

**Fact or Fiction?**

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

Below is a biography on Alexander Hamilton. On the following page is a chart with ten statements. Indicate whether each statement is fact or fiction.

Despite the peace that temporarily reigned in Boston, the Sons of Liberty were continually trying to find ways to keep Parliament's power over them in check. Furthermore, the tax on tea became more and more irritating.

## **The Dreadful Monopoly!**

In 1773, Parliament authorized the Tea Act. Within the Tea Act, Parliament granted the East India company a monopoly (the only business in a specific trade or product) over the American tea trade. Although the monopoly decreased the price of tea, Americans realized that Parliament was only regulating American trade, and had the power to interfere in American business whenever it wanted. Public protest of the Tea Act grew quickly through the colonies. Fearing a revolt, several ships carrying tea destined for New York and Philadelphia returned to England without unloading tea.

## **Destruction of the Tea**

On December 16, 1773, the Sons of Liberty, led by Samuel Adams, planned to show Parliament how they felt about the Tea Act. They boarded the British ship *Dartmouth* docked in Boston Harbor, dressed up as Indians, and dumped the entire load of tea into the water. This event came to be known as the Boston Tea Party.

## **British Response: The Intolerable, or, Coercive Acts**

The historical significance of the Boston Tea Party is recognized more in the British response than in the event itself. As a result of the Boston Tea Party, Parliament passed the following laws designed to punish the Americans.

- 1.) The Boston Harbor Bill - This bill closed the harbor to all commercial traffic until Bostonians paid for the tea they dumped.
- 2.) The Administration of Justice Act - This act required the extradition (transfer) of all royal officials charged with capital crimes in America to courts in Great Britain.
- 3.) Massachusetts Government Act - This act ended self-rule in the colonies and made all elected officers in America subject to British appointment.

4.) Quartering Act - This was simply a new version of the 1765 Quartering Act which required Americans to provide accommodations (housing , food, clothing etc.) to British soldiers if necessary.

5.) Quebec Act - This act extended the Canadian border (British territory) into the Ohio River Valley and eliminated lands that were claimed by Massachusetts, Virginia and Connecticut.

These acts were called the Intolerable Acts in America and resulted in the formation of the Continental Congress.

	FACT	FICTION
Before the Boston Tea Party, there was a period of relative peace in Boston.		
A monopoly is a situation in which a single company controls a product or service.		
The East India Company tea monopoly resulted in a major increase in tea prices for Americans.		
The East India Company monopoly showed the colonists that Parliament was willing to interfere in their affairs whenever it wanted to.		
The purpose of the Boston Tea Party was for the colonists to protest the Tea Act and monopoly.		
The Quebec Act, part of the five Intolerable Acts, ended self-rule in the colonies.		
The Boston Tea Party was just another name for the Boston Massacre.		
The Boston Harbor Bill closed Boston Harbor until the colonists collected all of the tea they dumped into the harbor.		
In the Administration of Justice Act, trials for British officials accused of capital crimes in America would be held in England (instead of America).		
The Quartering Act was a new act that American colonists have never been saddled with in the past.		
The Intolerable Acts were also called the Coercive Acts		

## Answers:

	FACT	FICTION
Before the Boston Tea Party, there was a period of relative peace in Boston.	X	
A monopoly is a situation in which a single company controls a product or service.	X	
The East India Company tea monopoly resulted in a major increase in tea prices for Americans.		X
The East India Company monopoly showed the colonists that Parliament was willing to interfere in their affairs whenever it wanted to.	X	
The purpose of the Boston Tea Party was for the colonists to protest the Tea Act and monopoly.	X	
The Quebec Act, part of the five Intolerable Acts, ended self-rule in the colonies.		X
The Boston Tea Party was just another name for the Boston Massacre.		X
The Boston Harbor Bill closed Boston Harbor until the colonists collected all of the tea they dumped into the harbor.		X
In the Administration of Justice Act, trials for British officials accused of capital crimes in America would be held in England (instead of America).	X	
The Quartering Act was a new act that American colonists have never been saddled with in the past.		X
The Intolerable Acts were also called the Coercive Acts	X	