

Name: _____ Hr: _____ Date: _____

Causes of the American Revolution

Directions: Read the following with your partner and complete the accompanying worksheet.

French and Indian War (1754-1763): War fought between Great Britain and the French and the Indians of North America. Most battles were in Canada. American colonists fought with the British in this war. The British won the war and won the right to keep Canada and several other possessions in the New World. War left British in debt and British wanted colonists to help pay for war through taxes.

Proclamation Line of 1763: This no trespassing line was issued by King George III, and prohibited settlers from crossing west over the Appalachian Mountains in order to prevent further conflicts between settlers and Native Americans. Colonists looking to expand west were angry.

Sugar Act (April, 1764): 1764 law passed by British that put a three-cent tax on foreign refined sugar imported by the colonies; gave British sugar growers in West Indies a monopoly in the colonial market. The taxes were passed without the consent of the colonists.

Stamp Act (March, 1765): Newspapers, pamphlets, and other public and legal documents had to have a stamp, or British seal, on it. The stamp cost money. Colonists were angered and responded in force with demonstrations. Seeing the hostile reaction in the colonies, the British government repealed (cancelled) the Stamp Act in March 1766 but at the same time passed the Declaratory Act, which said that Great Britain was boss of American colonies "in all cases whatsoever." The Sons of Liberty, a group that was formed to protect the rights of the colonists and to protest against the abuses of the British government, was formed in response to this Act.

Townsend Acts: Series of 1767 laws that placed new taxes on glass, lead, paints, paper, and tea. Colonial reaction to these taxes was the same as to the Sugar Act and Stamp Act, and Britain eventually cancelled all taxes except the one on tea. In response to the sometimes violent protests by the American colonists, Great Britain sent more troops to the colonies.

Boston Massacre (March, 1770): Shooting of five American colonists by British troops on March 5, 1770. One person, an African-American man named Crispus Attacks, was killed. Nearly every part of the story is disputed by both sides. Did the colonists have weapons? The British say rocks and other such weapons were hurled at them. But the British had guns, and they did open fire. The Boston Massacre deepened American distrust of the British military presence in the colonies.

Boston Tea Party (December, 1773): Angry at a new tax on tea, American colonists calling themselves the Sons of Liberty and disguised as Mohawk Native Americans boarded three British ships and dumped 342 whole crates of British tea into Boston Harbor. The British response was the Coercive Acts, or Intolerable Acts as the colonists would call them, which included closing Boston Harbor and establishing the Quartering Act, among others.

1st Continental Congress (September, 1774): 56 Delegates from 12 of 13 Colonies who came together to discuss issues with Great Britain. They came together in response to the Intolerable Acts. They met in secret because they didn't want Great Britain to know that they were united. They discussed boycotting British goods and all of the grievances they had with Great Britain. They petitioned King George to address these issues. The delegates also urged each colony to set up and train its own militia.

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<u>Event</u>	<u>What Was It?</u>	<u>Why Was It Important?</u>
French and Indian War		
Proclamation Line of 1763		
Sugar Act		
Stamp Act		
Townsend Acts		
Boston Massacre		
Boston Tea Party		
1 st Continental Congress		

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Directions: Your Turn!!! After reading about each of the causes with your reading partner, determine which three you believe was important to the start of the American Revolution. When explaining why each event was important, make sure to include how the event added to the growing tension between colonists and Great Britain. Remember, complete thoughts and sentences.

The three most important causes of the American Revolution were...

1. _____

This was important because

2. _____

This was important because

3. _____

This was important because