

Lesson Plan 2 - Causes of the American Revolution (8th grade History)

Whenever an image is shown, we recommend giving a brief introduction to the image and then ~2 mins of dedicated exploration time

Introduction (5 mins)

- Show image of the Declaration of Independence signing.
- Questions to ask the class verbally:
 - Who is in the photo and what are they doing?
 - What is the significance of what is happening?
- Briefly introduce the American Revolution.

French and Indian War (10 minutes)

- Show maps of British and French territory before/after the French and Indian War.
 - Have students explore the 2 maps and put dots where the territory has changed
 - Ask students what could go wrong now that the British have all this new territory?
- Explain briefly why the war occurred and outcomes of the war
 - More territory for the British
 - Explain how the Britain imposed taxes on the American colonies to pay for war (Sugar Act) → higher tensions

Taxes and Colonial Unrest (15 mins)

- Explain the Stamp Act
 - Show image of Stamp Act Reaction, have students explore on Pixeum
 - Ask students: What do you notice about the characters in this drawing? Using those observations as evidence, how did the colonists feel about the implementation of the Stamp Act?
- Explain tax laws and subsequent colonial protests
 - Explain Townshend Acts
 - Show image of Stamp Act Riot
 - Ask students about an observation that strikes them
 - Explain colonists complaining about lack of representation in the British Parliament. Explain the phrase "No taxation without representation."

Boston Massacre (10 minutes)

- Show Paul Revere's engraving of the Boston Massacre.
- What point is this piece trying to make? Find 3 instances of the image portraying certain aspects of the event in deliberate (and perhaps inaccurate) ways, using evidence from the image.
 - Discuss the truths and exaggerations of the piece
- Discuss bias and perspective in historical images afterwards

Tea Act and Boston Tea Party (5 minutes)

- Explain how the Tea Act led to the protest of the Boston Tea Party.
- Show the Boston Tea Party painting.

- Ask students if there are any details that stick out to them.
- If time, contrast with previous representation of event or show children's book of Boston Tea Party (linked in image text)

Effects and Colonial Unity (10 minutes)

- Show image of angry King George III and explain Intolerable Acts as class
 - Put a dot explaining which Intolerable Act is being depicted (Quartering Act)
- Show First Continental Congress image. Discuss how punishments increased colonial unity.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

- Show timeline of major causes of Revolution
- Assign homework

45 min version