

## British Colonial America: 1585- 1776

**Colony:** A country or area under the control of another country.

**Pilgrim** A person who travels to a sacred place for religious reasons.

**Puritans:** Protestants who did not think the Church of England reforms went far enough.

**Quakers :** A member of the Christian religious 'Society of Friends' .



America was 'discovered' in 1492 by Christopher Columbus , and from this point on many European countries tried to establish colonies in the '**New World**' to increase wealth and trade for their own country. The time period of British colonial expansion in the Americas lasted from 1585 to 1776.

**Roanoake- 1585 (Elizabeth I)**

The first attempt by the British to colonise North America began with the Roanoke Colony in 1585. The Roanoke Colony failed

**Jamestown- 1607 (James I)** Jamestown, Virginia became the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. Only 60 out of 500 settlers in Jamestown survive the winter of 1609-1610. It is called the "Starving Time."

**1614** - Jamestown settler John Rolfe marries Pocahontas, the daughter of the Powhatan Indian chief.

**1619** - The first African slaves arrive in Jamestown

**1620 - Plymouth Colony** is founded by the Pilgrims

**1630** - Puritans found the city of Boston. (**Charles II**)

**1664** - England captures the New Netherlands and names it the Province of New York. The city of New Amsterdam is renamed New York

**1754** - The French and Indian War begins between the British colonists and the French. Both sides ally with various Indian tribes (**George II**)

**1763** - The British win the French and Indian War and gain a significant amount of territory in North America including Florida (**George III**)

**1765** - The British government passes the Stamp Act taxing the colonies. The Quartering Act is also passed allowing British troops to be housed in private homes.

**1773** - Bostonian colonists protest the Tea Act with the Boston Tea Party.

**1775** - The Revolutionary War begins

Religion played a large role in the settling and founding of many of the American colonies. Plymouth Colony was largely founded by Separatists **Pilgrims** (people who wanted to separate from the Church of England). Massachusetts Bay Colony was settled by **Puritans** who were being persecuted in England. Rhode Island and Connecticut were both founded by religious leaders who wanted religious freedom beyond that of Massachusetts. Pennsylvania was founded by the **Quakers** and Maryland was founded as a safe haven for **Catholics**

The **Mayflower** and the Speedwell originally left Southampton, England on August 4, 1620. However, they had to stop because the Speedwell was leaking. They decided to leave the Speedwell behind and crowded as many passengers as they could on the Mayflower. They left Plymouth on September 6, 1620. From Plymouth, England the Mayflower set out west across the Atlantic Ocean. The original destination had been Virginia, but storms moved the ship off course. Over two months after leaving Plymouth, the Mayflower spotted Cape Cod, Massachusetts on November 9, 1620. Although they were north of where they originally had planned to settle, the Pilgrims decide to stay and named the new settlement **Plymouth**.





## 13 colonies

The English expanded from Jamestown along the east coast of North America, eventually developing into thirteen distinct colonies. As the colonies grew in population and wealth, they became increasingly independent from England. When England began to tax the colonies in the mid-1700s, the colonies protested saying they would not stand for "taxation without representation."

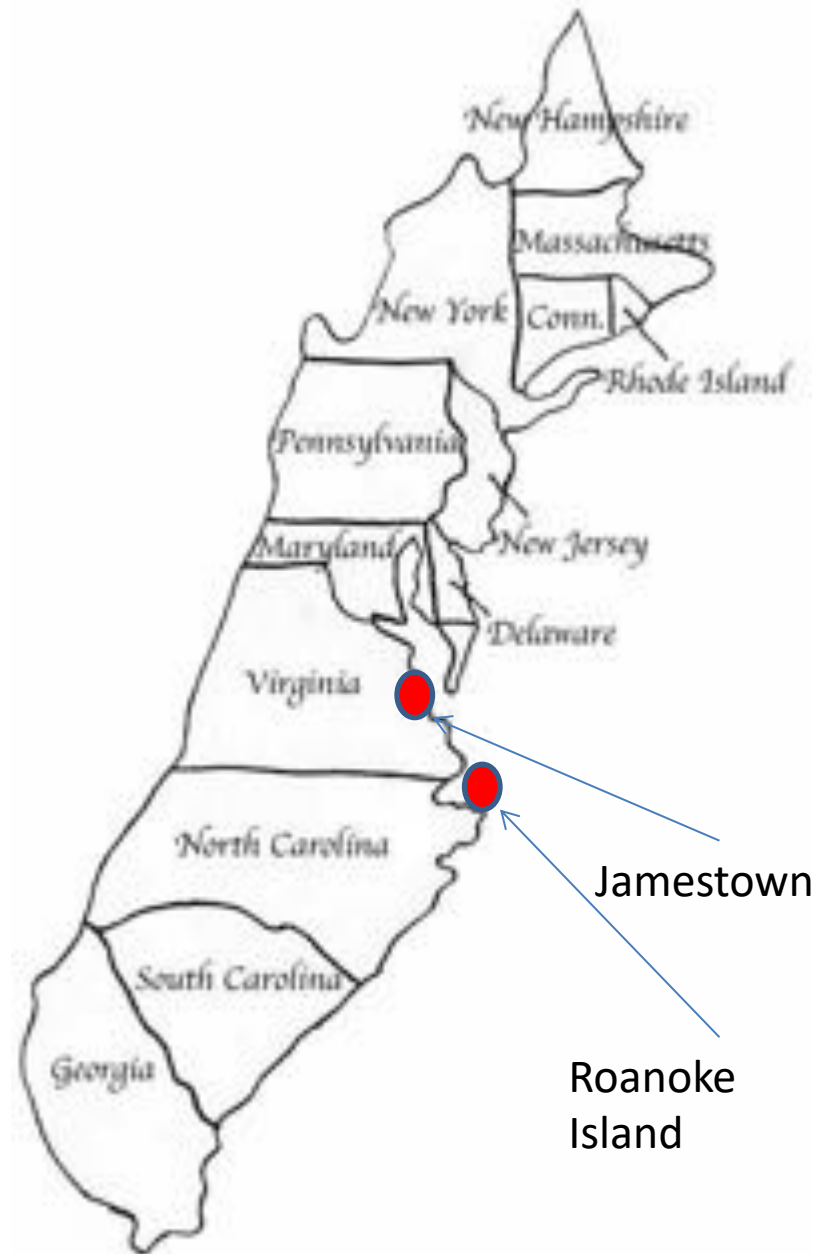
In 1775, the Revolutionary War broke out between England and the colonies. The colonies officially declared their independence in 1776 forming the United States of America

What do you think the colonies meant by "taxation without representation"?



The thirteen colonies were:

**Delaware,  
Pennsylvania,  
New Jersey,  
Georgia,  
Connecticut,  
Massachusetts Bay,  
Maryland,  
South Carolina,  
New Hampshire,  
Virginia,  
New York,  
North Carolina,  
Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.**



## Causes of The American Revolution

**Colonists:** A country or area under the control of another country.

**Taxation:** the government collecting money from its citizens to pay for things that the people need.

**Smuggling:** to export or import secretly and unlawfully

**Independent:** freedom from the control or influence of others.

The American Revolution was a time when the British colonists in America rebelled against the rule of Great Britain. There were many battles fought and the colonies gained their freedom and became the independent country of the United States.

The American Revolutionary War lasted from 1775 until 1783.



## Cause 1

The colonists felt that the British government had no right to tax them because there were not any representatives of the colonies in the British Parliament. The colonies had no say in how much the taxes should be or what they should pay for. They didn't think this was fair. They called this "taxation without representation"

## Cause 3

The **French and Indian War** was fought between the British American colonies and the French, who had allied with the American Indians. It lasted from 1754 to 1763. The American colonies eventually won the war, but only with the help of the British army. The British government felt that the colonies should share in the expense of the war and help to pay for the British troops in the Americas

## Cause 2

The Stamp Act was a tax put on the American colonies by the British in 1765. It said they had to pay a tax on all sorts of printed materials such as newspapers, magazines and legal documents. It was called the Stamp Act because the colonies were supposed to buy paper from Britain that had an official stamp on it that showed they had paid the tax.

## Task:

Read through the causes and give them a heading.

Summarise the cause in a couple of sentences and then add a picture to go with it.



## Reaction to the Stamp Act

The colonies reacted in protest to the Stamp Act. They refused to pay the tax. The tax collectors were threatened or made to quit their jobs. They even burned the stamped paper in the streets. The colonies also boycotted British products and merchants



## The Act is Repealed

Eventually, the protests of the colonies to the Stamp Act began to hurt British merchants and businesses. The Stamp Act was repealed on March 18, 1766. However, the same day they repealed the Stamp Act, they passed the **Declaratory Act** which stated that the British Parliament had the right to make laws and taxes in the colonies

The British government didn't stop trying to tax the colonies. They continued to add taxes including a **Tea Tax 1773** that would lead to the Boston Tea Party and eventually the American Revolution.



What was the Declaratory Act and how do you think the colonists would have felt about it?



## The Townshend Acts?

The Townshend Acts were a series of laws passed by the British government on the American colonies in 1767. They placed new taxes and took away some freedoms from the colonists including the following:

- New taxes on imports of paper, paint, lead, glass, and tea.
- Established an American Customs Board in Boston to collect taxes.
- Set up new courts in America to prosecute smugglers (without using a local jury).
- Gave British officials the right to search colonists' houses and businesses

Which part of the Townsend Acts do you think would have been resented the most?  
Remember to give your reason why.

## Results of the Acts

The acts caused continued unrest in the colonies. Many of the merchants in the colonies organized boycotts against British goods. They also began to **smuggle** in goods to avoid the taxes. Finally, protests in Boston turned violent when British soldiers panicked and killed several people in what would become known as the **Boston Massacre**.

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# The Boston Massacre -1770

The Boston Massacre began the evening of March 5, 1770 with a small argument between British Private Hugh White and a few colonists outside the Custom House in Boston. The argument began to get worse as more colonists gathered and began to harass and throw sticks and snowballs at Private White.

Soon there were over 50 colonists at the scene. The local British officer of the watch, Captain Thomas Preston, sent a number of soldiers over to the Custom House to maintain order. However, the sight of British soldiers armed with bayonets just aggravated the crowd further. They began to shout at the soldiers, daring them to fire.

Captain Preston then arrived and tried to get the crowd to disperse. Unfortunately, an object thrown from the crowd struck one of the soldiers, Private Montgomery, and knocked him down. He fired into the crowd. After a few seconds of stunned silence, a number of other soldiers fired into the crowd as well. Three colonists died immediately and two more died later from wounds

# The Boston Massacre

After reading the description of the Boston massacre on the last slide, write a speech bubble from the point of view of a colonist and a British soldier, stating what they think caused the massacre and whose fault it was.





What is happening in this picture?



The illustration depicts a public execution scene. A man is being hanged from a gallows in the center. A crowd of people, including men and women in period clothing, are gathered around. Some are holding up signs or banners. In the foreground, a man in a blue shirt is kneeling, possibly in prayer or mourning. The scene is set outdoors with trees in the background.

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## The Boston Tea Party- 1773

The Boston Tea Party was a **protest** by the American Colonists against the British government. They staged the protest by boarding three trade **ships** in Boston Harbour and **throwing the ships' cargo of tea overboard** into the ocean.

They threw 342 chests of tea into the water. Some of the colonists were **disguised as Mohawk Indians**, but the costumes didn't fool anyone. The British knew who had destroyed the tea

Why do you think this happened?

Why was it tea that got thrown overboard?







Write a paragraph to explain the causes and events of the Boston Tea party

## Why?

Tea was a favourite drink among the British and the colonies. It also was a major source of income to the East India Trading company. This was a British company and the colonies were told they could only buy tea from this one company. They were also told they had to pay high taxes on the tea. This tax was called the Tea Act.

This didn't seem fair to the colonies as they were not represented in British Parliament and didn't have a say on how the taxes should be done. They refused to pay taxes on the tea and asked that the tea be returned to England. When it wasn't, they decided to protest Britain's unfair taxes by throwing the tea into the ocean.

## Intolerable Acts

The Intolerable Acts were five laws that were passed by the British Parliament against the American Colonies in 1774.

### **How did they get their name?**

They were given the name "Intolerable Acts" by American Patriots who felt they simply could not "tolerate" such unfair laws.

### **Why did Britain impose these new acts?**

The British passed these acts as punishment for the Boston Tea Party.

The Intolerable Acts became a rallying cry for patriots in America. They felt these acts took away some of their basic freedoms. In many ways, these acts helped to unite the colonies and pushed them one step closer to revolution





## The Continental Congress

The First Continental Congress took place in 1774. Delegates from each colony met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They discussed the current situation with Britain including the Intolerable Acts, which the British Parliament had imposed on Boston as punishment for the Boston Tea Party.

The delegates took two major actions:

**1. They sent a letter to King George III explaining the issues the colonies had with the way they were being treated. They demanded that the King stop the Intolerable Acts or they would boycott English goods. However, the King chose to ignore them and the Americans began the boycott.**

**2. They made a plan to meet again in May of 1775 if the British did not meet their demands.**

Members of the First Continental Congress included John Adams, Patrick Henry, and George Washington. The President of the First Congress was Peyton Randolph.

Do you think the demands of the Continental Congress were unreasonable?  
Why do you think King George III ignored them?



By the time the Continental Congress was due to start again, the first battles had already taken place. The Battle of Lexington and Concord started in April 1775.

The American war of Independence had started.

### Task.

Create a dual coded (images and text) mind map or timeline of the key events leading up to the American War of Independence. You must include:

- The Stamp Act
- The Declaratory Act
- The Townsend Acts
- The Boston Massacre
- The Tea Tax
- The Boston Tea Party
- The Intolerable Acts
- The Continental Congress
- The Battle of Lexington

Try to include key information, causes and links between events.

