

Road to Resistance

Analyze how British decisions increased colonial anger.

8.4.A “analyze causes of the American Revolution, including the Proclamation of 1763, the Intolerable Acts, the Stamp Act, mercantilism, lack of representation in Parliament, and British economic policies following the French and Indian War;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each British action, policy, or condition that caused colonial anger. In the margin, number the six causes named in the passage.

Why Tension Grew

- ① Britain and its colonies had long operated under mercantilism, a system meant to build British wealth. Colonial merchants were expected to trade mainly within the British Empire and to send valuable raw materials to Britain. After the costly French and Indian War ended in 1763, British leaders wanted colonists to help pay imperial debts and defense costs. That goal led to tighter enforcement of trade rules and new revenue plans. Many colonists believed these economic policies treated them as sources of money rather than partners in the empire.
- ② In 1763, the Proclamation of 1763 limited colonial settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. Britain hoped to reduce expensive conflicts on the frontier, but land-seeking colonists resented the restriction. In 1765, Parliament passed the Stamp Act, which required paid stamps on many printed items, including legal papers, newspapers, and licenses. Colonists argued that Parliament had no elected colonial representatives. They accepted that colonial assemblies could tax them, but they protested taxes set by a distant body where they had no voice. Their slogan, “no taxation without representation,” connected the tax to a larger political complaint.
- ③ Conflict sharpened after colonists protested the Tea Act by destroying tea in Boston Harbor in 1773. In response, Parliament passed the Intolerable Acts in 1774. These laws closed Boston’s port until payment for the tea, changed Massachusetts’s government, allowed royal officials to be tried elsewhere, and required colonists to provide quarters for some troops. Colonists saw punishment aimed at one colony as a warning to all. The First Continental Congress brought colonies together to coordinate resistance. By 1775, disputes over money, land, political power, and British control had helped push the colonies toward war.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the French and Indian War lead Britain to create policies that angered colonists?

2 How did the Proclamation of 1763 and the Stamp Act burden colonists in different ways?

3 Why did colonists connect the Stamp Act to the idea of “no taxation without representation”?

4 How did the Intolerable Acts turn a conflict in Massachusetts into a wider colonial concern?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence claim explaining how three causes in the passage worked together to move the colonies toward resistance. Name the cause you think had the strongest effect and explain why.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each British action, policy, or condition that caused colonial anger. In the margin, number the six causes named in the passage. 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 lead Britain to create policies that angered colonists?	The war left Britain with debts and defense costs. British leaders wanted colonists to help pay, so they enforced trade rules more tightly and made new revenue plans.
2	How did the Proclamation of 1763 and the Stamp Act burden colonists in different ways?	The Proclamation limited settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. The Stamp Act required colonists to pay for stamps on printed items such as legal papers, newspapers, and licenses.
3	Why did colonists connect the Stamp Act to the idea of "no taxation without representation"?	Colonists had no elected representatives in Parliament. They believed a distant body without their voice should not tax them.
4	How did the Intolerable Acts turn a conflict in Massachusetts into a wider colonial concern?	The acts punished Boston and Massachusetts after the Tea Act protest. Colonists in other colonies saw the punishment as a warning that Britain could punish all of them, so they joined together to resist.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

British economic policies after the French and Indian War made many colonists feel that Britain viewed them as a source of revenue. The Stamp Act turned that concern into a direct tax on printed materials. Because colonists had no elected representatives in Parliament, they saw the tax as unfair as well as expensive. The Intolerable Acts then showed that Britain might punish an entire colony for resistance. I think the lack of representation had the strongest effect because it made British decisions seem politically illegitimate.

Accept claims that accurately explain cause-and-effect relationships among at least three listed causes. Students may choose different causes as the strongest if they support the choice with accurate evidence from the passage.