

Name _____

The British East India Company and the Boston Tea Party

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Answers will vary depending on students' perspectives. Sample response: As a member of the British East India Company, I might have viewed the Boston Tea Party as a threat to our business interests. The destruction of our tea was a significant financial loss for the company. However, I would also recognize that the colonists had legitimate grievances against British taxation and policies, even if I did not agree with their methods of protest.
2. Trade and taxation were crucial factors in colonial America. The colonists relied on trade for goods and economic growth, while taxation without representation created resentment and frustration. The Tea Act and the British East India Company's role in it exacerbated these tensions, leading to the Boston Tea Party and, eventually, the American Revolution.
3. The Boston Tea Party had a profound impact on the relationship between the American colonies and the British government. It escalated the conflict and solidified the colonists' resolve to seek independence. The British government responded with punitive measures, such as the Coercive Acts, which further strained the relationship and contributed to the outbreak of the American Revolution.
4. The protests and boycotts against the Tea Act and the British East India Company were effective in rallying colonists against British policies. They demonstrated the colonists' unity and determination to resist unjust taxation. These actions also set the stage for more significant acts of resistance, such as the Boston Tea Party, which had a lasting impact on the course of history.

