

Tea and Power

Compare viewpoints behind a colonial protest.

S.USI.e "comparing and contrasting historical, cultural, economic, and political perspectives;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about money or business, circle details about government or power, and number two sentences that show different groups viewing the same event differently.

The Boston Tea Party

- ① In 1773, ships carrying tea for the British East India Company arrived in Boston. Britain had placed a tax on tea sold in the colonies. Many colonists believed they should not be taxed by a Parliament where they had no elected representatives. Some merchants worried that the company's tea would hurt their businesses. The conflict involved money and political power.
- ② On December 16, a group of colonists boarded three ships and threw 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor. They protested in ways connected to their culture and community. Some used disguises that looked like Mohawk clothing. The disguises hid identities, but they also sent a message that the protesters saw themselves as separate from Britain. Other Bostonians may have feared disorder or damage to property.
- ③ Britain's leaders viewed the destroyed tea as valuable property and a challenge to lawful authority. In 1774, Parliament passed the Coercive Acts, which colonists called the Intolerable Acts. These laws closed Boston's port until the tea was paid for and changed Massachusetts government. Patriots saw the laws as unfair punishment. British officials saw them as a way to restore order and protect the empire.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Compare the economic concerns of colonial merchants and British leaders.

2 How did many colonists' political view of the tea tax differ from Britain's view of its authority?

3 How did the protesters' disguises show a cultural perspective as well as a practical purpose?

4 Compare Patriots' and British officials' views of the Coercive Acts.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine a colonial town where a council adds a tax on locally made cloth to pay for defense. Write exactly 3 sentences comparing the viewpoint of a cloth maker and a council leader. Include one economic reason and one political or cultural reason.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details about money or business, circle details about government or power, and number two sentences that show different groups viewing the same event differently. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare the economic concerns of colonial merchants and British leaders.	Merchants feared the company tea would hurt their businesses. British leaders saw the destroyed tea as valuable property.
2	How did many colonists' political view of the tea tax differ from Britain's view of its authority?	Many colonists believed Parliament should not tax them because they had no elected representatives there. Britain believed its authority and laws should be obeyed.
3	How did the protesters' disguises show a cultural perspective as well as a practical purpose?	The disguises hid the protesters' identities. They also showed that the protesters saw themselves as separate from Britain.
4	Compare Patriots' and British officials' views of the Coercive Acts.	Patriots saw the acts as unfair punishment. British officials saw them as a way to restore order and protect the empire.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A cloth maker might oppose the tax because it raises the price of cloth and could reduce sales. The council leader might support it because the money helps pay for defense and shows loyalty to the colony's government. Both care about the town, but they value different needs.

Accept responses that accurately compare two viewpoints and include an economic reason plus a political or cultural reason. Students may use reasonable historical details that fit the colonial setting.