

CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

There were many causes of the American Revolution that resulted in America breaking away from England and creating a new country, the United States of America. The events that led up to the revolution happened over the course of several years in the 1750's, 1760's and 1770's.

Directions:

Read each document. Use the information from the documents to answer the questions. Write in complete sentences.

Directions:

Examine the image. Look at the people, objects and activities.

Answer the questions based on the information in the image.



1. Describe what is happening in the image.

2. Do you think a patriot or loyalist drew this image? Explain your idea.

3. From the image, what conclusion can you make about how the colonists felt about the taxes the King of England placed on the colonists?

Directions:

Examine the images. Read the text. Answer the questions based on the information in the image and the text.



"No Stamp Act" and "America: Liberty Restored" are phrases that illustrate the ceramic teapot recently acquired by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. These phrases are associated with the tax on all printed materials, from documents to playing cards, imposed by the British on the American colonies and served as inspiration for the American Revolution. Made between 1766 and 1770, the teapot boldly proclaims these phrases in black on its sides.

When the Stamp Act was passed by the British Parliament March 22, 1765, it was the first direct tax on the American colonies, and the colonists felt this was

taxation without representation. Yielding to the overwhelming response from the colonies concerning the Stamp Act, the British Parliament repealed it on March 17, 1766, the earliest year that the "No Stamp Act" teapot would have made its way to America from Britain. After the repeal, the bells of many American churches could be heard ringing in victory, and many of Britain's citizens were glad that the balance was restored in relations between themselves and the colonies.

From a press release, November 8, 2006, Smithsonian National Museum of American History
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/news/pressrelease.cfm?key=29&newskey=424>

1. What are the colonists protesting?

2. What was taxed under the Stamp Tax? Give two specific examples from the text.

3. List two items that were taxed under the Stamp Tax.

4. What group of colonists do you think created the idea for this protest? Why?

Directions:

Examine the political cartoon. Read the text.

Answer the questions based on the information in the cartoon and the text.

Benjamin Franklin's woodcut from May 9, 1754.

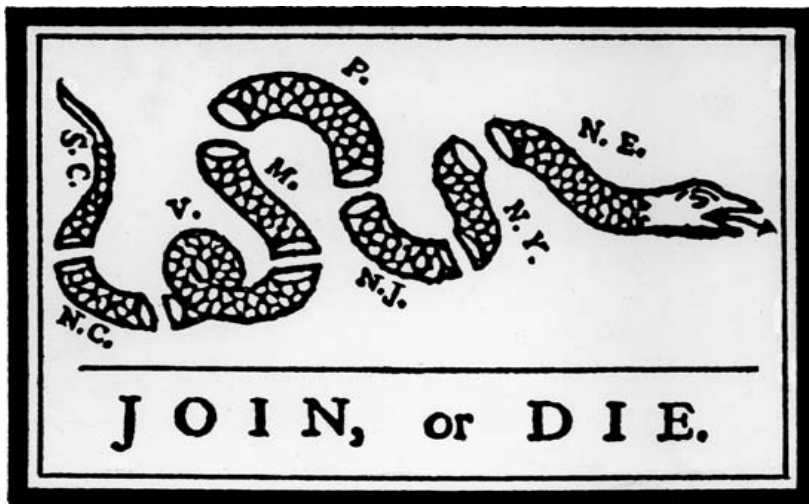
Benjamin Franklin published this print of a snake in his newspaper in 1754, during the French and Indian War. Franklin showed Britain's North American colonies as a snake cut into 8 parts. With each colony's or region's (New England) initials in each part.

His goal at this time was to persuade the colonists to join forces with the British Army to defend the colonies and defeat the French.

We call this sketch a political cartoon. This is believed to be the first political cartoon printed in America. Political cartoons are not always humorous. They are drawn to show the reader how the cartoon's creator feels about a topic or issue.

In 1764, Franklin's snake came to have a new meaning. American Patriots* used the print as a symbol for uniting the colonies to gain independence.

***Patriots** - Those who wanted to break away from England and form a new country



From: Newspaper Serial and Government Publications Division, Library of Congress

1. Why is the snake cut up?

2. What do you think the words, "Join or Die" mean?

3. Why did Patriots feel a snake cut up into parts would be a good symbol encouraging the American Revolution?

Directions:

Examine the picture. Answer the questions based on the information in the picture.



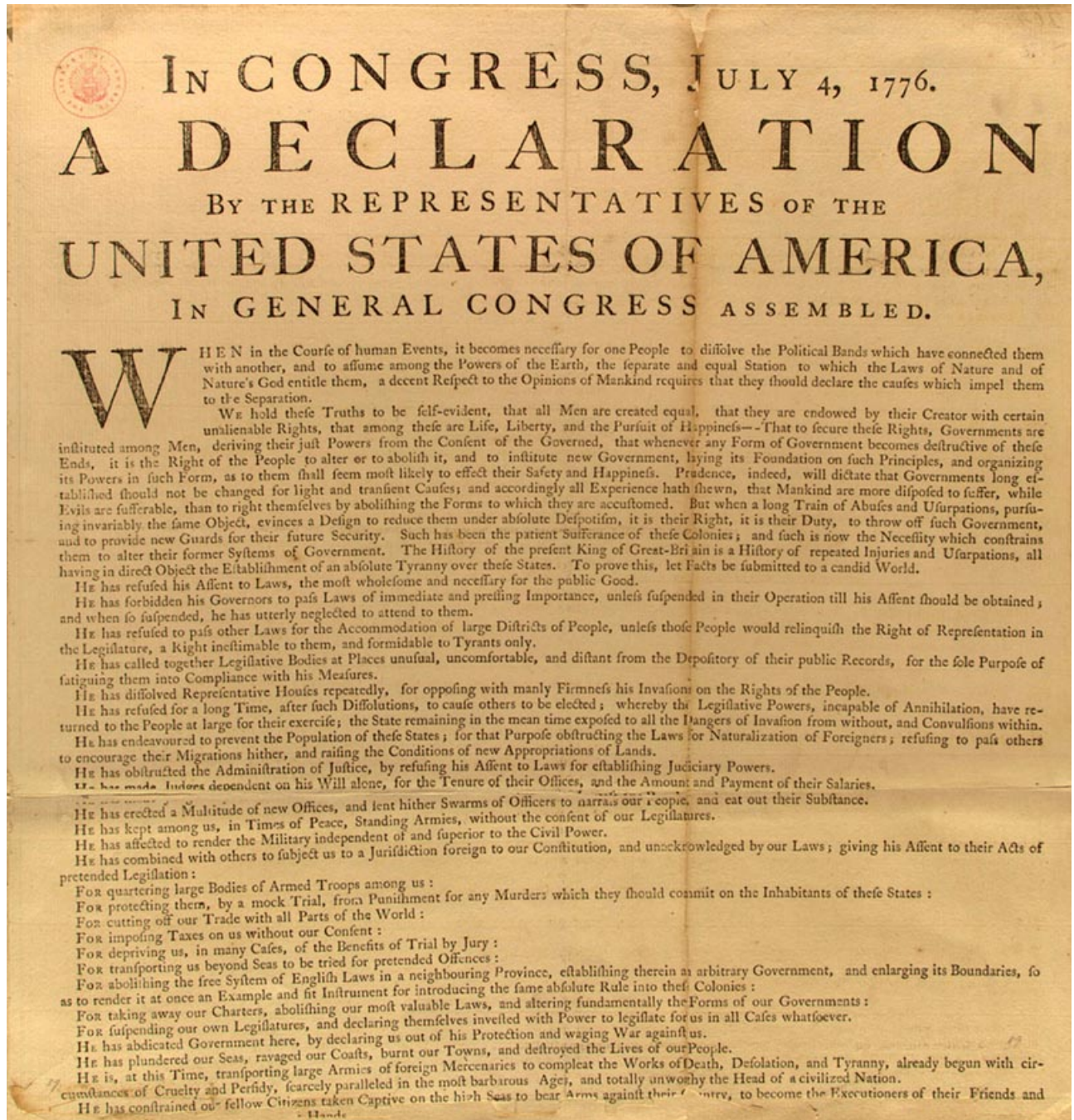
1. Describe the events happening in the picture. Be sure to include the “who, what, when, where and why”.

2. What do you think is being thrown in the water and WHY?

3. Explain what this picture tells you about how the colonists felt about the taxes placed on the colonists by the King of England?

Directions:

Examine the images. Read the text. Answer the questions based on the information in the image and the text.





In 1776, the colonies signed the Declaration of Independence. In the Declaration, the 13 colonies stated their grievances (complaints) against the King of England. Some complaints were that the King was unfair:

“For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world”

“For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent”

“For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury”

1. Why would the colonists list these complaints against the King?

2. What do these complaints tell you about how the colonists felt about breaking away from England?

Alternate question:

Imagine yourself as one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. What do you think the signers of the Declaration of Independence might be thinking as they sign this document? Why?
