

The Boston Tea Party

Week 25 • Tuesday • Tea in the Harbor!

Reading Time

One of the taxes the colonists hated most was the tax on **tea**. Colonists loved drinking tea, but they refused to pay the king's unfair tax on it.

On a cold night in December 1773, a group of colonists in Boston decided to send the king a message. They dressed up in disguises, climbed onto three ships in Boston Harbor, and dumped 342 chests of tea into the water! Splash! This protest is called the **Boston Tea Party** — but it was not a party with cake.

The king was furious. He punished Boston with harsh new rules. But instead of giving up, the thirteen colonies came together, stronger than ever. War was coming.

Reading Questions

1. Which tax made the colonists especially angry?

2. What did the colonists dump into Boston Harbor?

3. How did the king react?

4. What did the colonies do after Boston was punished?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

tea

harbor

protest

disguise

punish

together

Order the Story

Number these events 1 to 5 in the order they happened.

Event	Order (1-5)
The king punishes Boston with harsh rules.	
The king taxes the colonists' tea.	
Colonists dump 342 chests of tea into the harbor.	
The colonies come together, stronger than ever.	
Colonists in disguises climb onto three ships.	

True or False

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

- ☐ The Boston Tea Party happened in 1773.
- ☐ The colonists dumped coffee into the harbor.
- ☐ The colonists wore disguises.
- ☐ The Boston Tea Party was a birthday party.
- ☐ The king was furious about the tea.
- ☐ The colonies came together after Boston was punished.

Think About It

1. A protest is a way to show something is unfair. Why do you think the colonists chose tea?

2. What is a peaceful way you could speak up about something unfair?

Fill in the Blanks

tea Boston ships 1773 protest message

1. The king put a tax on _____.
2. The Tea Party happened in the city of _____.
3. It happened in December of _____.
4. Colonists climbed onto three _____.
5. Dumping the tea was a _____ against unfair taxes.
6. The colonists wanted to send the king a _____.

Draw It!

Draw the Boston Tea Party: the ships, the harbor, and the tea chests splashing into the water at night.



Review

I learned...	Circle one
What happened at the Boston Tea Party	YES / NOT YET
Why the colonists protested	YES / NOT YET
How the king reacted	YES / NOT YET