

Boston Tea Party Activity Bundle

Integrated Reading and Critical Thought Activities

For Grades 5-8

9 INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES
Perfect for Interactive Notebooks
Perfect for Morning Work or Assessments

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ANSWERS

Name	Answers
Boston Tea Party	C, B, B, A, C, C, C, D, B, C
Boston Tea Party: Behind the Scenes and Mob Etiquette	D, C, A, D, D, B, C
Sons of Liberty	BCD, D, C, A, CD, A, D
Boston Tea Party: Basic	C, B, D, A

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Boston Tea Party and Intolerable Acts

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.

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 suited them. 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.

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.

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 Americans 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.

1.) Why did Americans oppose the Tea Act?

- a.) It made tea more expensive.
- b.) It made tea cheaper.
- c.) It showed that parliament could interfere with American trade.
- d.) The quality of tea had decreased.

2.) What is a monopoly?

- a.) When all the tea is gone
- b.) When there is only one business in a specific trade
- c.) The Sons of Liberty
- d.) When all businesses fail

3.) What does "authorized" mean in the following sentence:

In 1773, Parliament **authorized** the Tea Act.

- a.) Found an author for
- b.) Passed or allowed
- c.) Wrote
- d.) Defended

4.) In which of the following sentences is the word "authorized" used correctly?

- a.) The league authorized several new rules for the upcoming season.
- b.) Many writers authorized their books in the form of a journal.
- c.) I authorized my little brother when he was picked on.
- d.) The winter will be authorized soon.

5.) Why did tea destined for New York and Philadelphia return to England?

- a.) The tea tax was too high.
- b.) People refused to drink the tea.
- c.) A revolt was possible.
- d.) The ports were closed.

6.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) The Sons of Liberty dressed up as Indians and threw the entire load of tea aboard the Dartmouth into Boston Harbor.
- b.) The Boston Tea Party resulted in the passage of the Intolerable Acts.
- c.) The Intolerable Acts resulted in the cancellation of the Continental Congress.

7.) Which of the following reflects the Quartering Act?

- a.) This act closed Boston Harbor to all commercial traffic.
- b.) This act required all royal officials charged with crimes in America to be judged for those crimes in Great Britain.
- c.) This act required American citizens to open their homes to British soldiers.
- d.) This act eliminated American land claims in the Ohio River Valley.

8.) Which of the following reflects the Quebec Act?

- a.) This act closed Boston Harbor to all commercial traffic.
- b.) This act required all royal officials charged with crimes in America to be judged for those crimes in Great Britain.
- c.) This act required American citizens to open their homes to British soldiers.
- d.) This act eliminated American land claims in the Ohio River Valley.

9.) What happened second?

- a.) Parliament authorized the Tea Act.
- b.) The Intolerable Act
- c.) The Boston Tea Party
- d.) The Formation of the Continental Congress

10.) What happened third?

- a.) Parliament authorized the Tea Act.
- b.) The Intolerable Acts
- c.) The Boston Tea Party
- d.) The Formation of the Continental Congress

Behind the Scenes: Boston Tea Party

Name _____

In what came to be known as the Boston Tea Party, members of the Sons of Liberty, dressed as Indians, boarded three British tea ships, confiscated 342 chests of tea, and proceeded to unceremoniously dump them into Boston Harbor. The Sons of Liberty were protesting the virtual monopoly granted by Parliament (British Government) to the East India Company (a British company) over the American tea trade. The event described above is familiar to most Americans, but the details of the Boston Tea Party are likely unfamiliar.

The “Destruction of the Tea,” as it was called until the 1830s, was one of the most carefully planned acts of rebellion in American history. While it’s true that the Sons of Liberty dropped over 92,000 pounds of tea worth nearly two million dollars in today’s money into Boston Harbor, they were very careful not to damage the ships or private property. According to the reports of the time, there was no visible damage to the three ships other than a single broken padlock. The padlock, in fact, was replaced by the Sons of Liberty the following day. Furthermore, there was no reports of anything stolen or looted from the ships other than the tea. Several opportunistic Boston citizens were reprimanded or taken into custody by the leaders of the raid for trying to fill their pockets with the discarded tea for their own purposes. Interestingly, the participants in the Boston Tea Party followed the “tea party” by cleaning the decks of the ships and putting back in place anything that was moved during the raid! That said, the vast quantities of tea dumped into the harbor fouled the water and floated in great mats for days to come. To prevent looters from trying to salvage the tea from the water, members of the Sons of Liberty would sail out into the harbor and attempt to sink the tea with clubs and oars. Despite their reputation as bloodthirsty vigilantes who reveled in tarring and feathering hapless tax collectors or loyalists, not one person was killed or injured by the Sons of Liberty in the Boston Tea Party.

Following the raid, participants in the Boston Tea Party knew they could be severely punished if their identities were discovered. Although there are 116 people documented to have participated in the Boston Tea Party, many more remained anonymous for fear of punishment. Following the “party” many participants fled Boston immediately. Only one man, named Francis Akeley, was caught and imprisoned by the British.

1. Which of the following best describes why the Sons of Liberty staged the Boston Tea Party?

- A. They didn't want the British tea ships in Boston Harbor
- B. They wanted to use the tea for their own purposes
- C. They were angry at the British
- D. They were protesting an act by Parliament that affected the American tea trade

2. Which of the following assertions does the author make?

- A. Most people know nothing about the Boston Tea Party
- B. Few people know why the Boston tea Party happened
- C. Most people don't know the details of the Boston Tea Party
- D. Most people don't know how much tea was dumped into the harbor

3. The Sons of Liberty...

- A. carefully planned the details of the Boston Tea Party.
- B. carelessly planned the details of the Boston Tea Party.
- C. used violence to intimidate people during the Boston Tea Party.
- D. destroyed private property during the Boston Tea Party.

4. Which of the following does the author seem surprised about?

- A. That members of the Sons of Liberty tried to sink floating tea to prevent looters from trying to steal it
- B. That Francis Akeley was arrested and imprisoned
- C. That over 92,000 pounds of tea were dumped into the harbor
- D. That the Sons of Liberty actually cleaned the decks of the British ships after the Boston Tea Party

5. Which was NOT true?

- A. There were likely many more participants in the Boston Tea Party than those that were actually documented
- B. According to the author, the Sons of Liberty did not live up to their violent reputation in the Boston Tea Party
- C. Francis Akeley was the only person actually imprisoned as a result of his actions in the Boston Tea Party
- D. The tea destroyed by the Sons of Liberty would be worth tens of millions of dollars today

6. To which of the following questions would “many participants fled Boston immediately” be the answer?

- A. What happened after the Boston Tea Party?
- B. Where did the Sons of Liberty go after the Boston Tea Party?
- C. What happened to participants of the Boston Tea Party who were identified?
- D. Why did the organizers of the Boston Tea Party try to escape Boston?

7. Which of the following were referred to as “opportunistic” in the second paragraph?

- A. The organizers of the Boston Tea Party
- B. Those who reported about the Boston Tea Party
- C. Those who attempted to steal tea during the Boston Tea Party
- D. The Sons of Liberty

Boston Tea Party

Name _____

The Boston Tea Party was not a party, but one of the most famous examples of protest in American history. The leaders of the "tea party" were known as the Sons of Liberty. The Sons of Liberty and many of the citizens of Boston were angry at the British government. They were angry because the British government had taken steps to hurt the American tea business. It had given a British company control over the American tea business. This put American merchants out of business.

So what did the Sons of Liberty do? They planned to show the British government how angry they were. On December 16, 1773, they dressed up as Indians and boarded three British ships in Boston Harbor that were delivering tea. They took all 342 chests of tea and heaved them into the harbor, destroying the entire load. The event was first known as "The Destruction of the Tea" and only became known as the Boston Tea Party in the 1800s.

1. Why were the Sons of Liberty angry?

- A. They wanted more tea
- B. The British tea merchants were out of business
- C. American tea merchants had been put out of business
- D. American tea was more expensive than British tea

2. How did the Sons of Liberty protest?

- A. They destroyed the British government
- B. They destroyed British tea in Boston Harbor
- C. They controlled the British tea business
- D. They dressed up as Indians

3. Which is NOT true about the Boston Tea Party?

- A. It was a form of protest
- B. The Sons of Liberty heaved chests of tea into Boston Harbor
- C. It happened in December
- D. It was always called the Boston Tea Party

4. What was the point of the Boston Tea Party?

- A. To express anger at the British government
- B. To drink a lot of tea
- C. To have a party that involved tea
- D. To dress up as Indians

Inexcusable Acts!

One of the reasons war broke out between America and Britain was because of the acts and taxes Parliament issued to the colonists without their consent.

What if your school decided to issue acts against the students? Use your imagination to create the details of such acts, and then make up your own act that the school could use against its students.

Act	Details
Example: The Cafeteria Act	All students are required to buy school lunches and to make no noise whatsoever. Lunches will consist of two slices of bread and a small cup of water. Bread crusts must be eaten!
The Homework Act:	
The Recess Act:	

The Sons of Liberty was a secret organization founded in response to the 1765 Stamp Act that required colonists to pay a tax on printed documents. The Stamp Act was issued to help the British recoup the financial burden incurred for prosecuting the French and Indian War. The origins of the Sons of Liberty is unclear, but the organization worked in both Boston and New York. Its purpose was to protect the rights of colonists and to protest British taxes. Samuel Adams is often credited with founding the Sons of Liberty. The motto of the Sons of Liberty was “no taxation without representation.”

The first known protest organized by the Sons of Liberty occurred on August 14, 1765. Under the “Liberty Tree,” a popular meeting place for the Sons of Liberty, supporters hung an effigy of tax collector Andrew Oliver from the tree. Those in attendance took turns punching it and stomping on it. Before long, the effigy was dragged through the streets of Boston while bystanders cheered and jeered. The mob next struck at Oliver’s home, which was thoroughly destroyed. Oliver resigned his position as a tax collector three days later. On August 26, the Sons of Liberty destroyed the home of the unpopular lieutenant governor, Thomas Hutchinson.

As the path to war became clear, the Sons of Liberty used mob rule and intimidation as powerful weapons against British agents and Loyalists. In some cases, members of the Sons of Liberty were reported to have tarred and feathered perceived enemies such as tax collectors and customs officers. Tarring and feathering involved pouring hot pine tar on a person before covering them in feathers. Although certainly painful and embarrassing, tarring and feathering was not fatal.

The Sons of Liberty are best known for staging the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 1773, in protest of the Tea Act, which allowed a British company a monopoly over the tea trade. In the Boston Tea Party, members of the Sons of Liberty dressed up as Indians, boarded a British tea vessel called Dartmouth, and flung its entire load of tea into Boston Harbor. The “party” and the resulting Intolerable Acts passed by Parliament as a punishment, were among the primary causes of the coming war.

- 1. What was the purpose of the Sons of Liberty? (Select all that apply)**
 - To collect taxes from colonists
 - To protect the rights of the colonists
 - To protest taxes
 - To use violence to intimidate their enemies

2. For which of the following questions would “Andrew Oliver” be the answer?

- A. What was the name of the lieutenant governor of Massachusetts in 1765?
- B. Who is credited with founding the Sons of Liberty?
- C. What British official was tarred and feathered?
- D. Who resigned his position as tax collector on August 17, 1765?

3. What was the effect of the 1765 Stamp Act?

- A. The passing of the Intolerable Acts
- B. The Boston Tea Party
- C. The formation of the Sons of Liberty and widespread violence
- D. The prosecution of the French and Indian War

4. What does “effigy” mean in the following sentence?

Before long, the effigy was dragged through the streets of Boston while bystanders cheered and jeered.

- A. Model
- B. Target
- C. Replacement
- D. Idol

5. Which of the following is correct? (Select all that are true)

- A. The cause of the Tea Act was the Boston Tea Party
- B. The effect of the Tea Act was the Intolerable Acts
- C. The effect of the Tea Act was the Boston Tea Party
- D. The effect of the Boston Tea Party was the Intolerable Acts

6. How are the second and third paragraphs similar?

- A. They both discuss methods used by the Sons of Liberty to intimidate enemies
- B. They both discuss methods in which people were injured
- C. They both discuss the role of the Sons of Liberty during the Revolutionary War
- D. They both discuss meeting places used by the Sons of Liberty

7. What question is not answered in the passage?

- A. What happened during the Boston Tea Party?
- B. Why did the British issue the Stamp Act?
- C. When did Andrew Oliver resign as a tax collector?
- D. How did the Intolerable Acts punish the colonists?

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	

Virtual History Teacher
Boston Tea Party Test

Name: _____

Instructions: You are playing the role of a history teacher who is grading the test below. See the questions and your “student’s” answers. Grade the quality of the answers on a scale of 1-4, “1” being a poor answer and “4” being a great answer. For each answer you grade, use your knowledge of Roberto Clemente, or, reference the mrnussbaum.com online biography, to add the missing pieces.

Question 1: Why were the colonists angered by the tea monopoly granted to the East India Company?	Score:
Student Answer: It was unfair.	
Your Response:	

Question 2: How did the British respond to the tea party?	Score:
Student Answer: They were very angry and made new rules.	
Your Response:	

Question 3: Which of the Intolerable Acts was the worst?	Score:
Student Answer: The Quartering Act.	
Your Response:	

Answers:

Question 1: Why were the colonists angered by the tea monopoly granted to the East India Company?	Score:
Student Answer: It was unfair.	
Your Response: The citizens of Massachusetts were incensed by what they considered a tyrannical act by Parliament. To the colonists, it seemed like Parliament was interfering in their business affairs and controlling what they could and could not do.	

Question 2: How did the British respond to the tea party?	Score:
Student Answer: They were very angry and made new rules.	
Your Response: The British were indeed angry with the colonists and issued the Intolerable Acts, a series of five severe acts designed specifically to punish the colonists for the Boston Tea Party.	

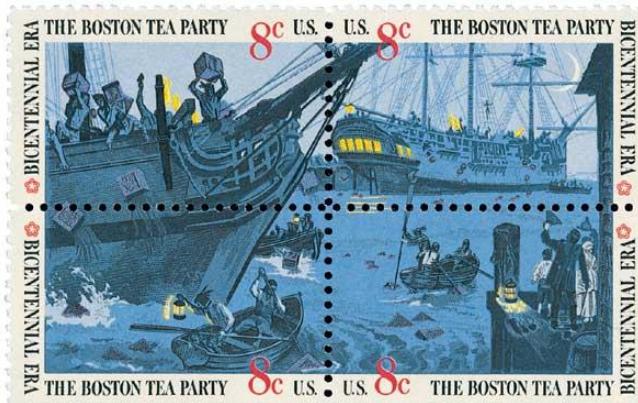
Question 3: Which of the Intolerable Acts was the worst?	Score:
Student Answer: The Quartering Act	
Your Response: Most students will choose the Quartering Act because it is unimaginable to have to provide food and shelter for enemy soldiers. By today's standards, that usually seems the most unfair to students, but encourage them to think of the very negative aspects of the Massachusetts Government Act, or the Administration of Justice Act.	



Boston Tea Party: Unfair Punishments!

In the aftermath of the Boston Tea Party, Parliament enacted a series of five acts, known collectively as the Intolerable Acts, to punish the citizens of Boston for the Boston Tea Party. Among other things, the Intolerable Acts closed Boston Harbor and also re-introduced the Quartering Act, which required citizens to provide food and shelter to British soldiers. The Intolerable Acts resulted in a severe escalation of hostilities between the Americans and British and the formation of the First Continental Congress. Certainly, it could be said that there was no turning back in the path to independence.

What is the most unfair punishment that you have and why did you receive it? Was it at school, at home, at camp, or elsewhere? How did you react to it? Describe in detail below. If you can't think of an example in your own life, try to think of an example from literature, sports, or the movies.



Boston Tea Party: The TOLERABLE ACTS!

To many Americans, the Intolerable Acts represented not only a great injustice, but also the tyranny of Parliament. The acts were meant to punish Americans for the audacity of the Boston Tea Party. Suppose you were a member of Parliament that had serious concerns about it issuing such acts. Instead, you argued that England should make immediate peace with the colonies by issuing a set of acts designed to reward them called the “Tolerable Acts.” In the chart below, name each of the “Tolerable Acts” and describe how each would reward the Americans. The first one is completed for you.

Name of Act	Description
The George Washington Act	This act requires Parliament to build statues of George Washington in every major city in the colonies and in England.