

Complaints Grow Louder

Read colonial grievances and trace why many colonists rejected British rule.

USI.6.b “identifying the issues of dissatisfaction that led to the American Revolution including, but not limited to the “injuries and usurpations” outlined in the Declaration of Independence;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action by Britain that colonists believed was unfair, then number the underlined actions to show the different causes of dissatisfaction.

Why Colonists Felt Wronged

- ① After the French and Indian War, Britain had debt and wanted the colonies to help pay costs. Parliament passed the Stamp Act, which taxed printed papers such as newspapers and legal documents. Colonists said they had no elected representatives in Parliament, so this tax violated their right to agree to taxes through their own assemblies. They protested, and the act was repealed.
- ② Britain also placed taxes on imported goods, including tea, and enforced trade rules. In Boston, colonists protested the tea tax by dumping tea into the harbor. Parliament answered with harsh laws that closed Boston's port and changed Massachusetts government. Many colonists believed these laws punished an entire community and limited local self-government, making them distrust British rule even more.
- ③ The Declaration of Independence listed “injuries and usurpations,” or actions colonists believed abused their rights. It complained that the king had kept soldiers in the colonies during peacetime, required colonists to house troops, and interfered with colonial lawmaking. The Declaration also criticized cutting off trade and denying some people a jury trial. These complaints helped explain why colonial leaders chose independence in 1776.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did colonists believe the Stamp Act was unfair?

2 What were two effects of the harsh laws Parliament passed after the tea protest in Boston?

3 Name two complaints listed in the Declaration of Independence in the passage.

4 How did the complaints in the Declaration help explain the choice for independence?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence petition from a colonial resident to the British government. Name two unfair actions from the passage, explain how they harmed colonial rights or local control, and tell why they could lead colonists to seek independence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action by Britain that colonists believed was unfair, then number the underlined actions to show the different causes of dissatisfaction. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did colonists believe the Stamp Act was unfair?	They had no elected representatives in Parliament and believed they should agree to taxes through their own assemblies.
2	What were two effects of the harsh laws Parliament passed after the tea protest in Boston?	The laws closed Boston's port and changed the Massachusetts government.
3	Name two complaints listed in the Declaration of Independence in the passage.	Answers may include keeping soldiers in peacetime, requiring colonists to house troops, interfering with colonial lawmaking, cutting off trade, or denying some people a jury trial.
4	How did the complaints in the Declaration help explain the choice for independence?	They showed that colonists believed British rule abused their rights and self-government, so colonial leaders chose independence.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Parliament, your taxes on printed papers are unfair because our colonies have no elected representatives in your government. Closing Boston's port punishes many people, not just those who protested the tea tax. These actions take away our voice and hurt our community. If Britain will not respect our rights, we may need independence.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the unfair British actions and their effects on rights, representation, trade, or self-government. In the petition, require two accurate complaints, an explanation of harm, and a logical connection to independence.