Road to Revolution

Trace how British policies led colonists to act together.

5.C.3.2 "Identify the primary cause of the American Revolution as a colonial struggle for self-rule. Describe the impact of the Stamp Act and Quartering Act which prompted formation of the Stamp Act Congress..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline five British laws or taxes, and circle the ways colonists responded. Use your marks to trace how the struggle for self-rule grew.

From Protest to Congress

1 In the 1760s, Britain made rules for its thirteen American colonies, but colonists had no vote in Parliament. Many wanted to govern themselves. The Stamp Act taxed printed items such as newspapers. The Quartering Act required colonial governments to provide supplies and housing for British soldiers. Anger over these laws helped bring delegates from nine colonies to the Stamp Act Congress in 1765, where they protested taxes imposed without their consent.

2 Colonists challenged British policies in different ways. Some refused to buy British imports, hoping a boycott would hurt British merchants. Others used propaganda, such as posters and newspaper stories, to shape public opinion. Britain then placed Townshend Duties, or taxes, on imports such as glass and tea. Protests grew, and Britain sent soldiers to Boston. In 1770, soldiers fired into a tense crowd, killing five people in the Boston Massacre.

3 In 1773, the Tea Act helped a British tea company sell tea in the colonies while keeping a tax on tea. Colonists who saw this as unfair dumped tea into Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party. Britain answered with the Intolerable Acts, also called the Coercive Acts, which closed Boston's port and limited Massachusetts's self-rule. In 1774, delegates from twelve colonies met at the First Continental Congress to plan a united response.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did many colonists want self-rule? How did the Stamp Act and Quartering Act help bring colonies together?

2. How were a boycott and propaganda different ways to challenge British policies?

3. How did the Townshend Duties add to the tensions that led to the Boston Massacre?

4. How did the Tea Act lead to one colonial action, and the Intolerable Acts lead to another?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short speech as a delegate at the First Continental Congress. Use at least two British policies as evidence for why the colonies should work together for self-rule, and recommend one peaceful strategy from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Road to Revolution

GRADE 5 · 5.C.3.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline five British laws or taxes, and circle the ways colonists responded. Use your marks to trace how the struggle for self-rule grew. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did many colonists want self-rule? How did the Stamp Act and Quartering Act help bring colonies together?	**Colonists had no vote in Parliament but had to follow its rules. Anger over the two acts helped bring delegates from nine colonies to the Stamp Act Congress.**
2	How were a boycott and propaganda different ways to challenge British policies?	**A boycott stopped purchases of British imports to hurt merchants. Propaganda used messages, such as posters and newspaper stories, to shape public opinion.**
3	How did the Townshend Duties add to the tensions that led to the Boston Massacre?	**The duties taxed imports. Protests grew, Britain sent soldiers to Boston, and soldiers later fired into a tense crowd, killing five people.**
4	How did the Tea Act lead to one colonial action, and the Intolerable Acts lead to another?	**The Tea Act kept a tax on tea, and colonists dumped tea into Boston Harbor. After the Intolerable Acts closed Boston's port and limited Massachusetts's self-rule, delegates met at the First Continental Congress to plan a united response.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Fellow delegates, Britain taxed our printed papers with the Stamp Act and kept a tax on tea under the Tea Act. We could not vote on these laws, yet they shaped our lives. The Intolerable Acts have even closed Boston's port. We must stand together to seek self-rule. Let us refuse to buy British imports so merchants in Britain will press Parliament to change its policies.

Accept responses that connect the lack of a colonial vote to the struggle for self-rule and accurately link policies to colonial actions. For the speech, look for two relevant policies and a peaceful strategy supported by the passage.