

Events Contributing to the Revolutionary War

Cross Curricular Writing Activity
Social Studies Grade 4

Link to: Liberty! The American Revolution:

<http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/>

Fourth Grade Social Studies Standard

- **American Revolution: Events Contributing**
The learner will be able to examine the events that contributed to the outbreak of the American Revolution (i.e. taxation, judicial process, lack of representation, quartering of troops).

After this activity you will:

- Write a report describing the opinions of a colonist opposing British rule.

Why Were Colonists Angry?

- Unfair Taxation
- Lack of Representation
- Self-Government vs. British Rule
- Quartering of British Troops

Unfair Taxation

Taxes: Money paid by people to run the country

The British were imposing more and higher taxes on the colonists to offset expenses of the French and Indian War.

Parliament decided exactly how the tax payment should be made, without giving colonists a chance to voice their opinions. They imposed the following tax acts:

- Sugar Act**
- Stamp Act**

Sugar Act

- Passed in 1764
- Said that colonists must pay a tax on many goods coming into the colonies from other places
- This meant that when colonists purchased a pound of sugar, or any other item imported from Europe, they had to pay an extra amount in addition to the item's price. (tariff)
- *Tariff: Tax on goods brought into a country*

Stamp Act

- Tax imposed on almost anything written or printed on paper *in the colonies*, from newspapers to playing cards
- A special stamp had to be applied to show that the tax had been paid.

Lack of Representation

In truth, the money was not the issue that bothered the colonists the most.

What they minded most was that they had not agreed to the taxes.

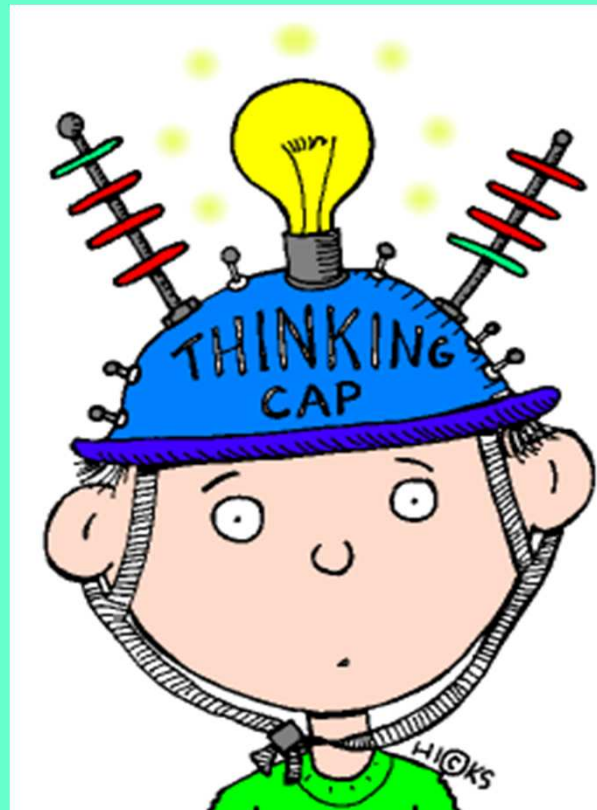
They had NO REPRESENTATION in Parliament - *no one acting or speaking for them.*

The People Protest

- They held public meetings and sent long *petitions - requests for action signed by many people.*
- They also *boycotted - refused to buy - any British goods.*
- Some protests remained peaceful, while others turned violent.

Judicial Process

Self-Government or British Rule?



Liberty vs. Loyalty

Liberty - Freedom to make your own laws

- Refusal to pay taxes not agreed upon by colonists
- *Representation - Having someone to act and speak for you.*

Loyalty - being grateful to king and Parliament for British help

- Unquestioned acceptance of Parliament's decisions
- English authority to be obeyed anywhere the British flag flies

Quartering of British Troops

Colonists were required to *quarter - pay* for food and housing - for British troops serving in the colonies





**In response to these new laws,
colonists shouted,
*“Intolerable Acts!”***

Colonists are now headed down the Road to Revolution. What lies ahead is a bitter struggle to create a new Democratic nation.





Writing Activity

After reviewing the four main events contributing to the Revolution (taxation, lack of representation, loyalty vs. liberty, and quartering of troops), write a newspaper article describing the opinions of a colonist opposing British rule.