

The Boston Tea Party

Introduction Paragraph: Have you ever been to a tea party? During the American Revolution, colonists loved tea. They loved it so much they became very angry when King George, the King of England, decided to tax them, or charge them more money to purchase tea. One night, they decided to gather together and have a “tea party”, but it wasn't exactly your typical tea party. They wanted to protest against the king! How does the Boston Tea Party have an effect on the cause of the Revolutionary War?

Body Paragraph #1: The Boston Tea Party is one of the most memorable events during the American Revolution. It happened on the night of **December 16, 1773** at the **Boston Harbor in the Massachusetts Colony**. Samuel Adams and Paul Revere, patriot leaders, were just two of the many colonists who boarded three of the British ships importing tea to the colonies. They dumped 342 chests of tea overboard into the harbor. Some of the men disguised themselves as Mohawk Indians so the British would not find out it was the colonists. The colonists had a good reason to throw their beloved tea into the harbor, but it came with more consequences.

Body Paragraph #2: The Boston Tea Party was the result of “Taxation without Representation”. This was a very famous phrase that was chanted often after the Boston Tea Party. *What does it mean?* The colonists were told they could only buy tea, which they loved very much, from only one company, the East India Trading company, a British owned company. They were also told they had to pay high taxes on the tea. This tax was called the Tea Act. The colonists became very angry because they felt this was not fair. They did not have anyone representing, or supporting them, in the British Parliament to help stand up for them. Only the King was making these unfair decisions and the colonists had no say. However, the colonists took matters in their own hands. To prove to King George they did not agree with this, a group of men dressed up as Mohawk Indians, they wanted to disguise themselves, and boarded three British ships in the Boston Harbor carrying tea. They dumped 342 containers of tea overboard into the water. This totaled about 90,000 pounds of tea! In today's money that would be around a million dollars in tea. This “tea Party” showed defiance to the King, but it also showed a lot of courage and bravery. The colonists came to America for freedom and this night proved they were willing to “fight” for what was right.

Body Paragraph #3: The Boston Tea Party was a major milestone for the colonists. However, it came with consequences. When the news reached England, King George III was furious and in return shut down Boston Harbor until all of the 340 chests of British East India Company tea were paid for. This was created under the the Intolerable Acts. In addition to the Intolerable Acts, King George also implemented the Massachusetts Government Act, the Administration of Justice Act, the Quartering Act, and the Quebec Act. The colonists yet again became very angry and continued to protest against King George. They had enough of these acts and decided to create the First Continental Congress in September and October of 1774. Their hope was to get the Intolerable Acts repealed, or *taken away*. The Boston Tea Party was the first significant act of defiance by American colonists and is a defining event in American history.

Conclusion: The American Revolution was the beginning of Americans coming together to fight in something they believed. They wanted a free land, a land of opportunity, and a land to start over. The Boston Tea party was the first pivotal time of when the colonists protested King George III and were willing to fight for what was right. The Revolutionary time period had many important defining events for our country but the night that tea was dumped overboard was a turning point in our history.