, and why did many colonists object to it?	It limited settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. Many colonists objected because they wanted western land and believed the rule ignored colonial interests.
3	What political argument did colonists make against the Stamp Act? Name one economic response they used.	They argued that Parliament should not tax them because they elected no representatives to it. They organized boycotts and refused to buy British goods.
4	Describe two different colonial responses to British policies after the Tea Act. Use one detail from New York City and one detail about another group of colonists.	In New York City, resistance helped prevent taxed tea from being unloaded. Other colonists supported resistance, favored order, or remained loyal to Britain.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Imagine Parliament required every colonial merchant to pay a fee before unloading cloth from Britain. Merchants might boycott British cloth because the fee raised prices, and patriots might protest that colonists had no representatives in Parliament. Other colonists might obey the rule because they wanted to avoid conflict and protect trade.

Accept equivalent cause-and-response explanations that use details from the passage. For the open response, accept any plausible policy and two distinct colonial reactions, as long as the student clearly explains how the policy led to the responses.