

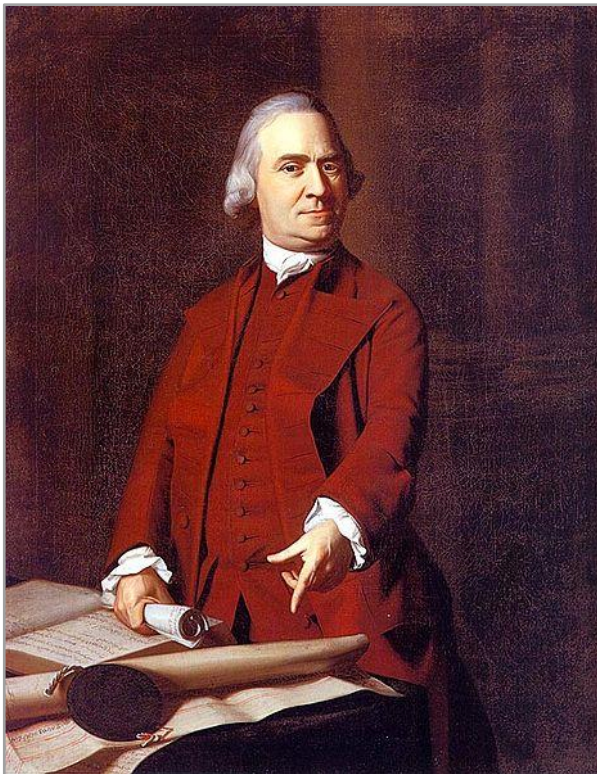
The Artios Home Companion Series

Unit 15: Quarrels with England

Teacher Overview

“The period from 1760-1765 is a turning point in the history both of England and of America, for it marks the feeling of hostility between these two parts of the British Empire...”
—Albert Bushnell Hart

These feelings of hostility led to a struggle for independence from Great Britain on the part of the colonies.



Samuel Adams

- Read selected chapters from *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, journaling as they read.
- Visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.

Key People

William Pitt	Charles James Fox
Edmund Burke	James Otis
John Adams	Patrick Henry
John Hancock	John Dickinson
The Huguenots	Daniel Boone
John Sevier	James Robertson
Samuel Adams	General Thomas Gage
George III	Samuel Adams
Sons of Liberty	Benjamin Franklin

Vocabulary

Lesson 1:

latent
inalienable
writ of assistance
stipend
salutary
incense
acquit
cede
abridge
transient

Lesson 2:

turbulent
aversion
endorse

Reading and Assignments

In this unit, students will:

- Complete two lessons in which they will learn about **Quarrel with the Mother Country and The Struggle for Independence**, journaling and answering discussion questions as they read.
- Define vocabulary words.

Leading Ideas

History is HIS Story.

God's story of love, mercy, and redemption through Christ.

He made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

— Ephesians 1:9-10

God's providential hand governs and times all events and provides for his Creation according to His plan and purposes.

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

— Acts 17:24-27

Godly leadership and servanthood are necessary for one to be a true reforming influence.

Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

— Matthew 20:26-28

God raises up and removes leaders.

He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

— Daniel 2:21

Additional Material for Parent or Teacher

- Andy Griffith's version of Paul Revere's Ride:
(Be sure and incorporate this video)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRnJxTyohsk>
- American Revolution (several videos from which to choose):
<http://library.thinkquest.org/TQ0312848/links.htm>
- Boston Massacre:
<http://www.history.com/videos/boston-massacre-helps-spark-the-american-revolution#boston-massacre-helps-spark-the-american-revolution>
- Lexington and Concord:
<http://www.history.com/videos/boston-massacre-helps-spark-the-american-revolution#first-revolutionary-battle-at-lexington--concord>

Literature and Composition

Unit 15: Autobiography - Report Writing

The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin

by Benjamin Franklin

Literature for Units 15 - 18

<http://www.ushistory.org/franklin/autobiography/index.htm>

Unit 15 – Assignments

- Read the information about Benjamin Franklin’s “arduous project of arriving at moral perfection” and study the virtues and their meanings.
- Choose four virtues to track over the next four weeks. Work on one virtue per week and take notes on your experience practicing this virtue.
- Read Part One of *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*.

Unit 15 – Assignment Background

For this unit, you will follow in Benjamin Franklin’s footsteps and track your progress on becoming more virtuous. As Franklin says in his autobiography,

“It was about this time I conceived the bold and arduous project of arriving at moral perfection. I wished to live without committing any fault at any time; I would conquer all that either natural inclination, custom, or company might lead me into. As I knew, or thought I knew, what was right and wrong, I did not see why I might not always do the one and avoid the other. But I soon found I had undertaken a task of more difficulty than I had imagined. While my care was employed in guarding against one fault, I was often surprised by another; habit took the advantage of inattention; inclination was sometimes too strong for reason. I concluded, at length, that the mere speculative conviction that it was our interest to be completely virtuous was not sufficient to prevent our slipping, and that the contrary habits must be broken, and good ones acquired and established, before we can have any dependence on a steady, uniform rectitude of conduct. For this purpose I therefore contrived the following method.

In the various enumerations of the moral virtues I met in my reading, I found the catalogue more or less numerous, as different writers included more or fewer ideas under the same name. Temperance, for example, was by some confined to eating and drinking, while by others it was extended to mean the moderating every other pleasure, appetite, inclination, or passion, bodily or mental, even to our avarice and ambition. I proposed to myself, for the sake of clearness, to use rather more names, with fewer ideas annexed to each, than a few names with more ideas; and I included under thirteen names of virtues all that at that time occurred to me as necessary or desirable, and annexed to each a short precept, which fully expressed the extent I gave to its meaning.

These names of virtues, with their precepts were:

Temperance	Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation.
Silence	Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation.
Order	Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time.
Resolution	Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.
Frugality	Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself, i.e., waste nothing.
Industry	Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions.
Sincerity	Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly, and, if you speak, speak accordingly.
Justice	Wrong none by doing injuries or omitting the benefits that are your duty.
Moderation	Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve.
Cleanliness	Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation.
Tranquility	Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable.
Chastity	Rarely use venery but for health or offspring, never to dullness, weakness, or the injury of your own or another's peace or reputation.
Humility	Imitate Jesus and Socrates.

My intention being to acquire the habitude of all these virtues, I judged it would be well not to distract my attention by attempting the whole at once, but to fix it on one of them at a time, and, when I should be master of that, then to proceed to another, and so on, till I should have gone thro' the thirteen; and, as the previous acquisition of some might facilitate the acquisition of certain others, I arranged them with that view, as they stand above.”

- Benjamin Franklin

Lesson One

History Overview and Assignments Quarrels with the Mother Country

From 1760-1765, hostilities between the colonies and Great Britain intensified. When King George III came to the throne in 1760, he was the first strong leader since William III. His strong opinions and leadership led to more oppression on the colonies, which eventually ended in a struggle for independence by the colonies.



The Old State House in Boston
where the Boston Massacre took place

Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the article: *Quarrel with the Mother Country*, pages 6-13.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Define the vocabulary words in the context of the reading, and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Be sure to visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.

Key People

William Pitt
Edmund Burke
John Adams
John Hancock
The Huguenots
John Sevier
Samuel Adams

Charles James Fox
James Otis
Patrick Henry
John Dickinson
Daniel Boone
James Robertson
General Thomas Gage

Vocabulary

latent	inalienable
writ of assistance	stipend
salutary	incense
acquit	cede
abridge	transient

Discussion Questions

1. What three main areas of objection did the colonists have to the Stamp Act? Explain each one.
2. In what ways did the colonists show their opposition to the Stamp Act? Which was the most effective?

3. What was the importance of John Dickenson's, "Letters from a Farmer"?
4. What is meant by the quote "slavery is ever preceded by sleep"?
5. Are there current events similar to the events included in this article?
6. Research the Huguenots. Be prepared to share your research with the class.
7. What were the services of James Otis to American liberty?
8. Why ought not the colonial judges to be paid by the home government?
9. Make a list of acts of Parliament laying taxes on the colonies, 1060 to 1765.
10. Why did the colonists object to the Quartering Act?
11. In your opinion, was the Boston Tea Party justifiable? Why or why not?

Adapted from the book:

Essentials in American History

by Albert Bushnell

Quarrel With the Mother Country (1783-1774)



George III, About 1765
Painting by Sir William Beechey

The period from 1760 to 1765 is a turning point in the history both of England and of America, for it marks the beginning of a feeling of hostility between these two parts of the British Empire. The first strong and positive sovereign since William III was the young George III, who came to the throne in 1760, and said in a public address, "Born and bred in this country, I glory in the name of Briton." His mother used to say to him, "George, be a

king," and as soon as he could, he rid himself of the ministry of noble Whig families who controlled both houses of Parliament, and he began systematically to build up a personal government.

Opposed to the king's policy was a group of brilliant statesmen, of whom the most famous were William Pitt (later Earl of Chatham), Charles James Fox, and Edmund Burke; they counseled wise and moderate dealing with the colonies. Notwithstanding this opposition, for a long time the king by shrewd means, by bestowing titles here, appointments there, reproofs to a third man, and banknotes where other things failed, was able to keep up in the House of Commons a majority, usually called "the king's friends."

On the western side of the Atlantic a new spirit began to stir among the colonists when the danger of invasion by French neighbors ceased forever in 1763. As the French statesman Turgot said (1750), "Colonies are like fruits, they stick to the tree only while they are green; as

soon as they can take care of themselves they do what Carthage did and what America will do.” These latent tendencies to independence were strengthened by the attempt of the home government to assert new powers of government over the colonies. The colonial officials in England resented the slowness and lack of united action shown by the colonial assemblies during the French and Indian War, and felt it would be better for them all to pay money into one treasury, for general colonial purposes.

Up to this time the principal British control over the colonies as a whole had been exercised through the Navigation Acts. Notwithstanding the special privileges thereby given to colonial ships, the acts caused friction, because they cut off colonial trade and profits in order to swell the trade and profits of English merchants. The home government was aware that smuggling went on, and tried to stop it; but even the little duties laid by the home government in colonial ports, to give some control over the movements of ships, were so evaded that it cost £7000 a year to collect £2000. To prevent the rise of new manufactures the British (1750) prohibited the colonists from using rolling mills and steel furnaces, and in 1774 stopped the coming in of machinery for making cloth.

In order to detect smugglers, British customs officers in the colonies were accustomed to go to the courts and ask for a general writ of assistance, which authorized them to search any private buildings for suspected smuggled goods; without such searches the Navigation Acts could hardly be carried out. In a court in 1761, a brilliant and able young lawyer, James Otis, argued against the writs on the

novel ground that they were contrary to the principles of English law: “Reason and the constitution are both against this writ... All precedents are under the control of the principles of law... No acts of Parliament can establish such a writ... An act against the constitution is void.” John Adams said of him, “Otis was Isaiah and Ezekiel united — Otis was a flame of fire — Otis’s oration against writs of assistance breathed into this nation the breath of life.”

Notwithstanding Otis’s argument, the writs of assistance were again issued in Massachusetts; but his speech and his later pamphlets stated three principles of great weight in the approaching Revolution: (1) that the colonists possessed certain inalienable personal rights; (2) that there was a traditional system of colonial government, which could not be altered by Great Britain without the consent of the colonies; (3) that under that system the colonies were united to Great Britain through the same sovereign, but were not a dependent part of Great Britain, nor subject to Parliament.

In accordance with the practice of a century and a half, the home government about this time disallowed a statute of Virginia that reduced the stipends of the established clergy. A test case was made (1763), commonly called “the Parson’s Cause,” in which Patrick Henry got his first reputation and won the jury by an argument that there was a limit to the legal control of the mother country over colonial legislation. In a bold and significant phrase he declared that “a king, by ... disallowing acts of so salutary a nature, from being the Father of his people degenerates into a Tyrant, and forfeits all right to his subjects’ obedience.”

Another danger to the freedom of the colonies came from a new spirit in the Lords of Trade. When Charles Townshend was chairman for a short time (February to April, 1763), he worked out a comprehensive plan for controlling the colonies. (1) Armed vessels were to be sent to the American coast, and the naval officers were to be commissioned as revenue officers. (2) A new system of admiralty courts was to be set up, to deal more effectively with breaches of the Acts of Trade. (3) A force of troops was to be stationed in America for common defense at the expense of the colonies. (4) Steps were to be taken to appoint and pay the colonial judges from England, so as to free them from control of the colonial assemblies. (5) For the necessary expenses a stamp duty was to be laid on the colonies. None of the proposed measures were carried out at the time, however.

Another danger was brought on by the activity of Lord George Grenville when he became prime minister in April, 1763. The Molasses Act of 1733, essentially a measure to protect sugar planters of the British West Indies, was by the Sugar Act of 1764 made more stringent and extended to coffee and other tropical products. In this act Grenville inserted the statement that it was “just and necessary” that a tax be laid on the colonies. In 1765 he informed the agents of the colonies that he meant to lay a stamp duty unless they would suggest some other form of taxation. Without much objection, an act of Parliament was passed (March, 1701) for “certain stamp duties, and other duties, in the British colonies and plantations in America, toward further defraying the expenses of defending, protecting, and securing the

same.” The duties were to be imposed on all sorts of legal documents, law proceedings, wills, licenses and commissions, land patents, bills of sale, and also on playing cards, newspapers, pamphlets, advertisements, almanacs, and the like. The proceeds of the tax (estimated at £100,000 a year) were to go toward the expense of troops that were to be sent to America for the defense of the colonies. A few days later another cause of quarrel was provided by the Quartering Act, by which military officers were authorized to call on colonial authorities to provide barracks for troops.

Against the Stamp Act the best writers in America poured forth a flood of argument and protest.

(1) On taxation, they argued that the power of laying taxes for revenue in the colonies belonged solely to the colonial governments. As for Parliament, one writer said: If they “have a right to impose a stamp tax, they have a right to lay on us a poll tax, a land tax, a malt tax, a cider tax, a window tax, a smoke tax; and why not tax us for the light of the sun, the air we breathe, and the ground we are buried in?”

(2) On representation, they argued that the principle practiced by Parliament itself was “no taxation without representation,” and how could they be represented in a Parliament thousands of miles away? And they scouted the British explanation that they were fairly represented by the English members of a Parliament; for their principle was that members of a legislature represented not classes or landed interests, but a body of people living in some definite area.

(3) On the nature of colonial government, they maintained that the

colonists had a traditional right not to be subject in such matters to the control of Parliament. For instance, the Boston merchant John Hancock said, "I will never carry on Business under such great disadvantages and Burthen. I will not be a slave, I have a right to the liberty's & Privileges of the English Constitution, and I as an Englishman will enjoy them."

Opposition to the tax took several serious forms.

(1) Some of the colonial assemblies passed strong resolutions against taxation; the best known are Patrick Henry's Virginia Resolutions, which culminate in the declaration "That every attempt to vest such power in any other person or persons whatever than the General Assembly aforesaid, is illegal, unconstitutional, and unjust, and has a manifest tendency to destroy British as well as American liberty."

(2) More quiet but effective means were the organization of "Sons of Liberty," a kind of patriotic society; and an attempt to boycott British goods.

(3) In many places mobs made discussion impossible; stamp distributors were threatened and compelled to resign, or were burned in effigy before their own doors, and their property destroyed. Thomas Hutchinson, lieutenant governor and chief justice of Massachusetts, opposed the Stamp Act while it was pending; nevertheless his house was sacked and plundered, and his life and the lives of his family endangered because he proposed to execute the law. In thus forsaking an orderly government and resorting to violence, the people who engaged in these outbreaks damaged their own cause and set a bad example for the years that

followed.

(4) The most effective method was the holding of a Stamp Act Congress made up of delegates from nine colonies, in New York, October 7, 1755. This dignified body petitioned the British government to withdraw the act, and drew up a formal statement of "the most essential rights and liberties of the colonists, and of the grievances under which they labor." This document set forth loyalty to the crown, but stood firm on "No taxation without representation." When November 1 came, the date for putting the act in force, it was entirely ignored, and documents were simply left without stamps.

The opposition to the Stamp Act caused much perplexity in England. William Pitt warmly defended the colonists: "We may bind their trade, confine their manufactures, and exercise every power whatsoever," said he, "except that of taking their money out of their pockets without their consent." Parliament repealed the Stamp Act (March 18, 1766) before any serious attempt had been made to execute it, but eleven days earlier passed a brief act setting forth that the colonies were "subordinate unto, and dependent upon the Imperial Crown and Parliament of Great Britain [which had] full power and authority ... to bind the Colonies and People of America, subject of the Crown of Great Britain, in all Cases whatsoever."

By reaffirming the right to tax the colonies, the way was opened for a renewal of trouble. Townshend again came into power and in 1767 secured new duties on paper, painters' colors, glass, and tea, the expected proceeds of £35,000 or £40,000 a year to be used in Boston to pay fixed salaries to royal colonial officers. When the

New York assembly refused to pass the necessary act to provide barracks and other necessities for the British troops, Townshend took the dangerous step of practically suspending the government of New York by an act of Parliament. This distinct assertion that the colonial assemblies were subject to Parliament greatly alarmed the other colonies.

Again strong protests were heard. John Dickinson of Pennsylvania, in his Letters from a Farmer, called upon his countrymen by practical and law-abiding methods to “take care of our rights, and we therein take care of our prosperity... slavery is ever preceded by sleep.” Non-importation agreements were made in many parts of the colonies and signed by men like George Washington. The General Court, or legislature, of Massachusetts sent a circular letter to the other colonies, urging them to join in remonstrance. In June, 1768, British customhouse officials were assaulted while searching the sloop Liberty, belonging to John Hancock; and he was sued for smuggling. Soon after, two regiments of Redcoats were ordered to Boston “to strengthen the hands of the government in the Province of Massachusetts Bay.” As a witty Boston clergyman said, “Our grievances are now all red-dressed.”

The coming of troops, intended to overawe and not to defend, incensed all the colonies. In March, 1770, there was a fight between the troops and the populace in Boston in which five persons were killed. Although the name “Boston Massacre” was applied to the unfortunate affair, John Adams was so far from sympathy with the populace that he defended the commander of the troops, who was acquitted. Two of

the soldiers who had ‘fired without orders,’ under great provocation, were convicted of manslaughter, and eventually were lightly punished.

The offensive Townshend duties were withdrawn in 1771, after producing £16,000 at a cost of about £200,000; but again the British government stupidly insisted on the principle of taxation by retaining a tea duty of three pence a pound.

Just about this time another grievance much disturbed the peace of mind of many good colonists. So completely separated are church and state in America today that it is hard to realize how many of our forefathers feared that they might be brought under the control of the Church of England by the designation of an American bishop, or bishops. The idea was not welcome to the Episcopalians of the southern and middle colonies, and was still more unpopular in New England, where the Congregational Church was established. When the Episcopal missionary to the college town of Cambridge built himself a large and handsome house, it came to be popularly known as “the Bishop’s Palace.” If the colonists had realized it, there was no cause for alarm; for the British government was unwilling to furnish a new cause of grievance. While north and south were slowly combining to oppose Great Britain, a new West was opening up on the headwaters of the southern tributaries of the Ohio. After the French and Indian War, both Pennsylvania and Virginia claimed the forks of the Ohio, where in 1765 the town of Pittsburg was founded. People poured across the mountains, and part of them drifted southward into the mountain regions of Virginia and North Carolina. Then frontiersmen, chiefly Scotch-Irish

and German with a few Huguenots, ignored the proclamation of 1763, defied their own colonial governments, braved the Indians, and plunged into the western wilderness.

The pioneer in this movement was Daniel Boone of the Yadkin district in North Carolina, who in 1769, with five companions, started out “in quest of the country of Kentucky.”

For years he was the leading spirit in a little community of men who were frontiersmen, fanners, trappers, and Native American fighters all at the same time — the first settlers in Kentucky.

A second and more continuous settlement was begun in 1769 by William Beane, on the Watauga River, a head stream of the Tennessee. Soon after, the so-called “Regulators” of North Carolina protested in arms against the tedious and expensive methods of the courts, and in 1771 were defeated by Governor Tryon in the Battle of the Alamance. Some of those who escaped crossed over to the Watauga, which they supposed to be a part of Virginia, though it proved to be within the North Carolina claims. Under the leadership of John Sevier and James Robertson, they formed a little representative constitution under the name of “Articles of the Watauga Association.” By this time the value of the West was apparent to some capitalists, who formed the Vandalia Company, a kind of successor to the old Ohio Company, and asked for a royal charter for a colony south of the Ohio. In 1774, however, Parliament showed the purpose of the British government to prevent the growth of any new western commonwealth, by the Quebec Act, which added the region between the Ohio and the

Great Lakes to the province of Quebec.

The conflicts between Boone’s men and the Indians living north of the Ohio for the unoccupied “Dark and Bloody Ground” of Kentucky led in 1774 to “Lord Dunmore’s War,” which was aggravated by a brutal and unprovoked murder of the family of Logan, a well-known Native American chief. Dunmore, the governor of Virginia, pushed across the Ohio, a second army beat the Indians at Point Pleasant on the Kanawha, and the natives were forced to cede their claims south of the Ohio. Meanwhile, the few settlers in Kentucky fled eastward.

The infant West seemed to Massachusetts people the smallest of interests; for their own struggle was all absorbing, and it became almost a personal contest between Samuel Adams, leader of the popular party, and Thomas Hutchinson, the governor. Hutchinson’s letters to friends in England, urging that “there must be an abridgment of what are called English liberties,” fell into the hands of Adams, who used them to persuade the people that Hutchinson was their enemy. In June, 1772, the *Gaspée*, a British vessel engaged in catching smugglers, was burned in Rhode Island by a mob, against whom nobody would testify. Things grew so squally that Samuel Adams, in 1772, obtained from the Boston town meeting a Committee of Correspondence “to state the Rights of the colonists and of this Province in particular... to communicate and publish the same to the several Towns in this Province and to the World.” A continental committee was subsequently appointed, and eleven other colonies appointed similar committees, which kept themselves informed of public feeling and thus

prepared for later joint action.

The tea duty left in force by Townshend in 1771 was not much felt, because the colonists usually drank smuggled tea; but to help the British East India Company out of financial difficulties, the home government gave it such privileges that it was able to undersell the smugglers, and in August, 1773, tea ships were dispatched to the principal colonial ports. If the tea was landed and the duty paid, the right of taxation was admitted. Hence, upon the arrival of the tea ships in Philadelphia, New York, and some other places, they were sent back without unloading. Efforts to this end in Boston were foiled; but a meeting of five or six thousand people was held in the Old South Church in Boston (December 16, 1773) to make a final protest against the landing of the tea. Suddenly a war whoop was heard outside, and two hundred men boarded the ships and flung into the sea tea worth £18,000 (about \$90,000). An eyewitness says: "They say the actors were Indians from Narragansett. Whether they were or not, to a transient observer they appeared as such, being cloath'd in Blankets with the heads muffled, and copper-color'd countenances." Children who next morning found their fathers' shoes full of tea kept quiet.

To the Tory government in England, the Boston Tea Party appeared an act of outrageous violence, encouraged by the town of Boston and the people of Massachusetts, and deserving such punishment as would give warning to other colonies. In spite of Edmund Burke's protests against a policy "which punishes the innocent with the guilty, and condemns without the possibility of defense," a series

of coercive statutes, sometimes called "the Intolerable Acts," were hastily passed by Parliament (1774): (1) The port of Boston was closed until the town should make proper satisfaction for the destruction of the tea. (2) The charter of Massachusetts was "revoked and made void," in so far that the governor received new authority over the council and the town meetings. (3) The authority to take the necessary buildings for barracks was renewed. (4) Persons charged with murder or other capital offenses, committed in the execution of orders from England, might be transported to England for trial.



English Light Dragon, About 1778
(Type of British Cavalryman)

To put these measures into force, General Thomas Gage was sent over to Massachusetts: he superseded Governor Hutchinson and attempted to establish the new government by "mandamus councilors," whom he appointed contrary to the provisions of the charter. The Salem merchants offered their wharves to their Boston brethren, and from south to north came expressions of sympathy with Massachusetts. Resistance to taxes laid by Parliament had carried the country to the

verge of revolution.

During the eleven years from 1763 to 1774, the colonies lost their old contentment in their relation to Great Britain, and came almost to the point of revolt. The main reasons were: (1) taxation by Parliament for revenue through the Stamp Act of 1765, the Townshend Duties of 1767, and the Tea Duties of 1771-1773; (2) the execution of the Navigation Acts, by means of writs of assistance, or by customhouse officers as in, the sloop *Liberty* (1768), or by naval officers as in the *Gaspee* (1772); (3) attempts to alter the form of colonial governments, as shown by the suspension of the New York legislature (1767), and especially by the repeal of the Massachusetts charter in 1774 — apprehension was heightened by the

Parson's Cause (1763), and the supposed purpose to send over a colonial bishop; (4) a fear that those personal rights were endangered which were claimed by Englishmen in England as well as in America; (5) experience of the power of union, as shown in the Stamp Act Congress of 1765, the non-importation agreements of 1765, 1768, and 1769, the resolutions of sympathy or defiance in the colonial legislatures, and the committees of correspondence of 1773; (6) irritation at the way in which British rulers, colonial governors, and regular officers looked down on the colonists; (7) the narrowness and stupidity of George III and other English leaders, who did not understand the colonists and pushed the contest to a fatal issue.

Lesson Two

History Overview and Assignments The Struggle for Independence

The Struggle for Independence was based on the belief that there should be “no taxation without representation.” Each new tax enacted by the English Parliament served as fuel for the colonists’ desire to become independent from England. Navigation Acts, Stamp Acts, and Writs of Assistance all were felt to violate the colonists’ rights as Englishmen.

Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the article: *The Struggle for Independence*, pages 15-22.
- Narrate about today’s reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Define the vocabulary words in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Be sure to visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.



The Boston Massacre

Key People

George III Samuel Adams
James Otis Benjamin Franklin
Sons of Liberty John Adams
Patrick Henry

Vocabulary

turbulent
aversion
endorse

Discussion Questions

1. Explain the phrase, “no taxation without representation.”
2. As a result of the Seven Years’ War, what was the condition of England?
3. From the list of taxes against the colonies you created in lesson one, describe the following from today’s article. Be sure to include: Navigation Acts, Writs of Assistance, Stamp Act.
4. What was Ben Franklin’s original response to the Stamp Act?
5. Who is said to have coined the phrase, “taxation without representation”?
6. Research the Letter of a Pennsylvania Farmer written by John Dickinson. Be prepared to share your research.
7. What three events sped the colonies towards revolution?
8. Why were the colonists passionate about their cause?
9. What was the colonists’ response to the shipments of tea being sent over by Great Britain?
10. Describe the events leading up to the Boston Tea Party.
11. What was England’s response to the Boston Tea Party?
12. What was the effect of The Boston Port Bill on the colonies?

Adapted from the book:

A History of the United States

by William M. Davidson

The Struggle for Independence

1763-1783

Colonial Policy of England

The attitude of England toward her colonies has always been a consistent one, though at times not the most humane. England has always insisted her colonies must in some manner contribute to the glory and advancement of the parent country. She has seldom resorted to direct taxation, however. A more effective method of raising revenue has prevailed – that of restrictive trade measures, by means of which commerce has been directed toward England. These measures have not always been mandatory; but if not, trade regulations have been usually so drawn as to favor the English home merchant as against the colonial merchant.

Conditions in England

The years immediately succeeding the Seven Years' War were trying ones in England. It is true an empire had just been gained, but it was at the sacrifice of much blood and treasure. It was urged in England that the English soldier and the English treasury had relieved the colonies from the necessity of constant watchfulness over their longtime enemy, the Native American; that the issue of the war been to the advantage of the colonies as well as of England; and that, therefore, the colonists, as Englishmen, should be required to meet their share of the expenses of the war. The colonists, on their side, argued that if taxes were to be laid, the colonial legislature must vote them. The colonists could not act

in the English Parliament, and so the laying of taxes by that body would be "taxation without representation," to which they declared they would not submit, as the English Bill of Rights 1689 forbade the imposition of taxes without the consent of Parliament. Since the colonists had no representation in Parliament, the taxes, they claimed, violated their guaranteed Rights of Englishmen.

The attitude of the colonies was misunderstood in England. Unfortunately, this misunderstanding was aggravated by misleading reports made by the royal governors as to the character of the colonists. The governors were in constant clash with the legislative bodies in the colonies over matters of public policy. The colonists always sided with their own legislators, so the reports of the governors to the king and his ministers represented the colonists as turbulent and disloyal.

Conditions in the Colonies:

Growth of Democracy

The colonists did not at first desire a separation from the mother country. They were proud of England, proud to be called Englishmen. This was especially true after England's great victory over the French. But this feeling was gradually changed to one of distrust by the shortsighted policy of George III and the statesmen who controlled English politics at the time. The expense of the four inter-colonial wars had been borne to a large extent by the

colonies, and they had furnished their full quota of men to uphold the supremacy of England in the New World. They were burdened with debt incurred in the prosecution of the French and Indian War; they had suffered the destruction of much property, and many precious lives had been sacrificed. And even under those conditions they were willing to contribute to the support of the home government, if they through their legislatures could say how the money was to be raised. As one after another of their efforts to secure this privilege was spurned, the sentiment for independence was developed, not as a thing in itself to be desired, but as an escape from what they considered the tyranny of a despotic king.

The growth of the spirit of liberty and equality in America was more rapid than its growth in England because the colonists were farther removed from the influences of royalty and aristocracy. In the colonies, frequent milestones marked its progress. The demand for a representative assembly in Virginia in 1619, the freedom of action accorded the settler in the very beginning of all the New England colonies, the written constitution of the four Connecticut River settlements, Bacon's protest against the tyranny of Berkeley in Virginia, the arrest and expulsion of Andros in Massachusetts — all these were evidences of the growth of democracy in the New World. Had this been respected and understood by the home government, instead of its being antagonized, the history of the Revolution need not have been written.

The Principle of Taxation as Used by England

English statesmen in control during the period just prior to the Revolution contended nothing was being asked of the colonists that was not already borne by Englishmen at home. This was true. Many of the larger cities in England were not directly represented in Parliament, though they paid taxes regularly. The districts from which members of Parliament were elected had been formed years before. In some of these nearly all the people had moved away, but members still continued to be elected. At Old Sarum there were no residents; in several other districts there were but three or four voters, while in certain sections of the country new communities had grown up, such as Birmingham and Leeds, with numerous populations and large property interests, and yet, without representation in Parliament. This was "taxation without representation," just what the colonists were protesting against. It was not honestly contended that this was right. It was a condition that had come about gradually and was left undisturbed because it suited the ends of the corrupt politicians of that day, and of an equally corrupt king.

Navigation Acts: Inter-colonial Wars

These are two of the remote causes of the Revolution. It has been shown how the colonists always loyally supported their sovereign and bore their share of the burden in the inter-colonial wars. The remembrance of his sacrifices rankled in the heart of the colonist when the government for which he had sacrificed so much gave so little heed to his petitions for justice.

The first Navigation Act was passed in 1651. This was reenacted in 1660, and strengthened still further by the acts of 1663 and 1672. In addition to these four principal acts, twenty-five additional acts were passed by Parliament during the period between 1672 and 1774. Many of these laws had direct bearing on the commerce of the colonies. It was required that both exports and imports should be carried in English vessels, or in ships built in the colonies, the same to be manned by crews and officers, a majority of whom in each instance were to be English. These acts were originally aimed at the Dutch, who had a monopoly on the American carrying trade and, indeed, of the trade of the world. While the acts encouraged activity in shipbuilding in the colonies to the extent that ship-building in New England had become an important industry, still, the main provisions of the acts tended to make the colonies dependent upon England. As the years passed the acts in this respect became more and more objectionable to the colonies.

However, the Navigation Acts had not of late been enforced with much rigor. The English government, as we have seen, now resolved to enforce these laws rigidly as one method of increasing revenues. Taken in connection with other burdens, this enforcement became a source of great irritation to those engaged in shipping or mercantile pursuits in colonies.

Writs of Assistance

Smuggling was the natural result of the Navigation Acts and was winked at by the colonial authorities, who were opposed to the enforcement of the acts. In order to

find smuggled goods, the king's officers were given Writs of Assistance. With one of these in hand, an officer could search the house or premises of any citizen at any time during the day. This aroused the most violent opposition in the colonies. The search could be made on the unsupported charge of the officer, with no penalty attached if goods were not found.

Stamp Act – 1765: Protests

The first bold attempt to tax all the colonies was by the passage of a Stamp Act in 1765. Though the Sugar and Molasses Act had been renewed two years prior to this act, still it affected only New England, while the Stamp Act aroused opposition in all the colonies. It required all legal and public documents, marriage certificates, wills, etc., to be written on stamped paper, for which an increased price was asked, the surplus going to the government. The passage of the act was preceded by a year's notice from Prime Minister, Lord Grenville, that such action was contemplated.

At a town meeting in Boston, held in May, 1764 to protest the proposed tax, resolutions eloquently presented by Samuel Adams were passed which, for the first time, formally denied the right of the English government to tax the colonies without their consent. The Massachusetts legislature later endorsed these resolutions and issued a circular letter to the other colonies asking that they petition against the passage of the act. But, disregarding all these petitions, Parliament passed it.

The Stamp Act Congress – 1765

The interval between its passage and the day the Stamp Act was to go into effect

was full of excitement in the colonies. Clubs taking the name of “Sons of Liberty” were immediately organized all over the colonies. Massachusetts proposed a congress of delegates from all the colonies to discuss measures to defeat its enforcement. Nine colonies responded, and a declaration of rights was drawn up by this “Stamp Act Congress” and sent to the king. It was asserted therein that Americans were British citizens, and it was the right of all such to be represented in any body that levied taxes upon them. This congress also advised the formation of non-importation clubs among the colonial merchants as well as clubs among the people to encourage the use of home products in the colonies.

Organized Resistance:

Repeal of the Act; Declaratory Act

As the stamped paper began to arrive for distribution, the excitement became intense. Those who had accepted appointment as distributors were forced to resign, some of them being roughly handled on refusal. The paper was seized and in many cases burned. In Boston the Sons of Liberty tore down the frame building that was being erected for the distributor, and, piling it before his house, placed the stamped paper thereon and made a bonfire of the whole. In New York they broke into the coach house of the governor, placed images of the devil and the governor on the coach, then paraded the streets, finally burning coach and images, while the governor and General Gage and his militia looked on, not daring to resist. On the 1st of November, the day the act was to go into effect, funeral processions were formed, bells were muffled and tolled, and flags were placed at

half-mast. At Portsmouth, N. H., a coffin was borne in procession, inscribed, “Liberty, aged CXLV years”; when the grave was reached signs of life appeared, the changed inscription reading: “Liberty revived” while it was borne back amid great rejoicings.

Thus, the common people condemned the Stamp Act. And yet, few of the colonial leaders thought of resisting its enforcement after it was once passed, Franklin himself advising submission and Richard Henry Lee accepting appointment as one of the distributors. But the colonists bought none of the stamped paper; and further, the policy of non-importation among the colonial merchants was so effective that Parliament, yielding to the remonstrances presented by London merchants whose business had greatly suffered thereby, repealed the obnoxious act in 1766. A Declaratory Act was appended, however, to the repeal, announcing that the government still held to its right to tax the colonies whenever and in whatever ways it thought best.

Sparks of Liberty

Perhaps no single event in the history of the world has occasioned more flights of sublime eloquence than the American Revolution. At the session of the Virginia House of Burgesses following the announcement of the Stamp Act, Patrick Henry, then a young, inexperienced lawyer, rose in his place and launched forth on a speech which horrified the Tories by its fierce invective against the king, and electrified the friends of America at its bold declaration of the rights of freemen. With eyes flashing and hand uplifted, he thundered forth the philippic that has since

been the tocsin of every American orator, proclaiming liberty as against despotic rule – “Caesar had his Brutus, Charles the First his Cromwell, and George the Third – may profit by their example.”

James Otis was a young lawyer holding appointment under the king in Boston as state prosecutor. At the time of the furor over the writs of assistance (1761), he resigned his office to argue against their constitutionality. In an impassioned speech before the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, he gave utterance to that terse statement, “Taxation without representation is tyranny,” and declared that such iniquities as the writs in question had “cost one king of England his head and another his throne.” John Adams, in referring to the stirring events of the day on which Otis had made this great speech in defense of the liberties of the people, said: “On that day was American independence born.”

The Townshend Acts of 1767

While protesting against the Stamp Act, the colonial leaders had emphasized the distinction between external and internal taxes, and asserted that they were not opposed to the laying of the former. The outcry over the Stamp Act had hardly subsided when Charles Townshend, chancellor of the exchequer, therefore proposed the collection of duties on various articles such as glass, paper, painter’s colors, and tea. To this the colonists could not consistently object, though they found the matter objectionable enough in the fact that the act provided that the monies thus collected should be applied in paying the salaries of the officers of the king. But in connection with this measure were several

others, altogether known as the “Townshend Acts,” and to these the colonist entered vigorous protest.

Prior to the passage of these acts, the New York legislative body had refused to provide quarters for the troops sent over by the king. By one of these acts the New York legislature was forbidden to consider the passage of any other law until quarters were provided for the king’s troops.

Another act provided for the appointment of a board of commissioners to control the collection of all customs and duties, and provision was made for the trial of all revenue cases by admiralty courts without juries.

These acts were promulgated the year following the repeal of the Stamp Act, and immediately fanned into fierce flame the smoldering embers left by that uproar.

In Boston, Samuel Adams wrote a series of addresses on the acts, which were published by the Massachusetts legislature and broadcast throughout the colonies, together with a circular letter urging concert of action as before. The merchants revived their non-importation societies, and the people again denied themselves the use of English goods and encouraged the exclusive use of articles of home manufacture.

“Letter of a Pennsylvania Farmer” – 1768

These letters were prompted by the passage of the Townshend Acts and were written by John Dickinson, a young Philadelphia lawyer who assumed the guise and language of a farmer. He was a man of fine education, a thorough patriot, and possessed of a wonderful insight into the needs of the colonies. His letters were

moderate in tone, yet filled with convincing logic that drove straight to the point.

Breathing a deep spirit of patriotism, they became a great factor in the preparation of the people for the coming conflict.

The Sloop Liberty – 1768;

The Boston Massacre – March 5, 1770;

The Revenue Cutter Gaspee – 1772

Three of the events of these years are representative of the spirit of the times.

The seizure of the sloop Liberty occurred in the harbor of Boston in 1768. Although the colonists did not deny the right of the English government to collect port duties, they felt the hardships imposed and evaded the payment of the duties whenever possible. Soon after the new board of commissioners had arrived from England, the sloop Liberty was seized, without an official warrant, by a boat's crew from the British frigate Romney, for alleged violation of the revenue laws.

The board of English commissioners sustained the action of the crew in seizing the Liberty, whereupon a large crowd gathered in the streets of Boston, the demonstration growing so violent that the frightened commissioner took refuge on board the Romney. The Liberty was owned by John Hancock, the wealthy patriot merchant who was to be the first signer of the Declaration of Independence.

This incident led indirectly to the Boston massacre two years later. The accounts which the commissioners wrote of the matter to the home government were so lurid – characterizing the people of Boston as law-breakers and urging the immediate necessity of a military force in the city – that the king dispatched General Thomas Gage, a commander-in-chief of the

British forces in American, to Boston with two regiments of troops.

The city authorities refused to permit these troops to be quartered in Boston, quoting law to the effect that the barracks in the harbor must first be filled. However, General Gage found shelter for his troops by the payment of a high rent, and the soldiers were kept in the city. Collisions between soldiers and the rougher elements of the town were not infrequent, though there was not serious outbreak until the night of March 5, 1770. On that night a false alarm of fire caused a large crowd to gather on the streets. This crowd, having nothing better to do, began to harass the British sentinels. As is usual at such time, a quarrel ensued. One word brought on another. Several soldiers were ordered out to aid the sentinels, and in the growing excitement a gun was fired by someone in the crowd. This was answered by a volley from the soldiers, resulting in the killing of five of the citizens and the wounding of six others.

Indignation flared, and it was feared the soldiers would be seized and summarily dealt with. But wiser counsel prevailed. The soldiers involved in the firing were given up to the civil authorities, and were tried for murder.

Two of the most distinguished and able patriot lawyers, John Adams and Josiah Quincy, Jr., defended them. All were acquitted but two, who were given a sentence of manslaughter and branded on the hand.

The immediate effect of the massacre was the withdrawal of Gage's regiments from the city at the insistent demand of the Bostonians. They were henceforth quartered in barracks on an island in the

harbor. The Boston massacre served to arouse the people of all the colonies against the iniquity of quartering troops on any people without their consent.

The burning of the *Gaspée* was another link in the chain that led up to the Revolution. The *Gaspée* was a revenue cutter used to patrol the New England coast in search of smugglers. The *Gaspée*'s crew became so high-handed in their conduct that it was resolved to punish them. One night in Narragansett Bay the cutter ran aground. Eight boatloads of colonists boarded her and, setting the crew on land, burned the stranded ship down to the waterline. This act was made the subject of an investigation by Parliament, but the appointed commission was unable to obtain sufficient evidence against particular colonists and declared themselves unable to try the case.

Cheap Tea, and the Boston Tea Party – Dec. 16, 1773

The policy of non-importation had again had its effect and the British ministry, after three years' trial gave up in despair, so far as revenue was concerned. All duties were removed except on tea, and on this article the duty was made so low that tea could be bought cheaper in America than it could be bought in England.

The king meant to "try the question with America," as he put it. He selected tea for the trial in order to help the East India Tea Company, in whose warehouse in London the tea had been accumulating because the Americans refused to use it. The Americans, however, were fighting for a principle and could not be silenced by cheaper tea. By 1773 the tea company had

17,000,000 pounds of tea in their warehouses, and cargoes were sent to Charleston, Annapolis, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. The colonists were, however, united in sentiment. At Charleston the tea was removed from the ship and stored purposely in damp cellars, where it soon spoiled. At Annapolis it was seized and burned. The Philadelphia and New York authorities sent the ships back to England with their cargoes. But it remained in Boston, under the leadership of that sturdy patriot, Samuel Adams, to furnish the most unique method of settling the question.

The first ship arrived in Boston harbor on Sunday. A mass meeting was held the next day at which it was decided that the ships must not be allowed to unload, and the day following the captain promised to sail back to England as soon as he could receive his clearance papers from the governor. In the meantime, other ships having arrived, they were treated in a similar manner. But the governor delayed granting the clearance papers, hoping to pass the time limit of twenty days, when the shipping law required a cargo to be landed and store. Thursday, December 16, marked the twentieth day, and the governor still delayed, finally refusing to issue the papers. When this fact had been reported to the citizens in session at the Old South Church, Samuel Adams rose and said: "The meeting declares it can do nothing more to save the country." A few minutes after, a company of forty or fifty reputable citizens, lightly disguised as Indians and followed by an immense crowd, proceeded quietly to the wharf and, boarding the vessels, cut open the tea cases and threw their contents into the harbor.

Afterward, the people quietly dispersed. This event is known in history as the Boston Tea Party.

**The Boston Port Bill and the
“Intolerable Acts”
– March and June, 1774**

When the story of how the different cargoes were treated reached the English authorities, they determined the people of Boston should be visited with special punishment and the other colonies should be made to feel England’s power. A series of acts was accordingly prepared which, because of their severity, became known in America as the “Intolerable Acts.”

The first of these was the Boston Port Bill. The second was the Regulating Act, which annulled the charter of Massachusetts and made it a royal province. The third was the Transportation Act, providing that any person indicted for murder while in the service of the king should not be tried where the act was committed, but in England. The Quartering Act removed all legal obstacles to the quartering of troops in the colonies. The fifth and last was known as the Quebec Act. This act granted the French provinces religious toleration, and extended the province of Quebec westward to the Mississippi River and southward to the Ohio River. It was designed to prevent the province of Quebec from joining the other colonies in their demand for freedom. It still left intact the king’s old “proclamation

line” which had so greatly incensed the colonies in 1763. Several of the colonies claimed much of this new Quebec province as their own and felt outraged at the act. These acts were indeed “intolerable” acts. They were passed in 1774, and under their influence the Revolution ripened.

The Boston Port Bill was passed for the especial punishment of the city of Boston on account of its participation in the Tea Party. The bill went into effect June 1, 1774. It closed the port of Boston to everything but food and fuel until the tea should be paid for, and satisfactory evidence given that the people were thoroughly repentant.

**Effect of the Bill and
the Action of the Other Colonies**

The immediate effect of the Port Bill at Boston was of course distressing. The trade of that city was almost exclusively carried on by sea. A large portion of its inhabitants were engaged in occupations made necessary by sea traffic, and these were at once thrown out of employment.

But they were not dismayed, for they had the moral and material support of all the other colonies, to whom a circular letter had been sent asking for aid. The first of June was made a day of fasting and mourning in many of the colonies, and money and provisions were collected and forwarded to the stricken city. For all felt that this was a blow, which, although meant for Boston, was borne by that city in the interest of all the colonies.