

Module 2 Performance Task

Historical Context:

Following the French and Indian War, Great Britain began to tighten their control over the British North American colonies by enacting numerous pieces of legislation. The legislation passed by the British Parliament was met with much resistance by the American colonists.

Task:

Part I: Answer the constructed response questions that follow each document.

Part II: Your answers to the questions will help you write your essay based on the following question: This statement below will serve as your thesis statement.

Using your knowledge of social studies and the documents given to you, explain how tighter British control led to a revolution in colonial America.

- **You must use at least 3 documents in your essay - but don't write your essay quite yet. You are still gathering information to use for your essay.**

Document 1

Quartering Act (1765, 1774)

His majesty hereby requires the people to house and quarter the officers and soldiers in barracks provided by the colonies; and if there shall not be sufficient room in these barracks, then in such a case the soldiers must be quartered in the homes of the people of the colony. They are also required to do the following:

- *Provide food for troops*
- *Provide beer and wine for troops*
- *Provide bedding, utensils, candles, and firewood*

1a) According to the above document about The Quartering Act, what were the colonists required to provide to the soldiers?

Module 2 Performance Task

2b) How would the colonists feel about the soldiers in their homes and towns? (The Document does not give any clues, but how would people feel if they had to pay to house and feed soldiers - especially soldiers they did not agree with)

Document 2

On March 5, 1770, a crowd of Boston boys and men surrounded a number of British soldiers and began taunting and cursing them while they pelted them with snowballs. Order quickly broke down, and the frightened soldiers fired into the crowd. When the shooting ended, several people were dead and more were wounded. This engraving by Paul Revere, a leader of the Boston Sons of Liberty, was sent throughout the Colonies in the following weeks to arouse anti-British feelings.

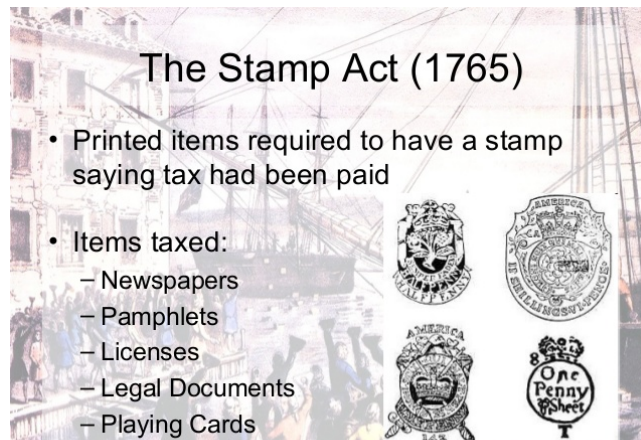


2a) How does the engraving tell a different story from the above description of the Boston Massacre?

Module 2 Performance Task

2b) Why do you think Paul Revere used the term “Massacre?”

Document 3



In response to the unpopular Stamp Act, Colonists boycotted printed items and resorted to mob violence to intimidate tax collectors. The picture below shows a tax collector being attacked.

3a) What items were taxed under the Stamp Act?

Module 2 Performance Task



3b) What actions did the colonists take in response to the Stamp Act?

Documents 4 and 5

The British Parliament passed the Tea Act in May 1773. It reinforced a tea tax in the American colonies. The act also allowed the British East India Company to have a monopoly on the tea trade there. This meant that the American colonists were not allowed to buy tea from any other source.

A tax on tea was not new to the colonists. It had been part of the 1767 Townshend Acts, which also placed taxes on such British imports as glass, paper, and paint. Great Britain used the tax money to finance the defense of the new British territories that it had acquired after the French and Indian War. Under pressure from colonial protests, Parliament in 1770 repealed all the Townshend Acts except for a tea tax. Because the tea tax remained, the American colonies obtained their tea mostly through Dutch smugglers.

Module 2 Performance Task

However, the colonists also realized that the North administration was reasserting Parliament's right to impose taxes on the colonies. The shipments thus became a symbol of taxation tyranny to the colonists. They thought that if they accepted the tea tax then the door was opened to future tax abuses.

The Sons of Liberty were a group of colonial merchants and tradesmen founded to protest the Stamp Act and other forms of taxation. The group of revolutionists included prominent patriots such as Benedict Arnold, Patrick Henry and Paul Revere, as well as Adams and Hancock.

On the night of December 16, 1773, at Griffin's Wharf in Boston, Massachusetts, a large group of men – many reportedly members of the Sons of Liberty – disguised themselves in Native American garb, boarded the docked ships and threw 342 chests of tea into the water as a protest.

Module 2 Performance Task



4/5) Why did the colonists feel it was appropriate and necessary to boycott British Tea

4/5) Which group led this protest?

Document 6 - Lexington and Concord

Module 2 Performance Task

Massachusetts | Apr 19, 1775

In this first battle of the American Revolution, Massachusetts colonists defied British authority, outnumbered and out fought the Redcoats, and embarked on a lengthy war to earn their independence.

IN CONTEXT **Thomas Gage** was appointed Royal Governor of Massachusetts in 1774 and tasked by the British Parliament with stamping out rising unrest caused by restrictive British policies. Gage inflamed tensions between the colonies and the mother country and practiced harsh enforcement of British law. He drafted the **Coercive Acts**, a series of laws intended to punish colonists for deeds of defiance against the King, such as the Boston Tea Party.

By April 1775, Gage was facing the threat of outright rebellion. He hoped to prevent violence by ordering the seizure of weapons and powder being stored in Concord, Massachusetts, twenty miles northwest of Boston. But he underestimated the courage and determination of the colonists.

April 19. British troops march into the small town of Lexington at about 5:00 a.m. to find themselves faced by a militia company of more than 70 men led by Capt. **John Parker**. When the vanguard of the British force rushes toward them across the town green, Parker immediately orders his company to disperse. At some point a shot rings out—historians still debate who fired it—and the nervous British soldiers fire a volley, killing seven and mortally wounding one of the retreating militiamen. The British column moves on toward Concord, leaving the dead, wounded, and dying in their wake.

Arriving in Concord at approximately 8:00 a.m., British commanders Francis Smith and John Pitcairn order several companies, about 220 troops in all, to secure the North Bridge across the Concord River and then continue on another mile to the Barrett Farm, where a cache of arms and powder is presumably located. A growing assembly of close to 400 militia from Concord and the surrounding towns gather on the high ground, where they see smoke rising from Concord. Mistakenly assuming the Redcoats are torching the town, the militia companies advance. The Acton Company, commanded by

Module 2 Performance Task

30-year-old Capt. Isaac Davis, is at the head of the column. When asked if his men are prepared to confront the British troops, Davis says, "I haven't a man afraid to go."

As the Minutemen march down the hill, the British soldiers, intimidated by their numbers and orderly advance, retreat to the opposite shore and prepare to defend themselves. When Davis's company comes within range, the Redcoats open fire, killing Davis and also Abner Hosmer. Major Buttrick of Concord shouts, "For God's sake, fire!" and the Minutemen respond, killing three British soldiers and wounding nine others. This volley is considered "the shot heard round the world" and sends the British troops retreating back to town.

6a) What happened at Concord and Lexington?

Final evaluation:

What were the long term causes that led up to the Revolutionary War and what was the immediate cause?

How did various groups help the war effort?