

# CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION GAME



HOW AS OLD FRONT

**BOSTON MASSACRE, MARCH 5, 1770**

# REVOLUTION GAME

*Engraved for BARNARD's New Completed & Authentic HISTORY of ENGLAND*



*The Manner in which the American Colonies Declared themselves  
INDEPENDANT of the King of ENGLAND,  
throughout the different Provinces on July 4, 1776.*

**Written by:**

Herschel M. Sarnoff  
David Starr Jordan High School  
Los Angeles Unified School District

**Published by:**

H. M. S. Historical Games  
<http://multimedialearning.org>

All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce the game or any parts thereof in any form.

Copyright, January 1987

Revised, January, 2005

[hsarnoff@lausd.k12.ca.us](mailto:hsarnoff@lausd.k12.ca.us)

[hsarnoff@adelphia.net](mailto:hsarnoff@adelphia.net)

## GAME TITLE: CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION GAME

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will become familiar with the causes of the American Revolution.
2. Students will be able to identify the British attempts to tax the Colonies, and American's responses.
3. Students will participate in a fun activity while learning historical facts.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Duplicate all materials marked "Student Sheet" in classroom quantities.
2. Pass out Student Reading pages one and two. The reading and question sheet may be used as either a home or class work assignment.
3. Pass out Student Sheet page one and read orally in class. After reading, the sheet should be collected. The six choices from the sheet, along with their appropriate letters, should be written on a blackboard for easy reference.
4. Explain the game rules using the instructions below.

### HOW TO PLAY:

1. The winner of the game is the player with the most points at the end of turn eleven.
2. To get points, you must correctly write the responses you believe the Colonists took to the British actions. The teacher will read the British actions from the Teacher Sheet page 2. After all players have written down their answer letter, the teacher will announce the correct letter answer. All reactions are recorded on the Colonial Reaction Sheet.
3. Using the Colonial Reaction Sheet:
  - a. The record sheet is divided into seven columns, from A to G.
  - b. In Column A are the turn numbers, one to eleven.
  - c. In Column, write your point total from the previous turn's Column G. All players start with five points in Column B of Turn One.  
IMPORTANT: A player may have less than zero points, write such negative numbers with a minus (-) sign.
  - d. In Column C, write the British action that is read to the class by the teacher.
  - e. In Column D, write the letter(s) of the appropriate Colonial responses you believe the Colonists actually made. There may be from one to four correct answers per turn. Write on letter on each line.
  - f. Next, the teacher will read the correct letter(s) of the Colonial responses. These correct letter(s) should be written, one per line, in Column E.
  - g. To arrive at your new point total compare your letter(s) in Column D with the correct letter(s) in Column F. For each correct letter, you

write a +1 in Column F. For each incorrect answer, you write a -1 in Column F, one per line. Add/subtract your points and total them in Column F. Players do not lose points if they failed to put down one or more of the correct letters. They only lose points if they put down incorrect letter(s)/answer(s).

- h. To arrive at your new point total for the turn add/subtract the total number in Column F with the number in Column B. Write this number, either with a + or -, in Column G of the current turn, and in Column B of the next turn. That is the number of points you begin the next turn with.

#### EXAMPLE OF PLAY:

In Column B, a player has a total of +5 points. After the teacher has read the question, a player writes his choices of letters A, B and D in Column D, one per line. The teacher reads the correct letters, A, B, and C, which are written one per line in Column E. Next, compare the answers. There are two correct letters, A and B, and one incorrect answer, letter C. The points are as follows,  $+1 +1 -1 = +1$ . This +1 is written in Column F by the total line. Next, figure the points for this turn. You add your +1 to the +5 in Column B. This gives a new total of +6, which is written both in Column G of the current turn, and Column B of the next turn. Repeat the above steps 11 times. At the end of turn eleven, the player with the most points in Column G, is the winner.

#### ANSWERS TO STUDENT READING QUESTIONS:

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 7. A  |
| 2. A | 8. B  |
| 3. C | 9. A  |
| 4. A | 10. A |
| 5. C | 11. C |
| 6. B | 12. C |

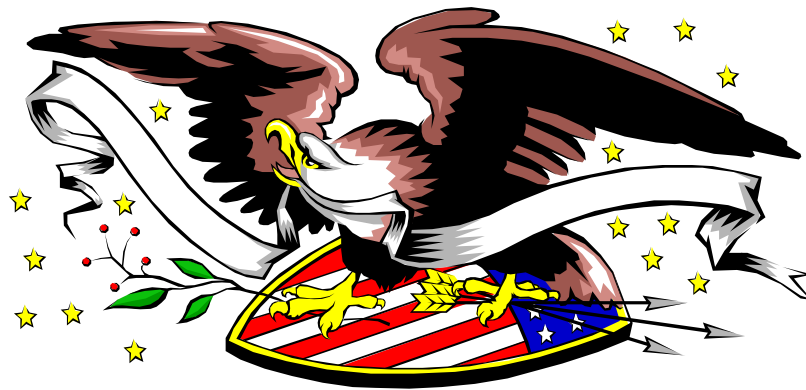
#### BRITISH ACTIONS – DIRECTIONS:

Read the following British actions. After a minute or two, give the correct answers (letters). The first turn row on the Record Sheet is unnumbered. You may want to use this as an example (see example above).

	<u>BRITISH ACTIONS:</u>	<u>CORRECT REACTION:</u>
TURN ONE:	Royal Proclamation of 1763	CORRECT REACTION A
TURN TWO:	Sugar and Molasses Act, 1763-4	CORRECT REACTION A
TURN THREE:	Stamp Act 1765 (Grenville)	CORRECT REACTIONS B,C,D,E
TURN FOUR:	Townshend Duties, 1767	CORRECT REACTIONS C,B
TURN FIVE:	British Troops sent to Boston, 1763	CORRECT REACTION D
TURN SIX:	Three Pence tax on tea, before 1773	CORRECT REACTION A
TURN SEVEN:	Period of Calm, 1770-1772(3)	CORRECT REACTION E

TURN EIGHT	British Revenue vessels attempting to stop smuggling, 1772	CORRECT REACTION D
TURN NINE:	Tea Tax, East India Company Monopoly, 1773	CORRECT REACTION D
TURN TEN:	Intolerable Acts, Quebec Acts, 1774	CORRECT REACTION C,E,B
TURN ELEVEN	Battle at Lexington /Concord and Bunker Hill, April, June 1775	CORRECT REACTION C,E,F

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: +24



### CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION READING

The American Colonists considered themselves loyal British subjects for over a hundred and fifty years. This attitude changed dramatically beginning in the 1760's. For over a century, Britain and France had been fighting a series of global wars. These wars extended into North America, where both countries had vast holdings. While French armies remained in North America, the American Colonists needed the protection offered by Britain's army and navy. This need for protection vanished in 1763 with the defeat of France in the French and Indian War, 1756-1763. The Peace of Paris that ended the war forced France to give Britain almost all of her possessions in the New World. Britain now controlled all of Canada and the French regions from the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of the St. Lawrence. The victory over France began a series of events that ended in the American Revolution.



After the end of the French and Indian War in 1763, Britain found herself with a huge war debt, and a large empire to protect. With the new territories came Indian Tribes that had previously been allied with France. There was a constant danger of Indian uprisings after Pontiac's Rebellion in 1763. Britain decided to send 10,000 troops to police the new lands. The British King and Parliament thought that the Americans should help pay for this protection. They also wanted Americans to help pay off the enormous debt built up in the wars with France. The King, George III, believed that he should have a direct role in ruling the Empire. To this end he built up a party in the Parliament to carry out his views. This increasing power of George III, and the attempts to tax the Americans, would lead directly to the American Revolution.

The first problem that developed between the Americans and the British involved settlement of the Western lands. The British were anxious to avoid bloodshed with the Indians. They realized that the Indians feared that Americans pushing across the mountains would take their lands away. To calm the Indians' fears the British issued the Proclamation of 1763. The Proclamation forbade Americans from settling lands to the west of the Appalachian Mountains. The law was almost impossible to enforce and American pioneers ignored it completely. American settlement in the Trans-Appalachian regions continued.



George Grenville became Prime Minister in 1763 and declared he would get the Americans to pay taxes. His first action was to enforce the laws against smuggling that had been rarely used in the past. He tried another series of Laws, but they proved harmful to the economies of both Britain and the colonies. Grenville asked the Americans what type of taxes they would be willing to pay. The Americans replied that they wanted no taxes placed on them by a government in which they had no voice. Their slogan was “no taxation without



representation”. Grenville decided to impose a Stamp Tax on the colonies.

The Stamp Tax had been used for many years in Britain and had proved a good source of revenue. When the Stamp Act was passed in 1765, it raised a storm of protest in the colonies. For the first time Parliament was placing an internal tax on the colonies. Before this, all taxing measures had been for the purpose of either regulating trade or bringing the Empire closer together. The Stamp Tax was different. All Americans, not just wealthy merchants or traders, would be affected. Many items used in daily life, such as wills, deeds, diplomas and newspapers, had to have stamps showing they were legal documents. There were several different methods the colonists used to resist the Stamp Tax. First, in several cities the stamps were seized and burned. Second, a group was formed known as the Sons of Liberty that

threatened stamp distributors with tar and feathers. No stamps were ever sold in the colonies. Third, a meeting of colonial leaders was called in New York. This meeting is known as the Stamp Act Congress of 1765, and worked on methods of fighting the Stamp Act. The Congress organized a boycott of British goods. Americans would not buy any goods from British merchants. The boycott was highly effective for it cut the profits of British merchants who made their living from selling goods to America. These merchants, many of whom had powerful friends in the government, put pressure on Parliament and the Stamp Act was repealed.

In 1767, another series of taxes were placed on the colonies. These were the Townshend Duties, which placed taxes on glass, lead, paint, paper and tea. The colonists answered the new taxes with a renewal of the boycott. Britain sent troops to Boston to enforce the Townshend Duties. In 1770, the Townshend Duties were repealed by the new Prime Minister, Lord North. Lord North promised to restore good relations between Britain and the colonies. The only tax kept in place was a small duty on tea. Americans were not bothered by the small tea tax for they bought tea that was smuggled.

For the next two years there was little conflict between Britain and her colonies. During this so-called “calm period” Americans were busy organizing Committees of Correspondence. There were some problems with British revenue ships seizing American ships engaged in

smuggling. One of these revenue ships, the Gaspee, was captured and burned by a band of Americans.

In 1773, another crisis broke out. This time it was over tea. The East India Company was having financial difficulties, and Parliament devised a scheme to help them out. This scheme gave the company a monopoly on the sale of tea to America. Along with the monopoly, Parliament set the price of the tea at a lower price than the smuggled tea the Americans were buying. On to this low price, the British added a small tax. If Americans bought the tea at the lower price, they would be paying a tax. Americans saw through this trick and reacted quickly. In several cities the captains of tea ships were forced to return to England. In Boston, where there were British troops, colonists dressed up as Indians and dumped the tea into the harbor. The British Government reacted angrily and decided to punish Boston and Massachusetts as an example to the other colonies. They passed a series of laws known as the Intolerable Acts. These laws destroyed the commerce and jobs of Bostonians and took away Massachusetts' right to govern itself.



Along with the Intolerable Acts another series of laws were passed that angered the Americans. These were the Quebec Acts of 1774. The purpose of these acts was to show the French Canadians that Britain would treat them fairly. The Americans saw the acts as a threat to their liberties.

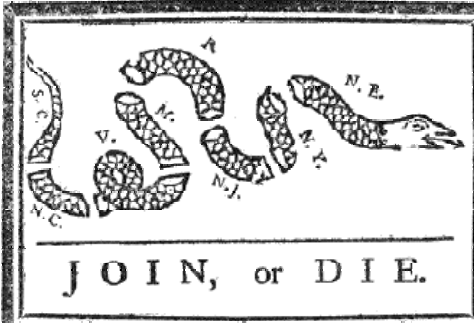
The British attempt to make Boston an example backfired. The other colonies rallied around Boston and increased their resistance to Britain. The Americans called a Continental Congress which met at Philadelphia in September of 1774. The Congress took immediate action. It sent appeals to Britain asking that the Intolerable Acts be repealed and then set up the Association. The Association ordered a complete boycott of British goods, and had committees checking to see that the boycott was obeyed.



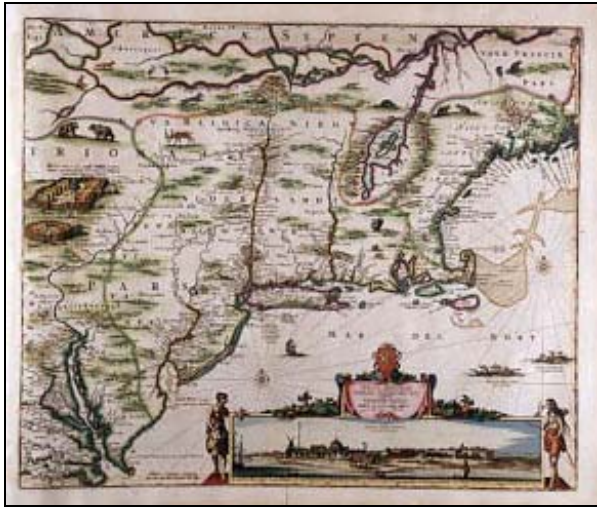
A second meeting of the Continental Congress was planned for May of 1775. Before the Congress could meet, fighting broke out between colonial militia and British troops at Lexington and Concord. Armed conflict had begun. The meeting of the second Continental Congress became a meeting of a government whose task was to fight a long and bitter war with Britain.



## Student Reading Question Sheet



1. Which nations won the French and Indian War?
  - a. France
  - b. United States
  - c. Britain
2. What was an important result of the French and Indian War for the American Colonists?
  - a. They were no less dependent on Britain for protection.
  - b. They were now more dependent on Britain for protection.
  - c. It ended a period of conflict with Britain.
3. What did Britain gain from the War?
  - a. thirteen colonies
  - b. possessions in Germany
  - c. Canada
4. What convinced Britain to send troops to North America after the War?
  - a. Pontiac's Rebellion
  - b. Intolerable Acts
  - c. France's aggressive behavior
5. What did the British King do to further his goal of ruling the Empire?
  - a. sought support from America's Colonists
  - b. sought support from other European nations
  - c. built up a party in Parliament that would support him
6. Why did the British issue the Proclamation of 1763?
  - a. they wanted to keep the Americans from expanding westward
  - b. they wanted to calm the Indians
  - c. they wanted to keep France out of the area
7. What was the American's chief objection to the Stamp Act of 1763?
  - a. Americans had no input in writing the law
  - b. It taxed too many items
  - c. There was no similar law in Britain
8. Which of the following was not a method the Colonists used to fight the Stamp Act?
  - a. stamps were seized and burned
  - b. ships carrying stamps were forced to return
  - c. stamp distributors were threatened
9. Who repealed the Townshend Duties in 1770?
  - a. Lord North
  - b. George III
  - c. Grenville
10. What was the "trick" in the cheaper tea of the East India Company?
  - a. Americans would be paying a tax
  - b. The tea was of poor quality
  - c. The tea was smuggled
11. What were the acts called that Britain passed to punish Boston and Massachusetts in 1774?
  - a. Tolerable Acts
  - b. Stamp Act
  - c. Intolerable Acts
12. What did the Continental Congress do to force Britain to cease in its punishment of Boston?
  - a. set up a Stamp Act Congress
  - b. burned the Gaspee
  - c. set up the Association



## TYPES OF COLONIAL RESISTANCE:

### Letters/Choices

- A. simple disobedience, not obeying the law, smuggling, etc.
- B. formal protests, petitions from Colonial groups or Governments
- C. boycott, refusal to buy (or sell) goods from Britain
- D. violence, mobs or small groups, not colonial militia or minutemen
- E. increased cooperation among the 13 colonies, Committees of Correspondence
- F. organized violence using the local minutemen or the Colonial militia

### EXAMPLES:

- A. Simple Disobedience: The Americans reaction to the British Proclamation of 1763 was to ignore the law. The Proclamation forbade Americans from moving west of the Appalachian Mountains. Americans continued to settle the lands beyond the mountains.
- B. Formal Protests: Almost all Americans felt that the Stamp Act of 1765 was unfair and should be repealed. Colonial legislatures issued protests against it, and other resolutions condemning the act were passed by numerous town meetings.
- C. Boycotts: Boycotts were an effective method of protesting against British attempts to tax the colonies. Boycotts involved the refusal of Americans to buy (or sell) goods from Britain. This refusal to import goods hurt the profits of British merchants. These merchants would then complain loudly to their government officials and the taxes would often be repealed.
- D. Violence, small groups or mobs: The use of violence to protest British laws was practiced in several colonies. The violence was carried out by mobs of semi-organized groups. One such group was the Sons of Liberty. Violence or the threat of violence was used against individuals like stamp distributors. Custom officials and others who tried to enforce British revenue laws might be tarred and feathered, or even have their homes wrecked.
- E. Increased Cooperation among the 13 Colonies: Before 1763, there was very little cooperation between the 13 American Colonies. The Stamp Act changed this. In violation of their rights. Nine colonies sent delegates and others sent their approval. Other examples of increased colonial cooperation were Committees of Correspondence and circular letters that traveled between the Colonial Assemblies.
- F. Organized violence using local minutemen or colonial militia: This form of protest was used only as a last resort. All the colonies had their own armies called militia. In addition, each town and village had it's own volunteer fighting forces that were called minutemen. This type of protest led to open warfare between Britain and her American Colonies. It began the American Revolution.

# CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION COLONIAL REACTION SHEET PAGE 1



A TURN	B POINT TOTAL	C BRITISH ACTION	D YOUR CHOICE OF COLONIAL REACTION	E CORRECT COL. REACTION	G GRAND TOTAL, ADD # IN COL B TO # IN COL. F
PRACTICE		1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ TOTAL _____	
1		1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ TOTAL _____	
2		1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ TOTAL _____	
3		1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ TOTAL _____	
4		1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ TOTAL _____	
5		1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ TOTAL _____	
6		1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ TOTAL _____	

# CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION COLONIAL REACTION SHEET PAGE 2

7		1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ TOTAL _____	
8		1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ TOTAL _____	
9		1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ TOTAL _____	
10		1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ TOTAL _____	
11		1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ TOTAL _____	
A TURN	B POINT TOTAL	C BRITISH ACTION	D YOUR CHOICE OF COLONIAL REACTION	E CORRECT COL. REACTION	G GRAND TOTAL, ADD # IN COL B TO # IN COL. F