



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Boston Tea Party

The Boston Tea Party was a significant event in American history that took place on December 16, 1773. It was a demonstration organized by the Sons of Liberty, a group of American colonists who were opposed to the British government's taxation policies.

One of the main causes of the Boston Tea Party was the British government's imposition of taxes on the American colonies without giving them a voice in the decision-making process. This was known as "taxation without representation." The colonists felt that it was unfair for them to be taxed by a government in which they had no say.



*Throwing the taxed tea into Boston Harbor by John Cassell*

In an attempt to save the struggling British East India Company, the British government passed the Tea Act in 1773. This act gave the company a monopoly on the sale of tea in the American colonies. It also allowed them to sell tea directly to the colonists, bypassing colonial merchants. The Tea Act angered the colonists because it threatened their businesses and further reinforced the idea of taxation without representation.

The colonists were determined to resist the Tea Act. In Boston, a group of protesters known as the Sons of Liberty took matters into their own hands. They organized a plan to stop the British tea from being unloaded and sold in Boston.

On the night of December 16, 1773, a group of around 60 men, disguised as Native Americans, boarded three British ships in the Boston Harbor. They dumped 342 chests of tea into the water, destroying the valuable cargo. This act of protest became known as the Boston Tea Party.

The Boston Tea Party had far-reaching consequences. The British government responded with a series of punitive measures known as the Intolerable Acts. These acts were designed to punish the people of Boston and bring them under tighter British control. The Intolerable Acts included the closing of the Boston Harbor, the quartering of British soldiers in private homes, and the suspension of self-government in Massachusetts.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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The Intolerable Acts had the opposite effect of what the British government intended. Instead of crushing the colonists' spirit, it united them in their opposition to British rule. The Boston Tea Party became a rallying cry for American independence, and it played a crucial role in the lead-up to the American Revolution.

In conclusion, the Boston Tea Party was a cause and effect event that occurred due to the unfair taxation policies of the British government and the colonists' resistance to these policies. The destruction of the tea in the Boston Harbor became a symbol of American defiance and united the colonies in their quest for independence.

1. CAUSE: The British East India Company was struggling.

EFFECT: \_\_\_\_\_

2. CAUSE: The colonists were angry about the Tea Act.

EFFECT: \_\_\_\_\_

3. CAUSE: The colonists dumped chests of tea into Boston Harbor.

EFFECT: \_\_\_\_\_

4. CAUSE: The British government passed the Intolerable Acts.

EFFECT: \_\_\_\_\_