

The Colonists Want Freedom

Week 25 • Monday • Freedom and Independence

Reading Time

By the 1770s, there were thirteen colonies along the coast of America. They were ruled by the King of England, far across the ocean.

The king made the colonists pay **taxes** — extra money — on things like tea, paper, and sugar. But the colonists had no say in the rules. They said it was not fair: "No taxation without representation!" That means, do not make us pay if we get no voice.

The colonists began to dream of **independence** — being free to rule themselves. This big fight for freedom is called the **American Revolution**. It changed the world, and this week you will learn how it happened!

Reading Questions

1. How many colonies were there?

2. Who ruled the colonies?

3. Why did the colonists think the taxes were unfair?

4. What does independence mean?

This Week's Goals

By the end of this week, you will be able to:

1. Explain why the colonists were upset with the king.
2. Tell what happened at the Boston Tea Party.
3. Describe how the colonists fought for and won their freedom.
4. Explain what independence means in your own life.

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

colony

king

taxes

fair

independence

revolution

True or False

Write T for true or F for false in each circle.

- ☐ There were thirteen colonies.
- ☐ The colonies were ruled by the King of England.
- ☐ The colonists loved paying the king's taxes.
- ☐ Taxes are extra money people must pay.
- ☐ The colonists had a voice in making the rules.
- ☐ Independence means being free to rule yourself.

Think About It

1. Have you ever had to follow a rule you thought was unfair? What did you do?

2. Why do you think people want a voice in the rules they follow?

Fill in the Blanks

thirteen king taxes voice independence Revolution

1. There were _____ colonies in America.
2. They were ruled by the _____ of England.
3. The colonists had to pay _____ on tea and paper.
4. The colonists had no _____ in the rules.
5. They dreamed of _____ — ruling themselves.
6. The fight for freedom is called the American _____.

Draw It!

Design a colonial flag or sign that tells the king the taxes are unfair. Use words and pictures!



Review

I learned...	Circle one
Who ruled the thirteen colonies	YES / NOT YET
Why the colonists were upset	YES / NOT YET
What independence means	YES / NOT YET