

Name _____

The Tea Act and the Boston Tea Party: A Brewing Storm

Short Answer Key

1. The main purpose of the Tea Act of 1773 was to grant the British East India Company a monopoly on tea sales in the American colonies. It allowed the company to sell its surplus tea directly to the colonists at a reduced tax rate, making it cheaper than smuggled Dutch tea.
2. Many colonists were opposed to the Tea Act because they viewed it as another form of British taxation without their consent. They saw it as an attempt to maintain British control over the colonies and resented the monopoly granted to the British East India Company.
3. The Boston Tea Party occurred on the night of December 16, 1773, when colonists, led by patriots like Samuel Adams and John Hancock, disguised themselves as Mohawk Indians, boarded three British ships (the Dartmouth, the Eleanor, and the Beaver), and dumped 342 chests of British East India Company tea into Boston Harbor as a protest against the Tea Act and British oppression.
4. In response to the Boston Tea Party, the British government imposed harsh measures known as the Coercive Acts (or Intolerable Acts). These included the closing of the Boston Harbor, the suspension of self-government in Massachusetts, and the quartering of British troops in private homes. These measures further escalated tensions between the American colonies and Britain.
5. The Boston Tea Party held great significance in the lead-up to the American Revolution as a symbol of colonial resistance and unity. It showcased the colonists' determination to resist British oppression and inspired other acts of protest. The British government's harsh response to the event, including the Coercive Acts, pushed the colonies closer to rebellion and played a crucial role in the outbreak of the American Revolution.

