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.

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?
In Congress, July 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which they are entitled, by the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God; we, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled, do appeal to the World for Rightful Redress of our grievances.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that_ACTIONS__ under absolute Despotism, is a Disease which No Ought to remove it, but with Difficulty and Dangers. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inseparable to them, andVRABLE____

He has called together Legislative Bodies at Place unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Wishes.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Inventions to the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the Mean Time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing our Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of New Acquisitions.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Insolvent Claims.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Misdemeanors which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and Fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislative for us in all Cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He has suspended the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God; he has dissolved our political Bands, and cut off our Trade with all Nations.

He has transported us far from our Homes and kindred.

He has separated us from all the Connections which result from the natural CONNECTIONS OF CIVILITY

He has continued those Evill Customs, taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Countrymen.

We thus reduce the Terms of our Address to the World; and, in presenting them to the World, we declare the Rights which we are apt to the Obligations of our trust with a firmness and a propriety which the occasion demands, that our own Countrymen may be appeased, and that the World may take notice of the facts which we are about to state.
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?

_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________