From Protest to Resistance

Trace how conflict between Britain and the colonies intensified.

8.C.1.3.D "Describe escalating tensions, exemplified by the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two causes of the Boston Massacre, circle an action taken at the Boston Tea Party, and number two British responses that increased tensions. Use your marks to trace how the conflict grew.

Tensions Rise in Boston

1. By 1770, Boston's streets had become a place where arguments about British rule could turn dangerous. Parliament had taxed the colonies without giving colonists seats in Parliament. British troops arrived in Boston in 1768 to keep order and enforce British policies. Many residents saw the soldiers as a threat, while soldiers faced angry crowds. On March 5, 1770, colonists gathered around soldiers and shouted at them. Soldiers fired into the crowd, killing five colonists. Patriots called the shooting the Boston Massacre and used it to stir opposition to British rule.

2. After the shooting, Britain ended most of the new taxes on the colonies, but kept a tax on tea. In 1773, Parliament passed the Tea Act, which allowed the British East India Company to sell tea directly to the colonies. Even if the tea cost less than other tea, many colonists feared that buying it meant accepting Parliament's right to tax them. Boston protesters refused to let the tea be unloaded. On December 16, protesters disguised as Native Americans boarded ships in Boston Harbor and dumped 342 chests of tea into the water.

3. The destruction of the tea brought a harsher response. In 1774, Parliament passed laws that colonists called the Intolerable Acts. One law closed Boston Harbor to trade until the tea was paid for, hurting people who depended on the port. Another reduced self-government in Massachusetts. Instead of ending protests, these punishments drew support for Boston from other colonies. Colonial leaders met in the First Continental Congress to plan a united response. What began with angry confrontations in Boston had grown into organized resistance across colonies, while Britain tightened its control.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two conditions made the confrontation on March 5, 1770, more likely?

2. How did Patriots use the Boston Massacre to increase opposition to British rule?

3. Why did the Tea Act keep tensions high even if the tea could cost less, and how did Boston protesters act on that concern?

4. How did Britain's response to the Tea Party turn a Boston dispute into a wider conflict?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a Boston printer writing to readers in another colony in 1774. In four sentences, connect the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, and Britain's response to show how tensions grew, then call for a shared response.

ANSWER KEY

From Protest to Resistance

GRADE 8 · 8.C.1.3.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two causes of the Boston Massacre, circle an action taken at the Boston Tea Party, and number two British responses that increased tensions. Use your marks to trace how the conflict grew. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two conditions made the confrontation on March 5, 1770, more likely?	**Colonists objected to taxes passed without their representation in Parliament, and many Boston residents saw the British troops stationed in their city as a threat.**
2	How did Patriots use the Boston Massacre to increase opposition to British rule?	**They called the shooting the Boston Massacre and used it to stir opposition to British rule.**
3	Why did the Tea Act keep tensions high even if the tea could cost less, and how did Boston protesters act on that concern?	**Many colonists thought buying the tea would mean accepting Parliament's right to tax them. Protesters dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor.**
4	How did Britain's response to the Tea Party turn a Boston dispute into a wider conflict?	**Parliament closed Boston Harbor and reduced self-government in Massachusetts. The punishments drew support from other colonies, whose leaders met to plan a united response.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

British soldiers fired on a crowd in Boston, killing five colonists and deepening anger over British rule. Later, protesters dumped tea into the harbor rather than accept Parliament's tax on it. Parliament answered by closing our port and limiting our self-government, so this quarrel now affects people far beyond Boston. Let our colonies meet and decide together how to respond.

Accept answers that accurately connect a cause, an action, and a response to show rising tensions. For the printer's message, look for all three events, a clear sense of escalation, and a call for joint action.