

- 1754-1763 British Colonies in NA fight French and Indian War
- 1764 Sugar Act strengthens British enforcement of taxes on sugar & molasses
- 1765 Stamp Act Congress formed to protest British Stamp Act, which taxes legal documents
- 1767 Townshend Acts impose British tax on nearly everything, causing widespread colonial discontent
- 1770 Boston Massacre occurs when British soldiers fire upon a crowd of Bostonians and kill five
- 1773 Boston Tea Party occurs when Bostonians destroy English tea to protest Tea Act
- 1774 First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia; Britain enacts Intolerable (Coercive) Acts to suppress protestors after Boston Tea Party
- 1775 Battles of Lexington and Concord mark beginning of Revolutionary War
- 1776 Thomas Paine publishes Common Sense; Continental Congress signs the Declaration of Independence of July 4
- 1777 American forces defeat British General Burgoyne's troops at Battle of Saratoga
- 1781 Articles of Confederation ratified as basis for American law; Lord Cornwallis surrenders to American and French forces at Siege of Yorktown
- 1783 US and Britain sign the Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War
- 1784-1787 NW Ordinances create NW Territory & outline process for settling new land
- 1786-1787 MA farmers revolt in Shays's Rebellion
- 1788 Constitution ratified as basis of US law

Look around your work space. Notice any paper? Chances are that you buy and use paper products quite a bit, even if you're taking an online course. Imagine if you had to take all those goods—from newspapers to books to greeting cards—to a tax collector to get them stamped. And you had to pay for the stamp!

That's what American colonists had to do in 1765. Britain and the thirteen colonies had just won the French and Indian War in North America (part of the broader Seven Years' War). That victory brought huge territorial gains—at a cost.

For years, Britain had fought and paid for a war on multiple continents. The war had left the British with a great deal of debt, and they wanted the colonies to help pay it. Most American colonists thought they'd paid enough. Study the stamp and think about the following questions:

- What does it suggest about colonial feelings toward the Stamp Act?
- What might it foreshadow about British-colonial relations?

Seemingly small disagreements between Britain and her colonies soon proved to be the seeds of a rebellion that reshaped the world.

In this unit, you will explore how events led the American colonies to seek and fight for independence from Great Britain and what steps they took to form a new nation. Complete the activity to learn more about the events leading up to the American Revolution and the founding of the United States.



The Stamp Act of 1765 required colonists to have a tax collector stamp any printed paper products that they bought or used. Colonists mocked the stamp by printing a skull and crossbones to mark the location for the stamp.

Objectives

- Compare and contrast the arguments regarding British colonial policies following the Seven Years' War
- Identify the acts Britain imposed on the American colonies
- Classify the American colonists' responses to British acts in the mid-1700s

Key Words

- Boston Massacre
- Boston Tea Party
- boycott
- Coercive Acts
- Committees of Correspondence
- Currency Act
- Daughters of Liberty
- Declaratory Act
- duty
- Non-Importation Movement
- Pontiac's Rebellion
- Proclamation Line of 1763
- propaganda
- Quartering Act
- Sons of Liberty
- Stamp Act
- Stamp Act Congress
- Sugar Act
- Tea Act
- Townshend Acts