

Building Colonial Unity

Essential Question

How did the colonists react to British policies?

Reading Guide

Content Vocabulary

propaganda (p. 127)

committee of correspondence (p. 128)

Academic Vocabulary

occupy (p. 127)

encounter (p. 127)

Key People and Events

Crispus Attucks (p. 127)

Boston Massacre (p. 127)

Tea Act (p. 128)

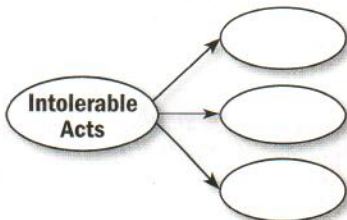
Boston Tea Party (p. 129)

George III (p. 129)

Coercive Acts (p. 129)

Reading Strategy

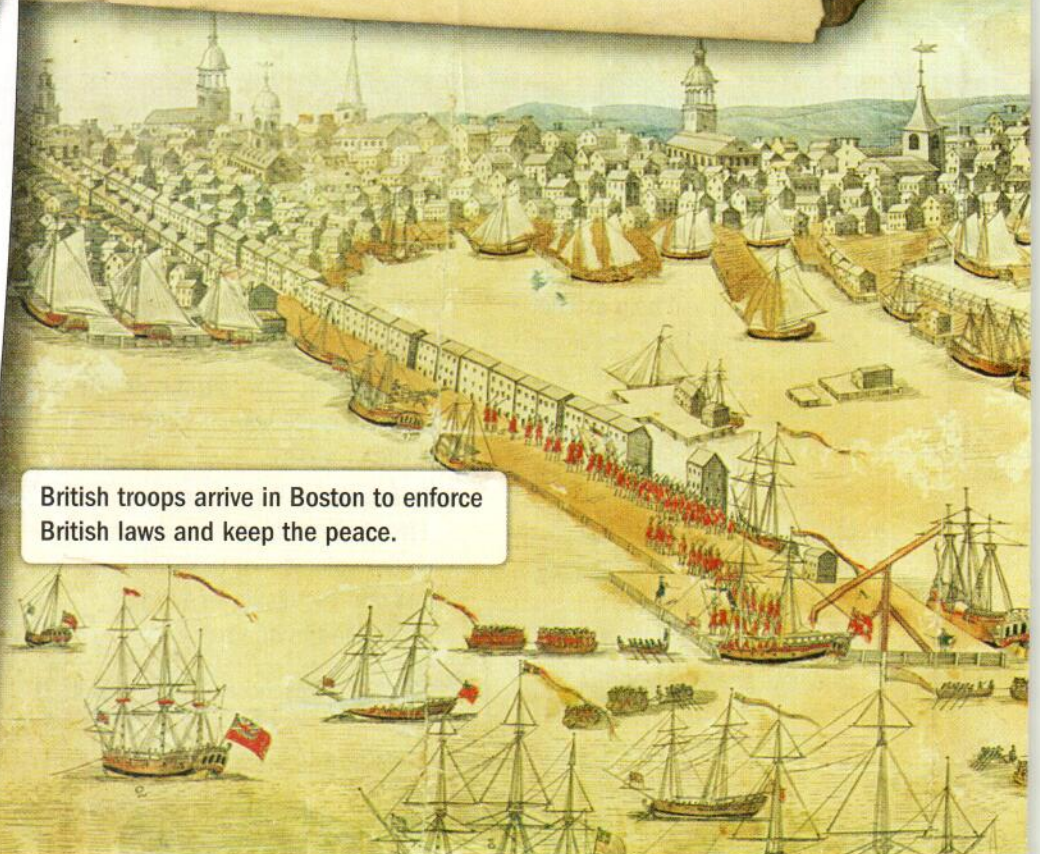
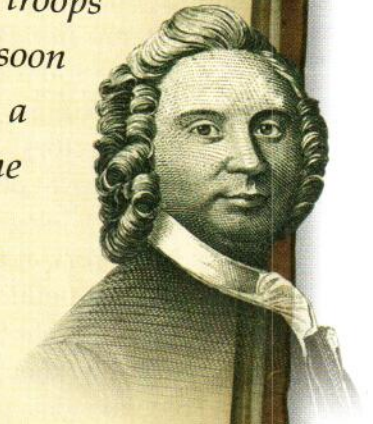
Taking Notes As you read, take notes on how the Intolerable Acts affected the colonists.



American Diary

To enforce tax laws, British troops arrived in Boston. Conflict soon erupted. On March 5, 1770, a Boston merchant wrote: "The 29th [regiment] on duty. A quarrel between the soldiers and inhabitants; . . . A party of the 29th . . . fired on the people; they killed five, wounded several others. . . . The inhabitants are greatly enraged."

—from The Diary of John Rowe



British troops arrive in Boston to enforce British laws and keep the peace.

Trouble in Boston

Main Idea A violent clash between townspeople and British soldiers in Boston intensified anti-British feeling in the colonies.

History and You When someone taunts you, how do you react? Read to learn how British soldiers responded to the jeers of Bostonians.

By 1768, protests by the colonists were making British colonial officials nervous. They sent word to Britain that the colonies were on the brink of rebellion. Parliament sent troops to Boston. As angry Bostonians jeered, the “redcoats” set up camp in the center of the city.

Many colonists felt that the British had pushed them too far. First the British had passed laws that violated colonial rights. They also had sent an army to **occupy**, or control, colonial cities.

To make matters worse, the soldiers in Boston acted rudely and sometimes even violently toward the colonists. Mostly poor men, the redcoats earned little pay. Some stole goods from local shops or scuffled with boys who taunted them in the streets. The soldiers also competed off-hours for jobs that Bostonians wanted.

The Boston Massacre

On March 5, 1770, a fight broke out between Bostonians and the soldiers. While some British officers tried to calm the crowd, one man shouted, “We did not send for you. We will not have you here. We’ll get rid of you, we’ll drive you away!”

The angry townspeople moved toward the customhouse, where British taxes were collected, picking up sticks, stones, and clubs. As the crowd approached, the sentry panicked and called for help. The crowd threw sticks and stones at the soldiers. “Fire, you bloodybacks, you lobsters,” the crowd screamed. “You dare not fire.”

After one soldier was knocked down, the nervous redcoats did fire, killing five colonists. One Bostonian cried: “Are the inhabitants to be knocked down in the streets? Are they to be murdered . . . ?” Among the dead was **Crispus Attucks**, a dockworker who was part African, part Native American. The colonists called the tragic **encounter**, or unexpected meeting, the **Boston Massacre**.

The Word Spreads

Colonial leaders used the killings as **propaganda**—information made to influence public opinion. Samuel Adams put up posters that described the “Boston Massacre.”

Primary Source **Protesting the Boston Massacre**

AMERICANS!
BEAR IN REMEMBRANCE
The HORRID MASSACRE!
Perpetrated in King-street, BOSTON,
New-England.
On the Evening of March the Fifth, 1770.
When FIVE of your fellow countrymen,
GRAY, MAVERICK, CALDWELL, ATTUCKS,
and CARR,
Lay wallowing in their Gore!
Being basely, and most inhumanly
MURDERED!
And SIX others...

Colonial Propaganda The event described by John Rowe became known as the Boston Massacre. People used that event to rally opposition to the British presence in Boston. This poster recalling the Boston Massacre was printed more than two years later.

Critical Thinking

Analyzing How does this poster indicate bias?

Primary Source The Boston Tea Party

★ **May 1773**
Parliament passes the Tea Act.

★ **November 30, 1773**
Citizens of Boston vote to prevent three shiploads of tea from being unloaded.

★ **December 16, 1773**
Boston Tea Party: Boston citizens disguised as Native Americans board the ships and empty the tea into Boston Harbor.

★ **March 31, 1774**
George III and Parliament respond by closing Boston's port.



◀ Tea from the Boston Tea Party

"Fellow countrymen, we cannot afford to give a single inch! If we retreat now, everything we have done becomes useless!"

—Samuel Adams, December 1773

Critical Thinking

Speculating Why do you think the colonists disguised themselves as Native Americans to carry out the Boston Tea Party?

His posters showed a slaughter of innocent Americans by bloodthirsty redcoats. An engraving by Paul Revere showed British troops firing on an orderly crowd.

The Boston Massacre led many colonists to call for stronger boycotts on British goods. Aware of the opposition to its policies, Parliament repealed all the Townshend Acts taxes except the one on tea. The colonists ended their boycotts, except on tea. Trade with Britain resumed.

Some colonial leaders, however, continued to call for resistance to British rule. In 1772 Samuel Adams revived the Boston **committee of correspondence**, an organization used in earlier protests. Soon committees throughout the colonies were airing their grievances against Great Britain.

✓ **Reading Check Explaining** How did the colonists use the Boston Massacre to their advantage?

A Crisis Over Tea

Main Idea New British laws restricting colonial rights further enraged the colonists.

History and You If you destroyed someone else's property, would you expect to be punished for your actions? Read to find out about the consequences of the Boston Tea Party.

In 1773 the British East India Company faced ruin. To save the company, Parliament passed the **Tea Act**. This law allowed the company a virtual monopoly, or sole control, of the trade for tea in America. The act let the company sell tea directly to shopkeepers and bypass colonial merchants who normally distributed the tea.

Colonial merchants called for a new boycott. Colonists vowed to stop the East India Company's ships from unloading.

The Daughters of Liberty issued a pamphlet declaring that rather than part with freedom, “we’ll part with our tea.”

The Boston Tea Party

Despite warnings of a brewing crisis, the East India Company shipped tea to a number of colonial cities. The colonists forced the ships sent to New York and Philadelphia to turn back. Three tea ships arrived in Boston Harbor in late 1773. The royal governor refused to let the ships leave and ordered them to be unloaded. The Boston Sons of Liberty acted swiftly. On December 16, a group of men disguised as Mohawks boarded the ships at midnight. They threw 342 chests of tea overboard, an event that became known as the **Boston Tea Party**.

Word of this act of defiance spread. Colonists gathered to celebrate. Yet no one spoke of challenging British rule. Most colonists saw themselves as British citizens.

The Intolerable Acts

When news of the Boston Tea Party reached London, King **George III** realized that Britain was losing control of the colonies. He declared, “We must master them or totally leave them alone.” The British government responded by passing the **Coercive Acts** in

1774. These harsh laws were intended to punish the people of Massachusetts for their resistance to British law.

The Coercive Acts closed Boston Harbor until the Massachusetts colonists paid for the ruined tea. This action prevented the arrival of food and other supplies that normally came by ship. Worse, the laws took away certain rights. For example, the laws banned most town meetings in New England.

The Coercive Acts also forced Bostonians to shelter soldiers in their own homes. Parliament planned to isolate Boston with these acts. Instead the other colonies sent food and clothing to support Boston. The colonists held that the Coercive Acts violated their rights as English citizens. These rights included no quartering of troops in private homes and no standing army in peacetime.

Parliament then passed the Quebec Act. This law set up a government for Quebec. It also gave Quebec the area west of the Appalachians and north of the Ohio River. This provision ignored colonial claims to the area. The colonists expressed their feelings in *their* name for the new laws—the Intolerable Acts.

 **Reading Check** **Describing** How did the British react to the Boston Tea Party?

Section 2 Review

History ONLINE
Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Vocabulary

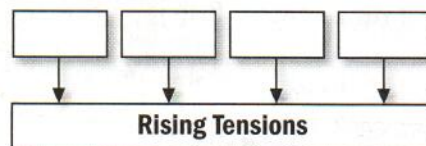
1. Write a short paragraph in which you use all of the following vocabulary terms: *occupy*, *encounter*, *propaganda*, *committee of correspondence*.

Main Ideas

2. **Describing** Describe the events leading up to and following the Boston Massacre.
3. **Explaining** How did the Tea Act give an unfair advantage to the British East India Company?

Critical Thinking

4. **Evaluating** How did Samuel Adams and Paul Revere try to sway public opinion about the Boston Massacre?
5. **Organizing** Use a diagram like the one below to identify events and policies that led to rising tensions in the 1770s.



6. **Creative Writing** Write an account of the Boston Massacre from the point of view of a British soldier involved in the event.

7. Answer the Essential Question

How did the colonists react to British policies?

America's LITERATURE

Meet the Author

Barry Denenberg (1946-) has said that the American Revolution is often presented to young people as a distant event. In writing *The Journal of William Thomas Emerson: A Revolutionary War Patriot*, Denenberg wanted to “bring the revolution to life by showing how it affected ordinary people and how they affected it.”

Building Background

In *The Journal of William Thomas Emerson: A Revolutionary War Patriot*, Barry Denenberg depicts life in Boston in the months leading up to the American Revolution as told by Will, a young orphan boy. Will works for Mr. Wilson, a tavern owner and member of the Committee, a group of colonists who oppose the British. As you read this excerpt, think about the actions of the Committee toward ordinary citizens and their effect on the political climate at the time.

Vocabulary

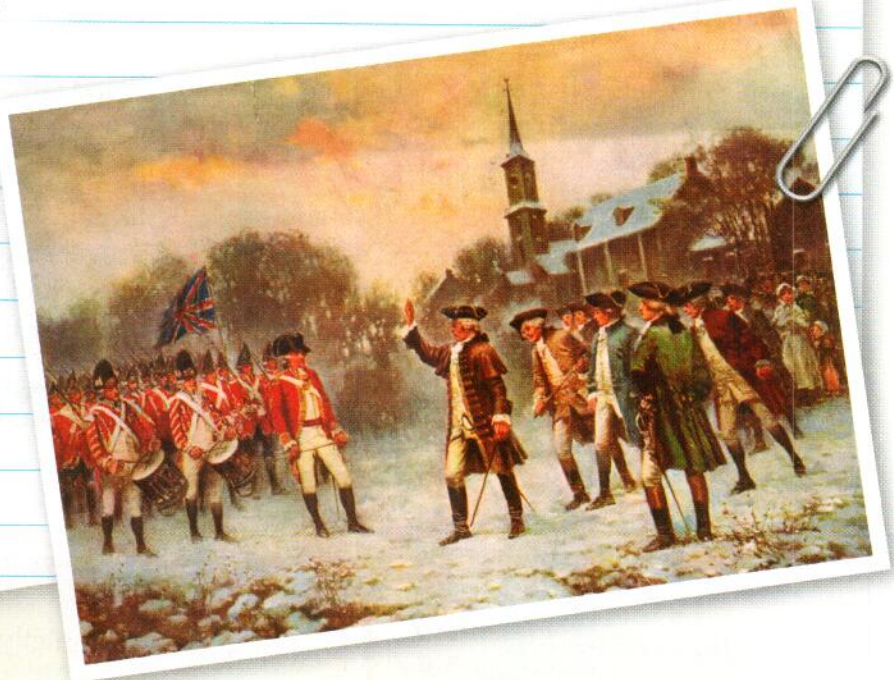
crown king

trampled crush

cowering crouching

feeble weak

soot ash



THE JOURNAL OF WILLIAM THOMAS EMERSON: A REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT

Barry Denenberg

The Fitch Sisters and the Committee

Mrs. Thompson is still angry about the Fitch sisters, who have a shop on Milk Street. She never raises her voice like that.

“It’s just like them to think they could bring in British goods and get away with it. You can count on the Fitch sisters to be concerned only about themselves, even in times like these. Imagine, claiming they are just trying to keep a roof

over their heads and food on the table. Isn't that all any of us are doing?"

The Fitch sisters say that if they didn't have British goods to sell they would find themselves poor in no time. But Mrs. Thompson says they're only making it harder on themselves by defending their actions and they should just admit their mistake. . . .

"They ought to get the same treatment as Mr. Carlisle," Mrs. Thompson said.

Henry told me all about Mr. Carlisle. We saw him one day walking down King Street dressed in lace and ruffles. Henry said he has long been suspected of being loyal to the **crown** and one night he finally got what he deserved. Some of the men from town marched out to his house. Mr. Carlisle is very rich, Henry said, "Almost as rich as Mr. Dudley. Mr. Carlisle's house was one of the grandest in Boston."

As soon as the crowd arrived they **trampled** the lawn, hacked down the trees, and overran the gate that surrounds the house. They smashed the big front doors with axes and then poured into the house, where they tore up the floorboards, ripped the curtains from the windows and, after finding Mr. Carlisle's portrait, tore the eyes out.

They dragged his finely carved furniture outside and smashed it to bits, ran off with his carpets and drank his wine cellar dry.

They found Mr. Carlisle **cowering** upstairs, trying to hide behind his bed curtains. They pulled him out despite his **feeble** efforts to hold on to the bedpost and then took his feather bed and threw it out the

window. A ladder was put up and Mr. Carlisle was lowered to those waiting below.

Once they had him outside, they stripped off his nightclothes, smeared him with hot tar and covered him with the insides of the feather bed.

When the house caught fire someone wanted to call for the firemen, but the crowd shouted him down, yelling, "LET IT BURN, LET IT BURN," and so they did. The flames, Henry said, could be seen for miles by dawn. . . .

Most of the men pulled nightcaps over their heads or darkened their faces with chimney **soot** so they wouldn't be recognized. Some were armed with sticks and clubs and Henry said that Mr. Carlisle was lucky not to have suffered even greater injury to his person than to his pride.

Of course, Mrs. Thompson didn't say any of this to me. I overheard it when she was talking to Mr. Wilson right before he went into the regular Tuesday night meeting with the Committee.

That's why I stay put on Tuesday nights. I never go anywhere. They meet late, after the tavern closes, in the small room next to the big barroom. As soon as I hear them all coming in I just lie there quietly on my cot and listen. . . .

Analyzing Literature

- 1. Respond** If asked to take sides in Mr. Carlisle's situation, which side would you take and why?
- 2. Recall and Interpret**
 - (a) Who tarred and feathered Mr. Carlisle? How do you know?
 - (b) Why do you think the Committee acted so drastically?
- 3. Evaluate**
 - (a) What do you think will happen to the Fitch sisters?
 - (b) Do you think the author does a good job in bringing the American Revolution to life for readers? Explain your answer.