CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Grades 6-8

My name _____

The Stamp Act

Read the story. Then fill in cause and effect.

1765

In 1765, Parliament passed the Stamp Act. It was the first dir
the colonists themselves. Under the law, nearly every printed
showing that the tax was paid. This included newspapers, pa
playing cards. Lawyers, printers and merchants, who used p
Colonists were furious. They said that only their own elected
them. Protests spread. Groups called the Sons of Liberty f
the men who were supposed to sell the stamps. In October
met at the Stamp Act Congress and sent a statement of
also boycotted British goods, which means they refused
money and asked Parliament to act. In 1766, Parliament re
the same day, however, it passed the Declaratory Act, w
laws for the colonies in all cases.

Cause: Why did this happen?

Effect: What happened because of it?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. What did the Stamp Act tax?
   - A Imported tea
   - B Land sold in the west
   - C Printed paper, such as newspapers and
2. What happened in 1766?
   - A Parliament repealed the Stamp Act.
   - B Parliament doubled the Stamp Act tax.
   - C The colonies declared independence.

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 1

Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Read each piece. Paste it in the box for the event it describes.

Proclamation	Stamp Act	Townshend Acts

Boston Massacre	Boston Tea Party	Intolerable Acts

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

Soldiers fired into a crowd in Boston and five colonists died.	Settlers could not move west of the Appalachian Mountains.	Boston Harbor was closed until the tea was paid for.
A tax on newspapers, legal papers and playing cards.	Colonists dumped 342 chests of tea into the harbor.	Taxes on imported glass, lead, paint, paper and tea.

Which two events were hardest to tell apart? Why?

Causes of the American Revolution - Cut and Paste 1

24 STUDENT PAGES



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Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the ruled lines stay 0.34 inch apart. Every student page is black and white inside a colored border, so it still reads when copied in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker, class grid or team note carries a real student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page. Every question is read, and a fix ships as a free update.

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PREVIEW

How To Read a Page

The parts of a student page, then the page types in the order they come.

The parts of a page

- **The answer box.** A bordered box for a letter, a year or a number. Click it to type, or print and write in it.
- **The ruled work box.** Lines 0.34 inch apart. A short answer gets 4 lines; the cause and effect boxes get 3 and the paragraph page gets 18. It types and prints.
- **The check box.** True or false, yes or not yet: click or mark one.
- **The reading.** A short passage with the year at the top, then a cause box, an effect box and two checks.
- **The cut line.** Six pieces in a 3 by 2 grid, each 2.4 by 1.25 inches, edge to edge: two cuts across and two down.

Page type	What it looks like	What the student does
Before You Read, Words to Know	2 pages, 12 items	True or false on the big picture, match eight words to their meanings.
7 Readings	14 checks	Read, write the cause and the effect, answer two checks with a letter.
Timelines	2 pages, 14 items	Write the year for each event; number seven mixed-up events 1 to 7.
Chart and Two Points of View	2 pages	What Britain did and how colonists responded; what each side might say.
Think It Through, claim-evidence-reasoning	9 questions, 2 organizer pages	4 lines per question; a plan and an 18-line paragraph.
Quiz, Cut and Paste	12 items, 18 pieces	A quiz in two parts and three cut-and-paste mats (match, cause or effect, order).

Untimed, unscored on the page

No student page has a timer or a score on it. The keys and the tracker are for you. The answer keys are on pages 29 to 32.

A short account, not a full textbook

Each reading is a summary of one event in plain words. It is not a complete history, and it is not tied to any particular standard. Add your own textbook, map or source for more depth.

Printing and the type-in fields

Every page prints clean in black and white. The name line, every answer box, every ruled box and every check box are type-in fields in any PDF reader: click one, type, then save. This is a fillable PDF, not a slideshow or a word-processor file.

Open answers

Short answers, the chart, the points of view and the paragraph are open. The keys give a sample and what to look for. Accept any answer that is true to the readings and explains its reason.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____



Before You Read

Read the big idea. Then check true or false.

Great Britain ruled thirteen colonies in North America. Here is why they began to disagree.

The war	In 1763, Britain won the French and Indian War. The war left Britain with a very large debt.
The plan	Britain decided the colonies should help pay. Parliament, the group that makes laws for Britain, passed new laws and taxes for the colonies.
The problem	Colonists had no elected members in Parliament. They said only their own assemblies could tax them. Their slogan was "no taxation without representation."
The road	Over about eleven years, a chain of events pushed the colonies and Britain apart. You will read about seven of them, one at a time, on the next pages.

Try it. Is each sentence true or false?

1. The American colonies sent elected members to Parliament. ☐ true ☐ false
2. Britain had a large debt after the French and Indian War. ☐ true ☐ false
3. Many colonists said only their own assemblies should tax them. ☐ true ☐ false
4. The Revolution began because of one single law. ☐ true ☐ false

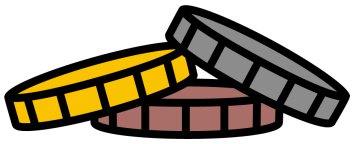
In your own words: why did Britain want the colonies to pay?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

The Sugar Act



Read the story. Then fill in cause and effect.

1764

The French and Indian War left Britain with a large debt. Britain also planned to keep soldiers in North America to defend the colonies, which cost more money. Leaders in Parliament decided that the colonies should help pay. In 1764, Parliament passed the Sugar Act. It lowered the tax on molasses, a sweet syrup the colonies imported to make rum, but it also set taxes on other goods, such as some sugar, coffee and wine. The biggest change was enforcement. Before, many merchants had avoided the old tax by smuggling or by paying officials to look away. Now British officials checked ships more closely, and people accused of breaking the law could be tried in a court with a judge and no jury. Colonial merchants were upset. They said the tax hurt their businesses, and they did not like losing a trial by jury. Some colonists began to argue that Parliament should not tax them at all, because they elected no members to it.

Cause: Why did this happen?

Effect: What happened because of it?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. Why did Parliament pass the Sugar Act? ☐
   - **A** To help pay Britain's war debt and the cost of defending the colonies
   - **B** To punish Boston for a protest
   - **C** To end the French and Indian War

2. What change did the Sugar Act make to the courts? ☐
   - **A** Colonists could vote for the judges.
   - **B** People accused of breaking the law could be tried without a jury.
   - **C** All trials moved to Philadelphia.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

The Townshend Acts

Read the story. Then fill in cause and effect.

1767

After the Stamp Act was repealed, Britain still needed money. In 1767, Parliament passed the Townshend Acts, named for Charles Townshend, a British official. These laws put new taxes on goods the colonies imported from Britain, including glass, lead, paint, paper and tea. Because the colonies had to import these goods, Parliament thought colonists would pay. Some of the money would pay the salaries of royal governors and judges, so those officials would no longer depend on the colonial assemblies for their pay. Colonists objected again. They said the taxes were passed without their consent. Merchants in several colonies agreed to boycott the taxed goods, and many families made their own cloth instead of buying British cloth. In 1768, Britain sent troops to Boston to keep order and help collect the taxes. Their presence made many people in the city angry. By 1770, Parliament repealed most of the Townshend taxes, but it kept the tax on tea.

Cause: Why did this happen?

Effect: What happened because of it?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. Which goods did the Townshend Acts tax? ☐
   - **A** Corn, wheat and cattle
   - **B** Glass, lead, paint, paper and tea
   - **C** Cotton, tobacco and rice

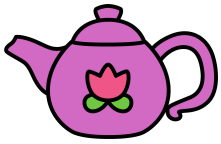
2. How did many colonists respond? ☐
   - **A** They paid the taxes quickly.
   - **B** They sailed to Britain to ask the king.
   - **C** They boycotted the taxed goods.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

The Tea Act and the Boston Tea Party



Read the story. Then fill in cause and effect.

1773

By 1773, the British East India Company was in money trouble and had a lot of tea it could not sell. To help it, Parliament passed the Tea Act in 1773. The law let the company sell tea directly to the colonies, without going through colonial merchants. This made the tea cheaper, even with a tax still on it. But many colonists were not happy. Colonial merchants would lose business, and colonists thought the law was a trick to make them accept Parliament's right to tax them. Many refused to buy the tea. In Boston, three ships loaded with tea sat in the harbor. On the night of December 16, 1773, a group of colonists, some wearing disguises, boarded the ships and dumped 342 chests of tea into the water. We call this event the Boston Tea Party. The colonists were protesting the tax. They did not hurt the crews. Leaders in Britain were shocked and angry that so much property had been destroyed.

Cause: Why did this happen?

Effect: What happened because of it?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. Why did many colonists dislike the Tea Act, even though it made tea cheaper? ☐
   - **A** Tea had been banned in the colonies.
   - **B** They saw it as a trick to make them accept Parliament's right to tax them.
   - **C** It made them pay a new tax on sugar.

2. How many chests of tea were dumped into Boston Harbor? ☐
   - **A** 342
   - **B** 34
   - **C** 3,420

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____



Words to Know

Write the letter of each meaning.

1	repeal		A	to refuse to buy or use something as a protest
2	tax		B	a place settled and ruled by another country
3	protest		C	to show strongly that you disagree
4	colony		D	money people must pay to the government
5	import		E	to bring goods in from another country
6	boycott		F	the group that makes laws for Great Britain
7	representation		G	to cancel a law
8	Parliament		H	having people chosen to speak and vote for you in government

Use two of the words in one sentence about the colonies.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ezee Quest

My name _____ Date _____

Timeline: Order

Number the events from 1 to 7.

These seven events are mixed up. Write 1 for the one that happened first, and 7 for the one that happened last.

1. Colonists dump tea into Boston Harbor. ☐
2. Parliament taxes printed paper. ☐
3. Settlers may not cross the Appalachian Mountains. ☐
4. Parliament closes Boston Harbor. ☐
5. New taxes on glass, lead, paint, paper and tea. ☐
6. Soldiers fire into a crowd in Boston. ☐
7. A law lowers the molasses tax but checks ships harder. ☐

Why does the order matter? Tell how one event led to the next.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ideas Shop

My name _____ Date _____

Two Points of View



Write what each side might say.

Each side had its own reasons. Write what a person on each side might have said. These are your own words, not real quotations.

The Proclamation of 1763

A member of Parliament might say...

A colonist might say...

The Stamp Act

A member of Parliament might say...

A colonist might say...

The Tea Act and the Boston Tea Party

A member of Parliament might say...

A colonist might say...

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Think It Through B

Answer each question in full sentences.

Use facts from the readings to answer.

4 How did colonists protest the Stamp Act? Name two ways.

5 How were the Stamp Act and the Townshend Acts alike?

6 Why did the Boston Massacre make colonists angrier at Britain?

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____

Claim, Evidence, Reasoning



Plan your answer. Write a claim, evidence and reasoning.

Question: Which event was the most important cause of the American Revolution?
Pick one event from the readings, pages 6 to 12.

I believe that ____ was the most important cause. For example, ____.
This shows that ____ because ____.

Claim: Which event do you pick?

Evidence: Give two facts from the readings.

Reasoning: Explain how your facts prove your claim.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Quiz, Part A

Read each one. Write the letter of the best answer.

Write the letter of the best answer in the box.

1. Which law was the first direct tax on the colonists themselves?
   - **A** The Sugar Act
   - **B** The Stamp Act
   - **C** The Proclamation of 1763

2. What does 'no taxation without representation' mean?
   - **A** Colonists should not pay taxes at all.
   - **B** Colonists should not be taxed by a government in which they had no elected members.
   - **C** Only the king could set taxes.

3. What was the main reason Britain taxed the colonies after 1763?
   - **A** To pay for a large war debt
   - **B** To build a new capital city
   - **C** To stop trade with Spain

4. What did the Declaratory Act of 1766 say?
   - **A** The colonies were free.
   - **B** Parliament could make laws for the colonies in all cases.
   - **C** The Stamp Act would stay in place.

5. Which group held protests against the Stamp Act?
   - **A** The Sons of Liberty
   - **B** The East India Company
   - **C** The royal governors

6. Which of these events happened first?
   - **A** The Stamp Act
   - **B** The Boston Massacre
   - **C** The Proclamation of 1763

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 1

Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Read each piece. Paste it in the box for the event it describes.

Proclamation	Stamp Act	Townshend Acts

Boston Massacre	Boston Tea Party	Intolerable Acts

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

Soldiers fired into a crowd in Boston and five colonists died.	Settlers could not move west of the Appalachian Mountains.	Boston Harbor was closed until the tea was paid for.
A tax on newspapers, legal papers and playing cards.	Colonists dumped 342 chests of tea into the harbor.	Taxes on imported glass, lead, paint, paper and tea.

Which two events were hardest to tell apart? Why?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 3

Cut out the six pieces. Paste them in order.

Paste the events in order, first to last. The timeline pages (14, 15) can help.

First	Second	Third

Fourth	Fifth	Sixth

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

The Boston Tea Party: colonists dump tea into Boston Harbor.	The Proclamation: settlers may not cross the Appalachian Mountains.	The Boston Massacre: soldiers fire into a crowd.
The Intolerable Acts: Parliament closes Boston Harbor.	The Stamp Act: a tax on printed paper.	The Townshend Acts: taxes on imported glass, paint and tea.

Which event do you think changed things the most? Why?

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Reading and Words

Before You Read, the 14 checks that follow the readings, and Words to Know.

Readings: the checks pages 6 to 12

#	Event	Answer
1	Proclamation	B: Settle west of the Appalachian Mountains
2	Proclamation	C: They wanted land in the west and did not like Britain deciding where they could settle.
1	Sugar Act	A: To help pay Britain's war debt and the cost of defending the colonies
2	Sugar Act	B: People accused of breaking the law could be tried without a jury.
1	Stamp Act	C: Printed paper, such as newspapers and legal documents
2	Stamp Act	A: Parliament repealed the Stamp Act.
1	Townshend Acts	B: Glass, lead, paint, paper and tea
2	Townshend Acts	C: They boycotted the taxed goods.
1	Boston Massacre	A: Near the Custom House in Boston
2	Boston Massacre	C: John Adams
1	Boston Tea Party	B: They saw it as a trick to make them accept Parliament's right to tax them.
2	Boston Tea Party	A: 342
1	Intolerable Acts	C: Closed Boston Harbor until the tea was paid for
2	Intolerable Acts	B: The First Continental Congress

Before You Read page 5

#	Starts with	Answer
1	The American colonies sent elected members …	False
2	Britain had a large debt after …	True
3	Many colonists said only their own …	True
4	The Revolution began because of one …	False

Words to Know page 13

#	Word	Letter
1	repeal	G
2	tax	D
3	protest	C
4	colony	B
5	import	E
6	boycott	A
7	representation	H
8	Parliament	F

How the checks were made

Every reading was written so each check has one best answer that is stated in the passage. If a student picks another letter, point to the sentence that settles it.

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Cause, Effect, Chart

Samples for the cause and effect boxes on pages 6 to 12 and for the chart on page 16. Accept any wording that matches the reading.

Cause and effect boxes

Reading	A good cause box says	A good effect box says
Proclamation	Britain won the war, wanted to keep peace with Native American nations and wanted to avoid the cost of new fighting.	Colonists who wanted western land were angry. It was an early sign that Britain meant to control the colonies more closely.
Sugar Act	Britain had a large war debt and the cost of keeping soldiers in the colonies.	Merchants complained about the taxes and the courts without juries, and the argument about taxing without representation began to spread.
Stamp Act	Britain still needed money and Parliament chose to tax the colonists directly.	Protests, the Sons of Liberty, the Stamp Act Congress and boycotts. Parliament repealed the act in 1766 but passed the Declaratory Act.
Townshend Acts	Britain still needed money after the Stamp Act was repealed, and wanted to pay royal governors and judges.	Boycotts, British troops sent to Boston in 1768, and in 1770 most of the taxes were repealed. The tea tax stayed.
Boston Massacre	British soldiers were in Boston to enforce unpopular taxes, and a crowd and a guard faced each other on a tense night.	Five colonists died. News and the engraving made many colonists angrier at Britain, and the soldiers were put on trial.
Boston Tea Party	The East India Company had unsold tea. The Tea Act let it sell directly, and colonists saw the law as a trick to accept Parliament's tax.	Colonists dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor. Britain was angry and decided to punish Massachusetts.
Intolerable Acts	Britain wanted to punish Boston for the Tea Party and make Massachusetts obey.	Other colonies felt threatened, sent supplies to Boston, and delegates from twelve colonies met at the First Continental Congress.

Cause and Effect Chart page 16

Event	What Britain did	How colonists responded
Proclamation	Closed the land west of the Appalachian Mountains to settlement.	Angry that they could not settle there; felt Britain was ordering them around.
Sugar Act	Taxed goods like molasses, sugar and coffee, checked ships more closely and held trials without a jury.	Merchants complained; some began to say Parliament could not tax people who did not elect it.
Stamp Act	Taxed printed paper such as newspapers, legal documents and playing cards.	Protested, formed the Sons of Liberty, met at the Stamp Act Congress and boycotted British goods.
Townshend Acts	Taxed imported glass, lead, paint, paper and tea, and sent troops to Boston.	Boycotted the taxed goods and made their own cloth; angry at the troops in Boston.
Boston Massacre	Kept soldiers in Boston; soldiers fired into a crowd and five colonists were killed.	Spread the news, shared the engraving and grew angrier at Britain.
Boston Tea Party	Let the East India Company sell tea directly to the colonies and kept the tax on tea.	Refused the tea; in Boston they dumped 342 chests into the harbor.
Intolerable Acts	Closed Boston Harbor, limited self-government in Massachusetts and made it easier to house soldiers.	Sent help to Boston and met at the First Continental Congress.

PREVIEW

Revolution Tracker

One student, every scored page. Filled example: page 37.

Student _____ Teacher _____ Month _____

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Before You Read	4			
6	The Proclamation of 1763	2			
7	The Sugar Act	2			
8	The Stamp Act	2			
9	The Townshend Acts	2			
10	The Boston Massacre	2			
11	The Tea Act and the Boston Tea Party	2			
12	The Intolerable Acts	2			
13	Words to Know	8			
14	Timeline: Years	7			
15	Timeline: Order	7			
23	Quiz, Part A	6			
24	Quiz, Part B	6			
25	Cut and Paste 1	6			
26	Cut and Paste 2	6			
27	Cut and Paste 3	6			

PREVIEW

How to fill this in

Write how many items the student got right with no prompt, and the date. A blank means not tried yet, never wrong. There are 70 items on the 16 scored pages. Answer keys: pages 29 to 32. Filled example: page 37.

This month we are working on (your own standard or wording)

Team Note

Use this page between team meetings or when a student moves classes, to hand off what changed without writing a note from scratch. Everything below is observable, with a blank for the number or the wording your team already uses.

Student _____ Team member _____ Date _____

Page type	Covered since last note (Y/N)	Items right	Still blank
Before You Read			
Readings			
Words to Know			
Timelines			
Quiz			
Cut and paste			

What I saw (observable, not a conclusion)

- Named the cause and the effect of ___ of ___ events without a prompt.
- Put the events in order on ___ of ___ (page 15).
- Used a fact from a reading in the claim, evidence and reasoning pages (21, 22): yes / no / with a reminder.
- Explained what a boycott or a repeal is in their own words: yes / no.

Next step

- Next page or set: ___, because ___ (what you saw).
- What to try in another class or at home: ___.
- What to keep doing because it is working: ___.
- Anything for the team meeting to decide: ___ (this page records what happened, never a label or a plan).

Summary, in one or two sentences, for whoever reads this next

A filled-in line, for reference

"Matched 6 of 8 words on Words to Know with no prompt on 10/3. Next step: act out boycott and repeal with an example from the readings." That is the level of detail this page is built for. It matches the filled example on page 37.

PREVIEW

Marcus's Tracker (Invented Student)

Marcus T. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 33.

Student: Marcus T. (an invented student)

Teacher: Ms. Okafor (invented)

Month: September to October

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Before You Read	4	4	9/22	-
6	The Proclamation of 1763	2	2	9/24	-
7	The Sugar Act	2	1	9/25	Missed the court change
8	The Stamp Act	2	2	9/29	-
9	The Townshend Acts	2	2	10/1	-
10	The Boston Massacre	2	-	-	-
11	The Tea Act and the Boston Tea Party	2	-	-	-
12	The Intolerable Acts	2	-	-	-
13	Words to Know	8	6	10/3	Mixed up boycott and repeal
14	Timeline: Years	7	5	10/6	Swapped the years of the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act
15	Timeline: Order	7	-	-	-
23	Quiz, Part A	6	-	-	-
24	Quiz, Part B	6	-	-	-
25	Cut and Paste 1	6	-	-	-
26	Cut and Paste 2	6	-	-	-
27	Cut and Paste 3	6	-	-	-

PREVIEW

How to read it

Marcus T. has done **7 of 16** scored pages and got **22 of 27** items right with no prompt. **4** pages were all right and **3** carry a note. Every number comes from the table.

What the table points to

The lowest page is The Sugar Act (1 of 2). That is where the next practice goes. The 9 pages left blank are not tried yet, never wrong.