

Tea Protest Evidence

Combine sources to explain a historical event.

S.USI.a “synthesizing evidence from information sources including, but not limited to artifacts, primary and secondary sources, charts, graphs, and diagrams to understand events in United States history;”

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail from each source and write 1, 2, and 3 beside the newspaper report, cargo records, and history book. These marks will help you combine evidence from different sources.

Evidence from Boston Harbor

① In December 1773, British ships carrying East India Company tea sat in Boston Harbor. A newspaper report written soon after December 16 described people boarding three ships and throwing tea into the water. Because the report was created near the event, it is a primary source. It tells what the writer said happened, but the writer may have missed details.

② Cargo records from the three ships, also primary sources, list 342 tea chests altogether. These records give numbers that can be compared with the newspaper report. The table shows the number listed for each ship. Records can help check the size of the protest, although they do not explain why the people acted.

TEA CHESTS LISTED IN CARGO RECORDS	
Ship	Tea chests listed
Dartmouth	114
Eleanor	114
Beaver	114

③ A later history book, a secondary source, explains that many colonists opposed the Tea Act because they believed Parliament taxed them without representation. Together, the newspaper, cargo records, and later explanation suggest that the tea destruction was a large political protest, not simply a fight about a drink. Each source adds different evidence, so no one source tells the whole story.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What information does the newspaper report provide that the cargo records do not?

2 Use the table and passage. How many tea chests were listed in all, and how does that number help historians?

3 Why is the newspaper report a primary source? Give one limit of this source.

4 Which source best explains why many colonists opposed the Tea Act? What does that source say?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining why the Boston Tea Party was a political protest. Use evidence from at least two sources, including the cargo-record table.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail from each source and write 1, 2, and 3 beside the newspaper report, cargo records, and history book. These marks will help you combine evidence from different sources. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What information does the newspaper report provide that the cargo records do not?	It says that people boarded three ships and threw tea into the water.
2	Use the table and passage. How many tea chests were listed in all, and how does that number help historians?	342 tea chests were listed. The number helps historians check the size of the protest.
3	Why is the newspaper report a primary source? Give one limit of this source.	It was written soon after the event. The writer may have missed details.
4	Which source best explains why many colonists opposed the Tea Act? What does that source say?	The later history book does. It says many colonists believed Parliament taxed them without representation.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The sources show that the Boston Tea Party was a political protest. The newspaper reported that people boarded three ships and threw tea into the water, while the table lists 342 chests from those ships. The later history book explains that many colonists opposed taxation without representation.

Accept evidence-based three-sentence summaries that make a claim and use accurate details from at least two sources, including the table. Students may describe the newspaper and cargo records as primary sources and the history book as a secondary source.