

Name _____



Harbor Voices

Directions: Read the three short first-person stories below. Then answer the questions that follow to show what each person thinks about the Boston Tea Party.

Merchant: My shop depends on selling tea from Britain. Ever since the taxes were added, people have stopped buying it. Now some of my crates sit untouched at the harbor. If this anger continues, I might lose my business. I wish the King would listen to our complaints before things get worse.

Sailor: I help unload ships from faraway places. This week, the harbor buzzes with talk about protests. Some men say they will dump tea into the sea. I do not care about politics much, but if the ships are delayed, I do not get paid. I just want to keep working on the water.

Patriot: I refuse to pay unfair taxes. The King does not even let us vote on the laws he makes. Tonight, we will send a message by throwing the tea into the harbor. Britain must see that we will stand up for our rights and freedom.

1. Who is most worried about losing money?

2. Who is mainly focused on protecting personal rights and freedoms?

3. Who is concerned about being able to keep a job?

4. Which character supports destroying the tea?

5. Why does the merchant worry about the future?

6. How do these three people see the same event differently?
