Rights and Resistance

Trace how British policies and colonial responses led to war.

8.C.1.3 "Examine growing tensions between the North American colonies and Britain. Analyze the primary cause of the American Revolution as it relates to violations of rights as Englishmen..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two British policies and circle the colonial response to each. Number one chain of events that shows how tensions grew.

From Taxes to Fighting

1. A newspaper could be taxed before anyone read it. After the French and Indian War, Britain sought revenue from its colonies. The Sugar Act taxed imported sugar products and tightened trade enforcement. The Stamp Act taxed printed paper; the Townshend Acts taxed imports such as glass and tea. The Quartering Act required colonial governments to provide supplies and lodging for British troops. Merchants faced higher costs, while colonists argued that Parliament was taxing them without elected colonial representatives. They claimed this violated their rights as Englishmen to consent to taxation through representatives.

2. Colonists did more than complain. In the Stamp Act Resolves, Virginia lawmakers insisted that only their own elected assembly could tax them. The Sons of Liberty organized protests, while the Committees of Correspondence shared reports between colonies to build opposition. Boycotts of British goods pressured merchants and lawmakers. In 1770, British soldiers killed five colonists during a confrontation later called the Boston Massacre; patriot images of the event spread anger as propaganda. In 1773, protesters dumped East India Company tea into Boston Harbor to oppose Parliament's tea policy.

3. Parliament answered the tea protest with the Coercive Acts, called the Intolerable Acts by colonists. These laws closed Boston's port and limited Massachusetts self-government. In 1774, delegates formed the First Continental Congress; its Declaration of Resolves claimed colonists held the same rights as Englishmen and rejected taxes without their consent. In April 1775, British troops marched to seize colonial arms. Fighting at Lexington and Concord ended with colonists forcing British troops toward Boston. Colonists saw a major victory: they had resisted Britain's army. The fighting became known as the "shot heard 'round the world."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did colonists say Parliament's taxes violated their rights as Englishmen?

2. Choose two British policies from the passage. How did each affect colonial trade, costs, or local self-government?

3. How did two different colonial strategies build or show opposition to British policies?

4. How did the Boston Tea Party lead to a new statement of colonial rights by the First Continental Congress?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a colonial delegate speaking just after the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Write four or five sentences connecting one earlier British policy, a colonial response, and why the battles felt like a victory. Include the colonists' argument about rights.

ANSWER KEY

Rights and Resistance

GRADE 8 · 8.C.1.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two British policies and circle the colonial response to each. Number one chain of events that shows how tensions grew. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did colonists say Parliament's taxes violated their rights as Englishmen?	**Colonists had no elected representatives in Parliament, so they argued that they had not consented to its taxes.**
2	Choose two British policies from the passage. How did each affect colonial trade, costs, or local self-government?	**The Townshend Acts taxed imported goods, raising costs. The Coercive Acts closed Boston's port and limited Massachusetts self-government.**
3	How did two different colonial strategies build or show opposition to British policies?	**Committees of Correspondence shared reports between colonies to build opposition. Boycotts of British goods put pressure on merchants and lawmakers.**
4	How did the Boston Tea Party lead to a new statement of colonial rights by the First Continental Congress?	**Parliament responded to the tea protest with the Coercive Acts. The First Continental Congress then issued its Declaration of Resolves, claiming the rights of Englishmen and rejecting taxes without colonial consent.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Parliament taxed our printed paper through the Stamp Act, yet we have no representatives there. We said in the Stamp Act Resolves that our own elected assembly should decide our taxes. Now our neighbors have faced British troops at Lexington and Concord and forced them back toward Boston. We can defend our rights as Englishmen, even against Britain's army.

Accept other policies and strategies when students accurately connect them to effects described in the passage. For the final task, look for a clear chain from policy to response to the perceived military victory, along with the rights argument.