

Study Guide



Chapter 5, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 136–139

BUILDING COLONIAL UNITY

KEY TERMS

propaganda

Information designed to influence opinion (page 137)

committee of correspondence

An organization used to circulate writings about colonists' grievances against Britain (page 137)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever been angry about something someone did or said to you? How did you feel? Did you want to get back at them or get even? Did you tell other friends so that they would take your side and help you? Did you protest in some way or decide to ignore it?

In the last section, you read about how the British government treated colonists after the French and Indian War. This section focuses on growing tensions between the colonists and the British government.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how the colonists worked together to protest unfair British laws.

Cause and Effect

British troops occupied Boston.



Tea Act of 1773



United colonists against Britain

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READ TO LEARN

- **Trouble in Boston** (pages 136–138)

Parliament sent British troops, known as redcoats, to Boston, worried that the colonists were planning a rebellion. The soldiers were rude and, at times, violent. This made the colonists even angrier. The people of Boston hated the redcoats. A fight broke out between redcoats and townspeople. People from Boston marched toward the customhouse, picking up any weapons they could find, such as stones, sticks, and shovels. The soldier on duty called for help and seven soldiers responded. The crowd screamed and threw things at the soldiers, daring them to fire their guns. When a soldier was knocked down, several shots were fired, killing five colonists, including Crispus Attucks, an African American who may have led the crowd. This event became known as the Boston Massacre.

Colonial leaders used the Boston Massacre as *propaganda*, or information to convince others, against the British. This information increased the colonists' hatred of the British. They proposed stronger boycotts on British goods. Parliament repealed, or officially cancelled, the Townshend Acts except for the tax on tea. Samuel Adams and the *committee of correspondence*, a group that helped pass along news about Parliament, distributed a list of grievances, or complaints, the colonists had against Britain. These communications helped the colonists unite against the British.

1. What was the Boston Massacre?

- **A Crisis Over Tea** (pages 138–139)

Parliament passed the Tea Act of 1773 to save the British East India Company from financial ruin. The Tea Act allowed the company to ship tea to the colonies without paying most of the taxes. It also allowed them to sell directly to shops that made their price cheaper than the colonists' tea. The British East India Company had an unfair advantage, which further enraged colonial merchants. Colonists promised to prevent company ships from unloading their tea. The Daughters of Liberty passed out pamphlets supporting a boycott. Some women marched and burned their tea. Colonists

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succeeded in turning company ships away from their ports in every city except Boston. The royal governor would not let the company ships turn around and leave. Samuel Adams and members of the Sons of Liberty, dressed as Mohawks, boarded the East India Company ship one night and dumped 342 chests of tea overboard in protest. This event became known as the Boston Tea Party.

- **The Intolerable Acts** *(page 139)*

King George III and Parliament punished Boston after the Boston Tea Party. In 1774 the Coercive Acts, harsh laws against Boston, were passed. The colonists called them the Intolerable Acts. The acts closed Boston Harbor, cutting off food and supplies, until the colonists paid for the tea. Rights were taken away, including the right to hold town meetings. Colonists were forced to let British soldiers stay in their homes with them. The acts strengthened the colonists' determination. Other colonies sent food and supplies in support.

2. What events led up to the Boston Tea Party?
