

The Causes of the American Revolution

Read the following passage:

The American Revolution was not caused by a single event. Instead, it was the result of growing tensions between the American colonies and the British government. After the French and Indian War ended in 1763, Britain was deeply in debt. To raise money, Parliament began passing taxes on the American colonists. The **Stamp Act of 1765** required colonists to pay a tax on printed materials, such as newspapers and legal documents. Many colonists were upset because they had no representatives in Parliament. They protested with the slogan, “**No taxation without representation!**”

Another important event was the **Boston Tea Party** in 1773. In protest of the Tea Act, which gave a British company a monopoly on tea sales, colonists dressed as Native Americans and dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor. In response, the British passed the **Coercive Acts** (also called the **Intolerable Acts**) to punish Massachusetts. These laws closed Boston’s port and limited local government meetings. Instead of weakening the colonies, the acts brought them closer together.

Over time, these and other actions convinced many colonists that the only solution was independence from Britain.

Answer the questions below:

1. **Why did Britain begin to tax the American colonies after 1763?**
 - a. To support American trade
 - b. To punish the colonies for rebelling
 - c. To pay off debts from a war
 - d. To buy more tea
2. **What was the Stamp Act?** _____
3. **What did the colonists mean by “No taxation without representation”?**
4. **How did colonists respond to the Tea Act?** _____
5. **What effect did the Coercive Acts have on the colonies?**
 - a. They made colonies more loyal to Britain
 - b. They caused other countries to join the colonies
 - c. They helped unify the colonies
 - d. They made Boston richer
6. **In your own words, explain how multiple events led to the start of the American Revolution. (2–3 sentences)**

