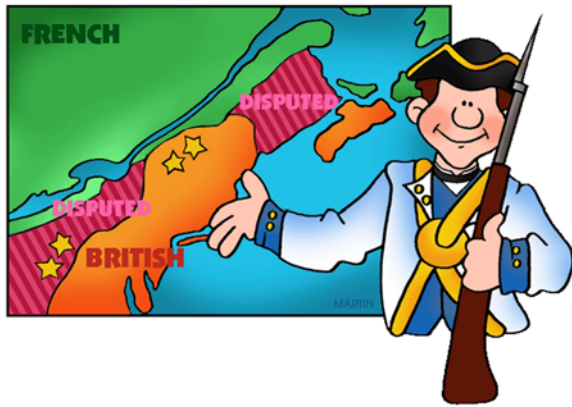


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The Road to the Boston Tea Party: Events Leading to a Historic Protest

The Boston Tea Party is an iconic moment in American history, but it did not happen in isolation. It was the result of a series of key events and tensions that had been building up for years between the American colonies and the British

government. In this reading passage, we will explore the significant events leading up to the Boston Tea Party.

The French and Indian War (1754-1763)

The French and Indian War, also known as the Seven Years' War, was a global conflict between Great Britain and France. It had a profound impact on the American colonies as they played a role in the conflict. Although the British won the war, it left them with a significant debt.

The Proclamation of 1763

After the French and Indian War, the British government issued the Proclamation of 1763, which prohibited colonial settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. This angered many colonists who had fought in the war and hoped to expand westward.

The Sugar Act (1764) and the Stamp Act (1765)

To help pay off its war debt, the British government imposed new taxes on the American colonies. The Sugar Act and the Stamp Act were met with strong resistance from the colonists, who argued that they were being taxed without their consent.

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The Townshend Acts (1767)

The Townshend Acts imposed taxes on imported goods such as glass, paper, and tea. This further strained relations between the colonists and the British government, leading to boycotts and protests.

The Boston Massacre (1770)

Tensions escalated in Boston when a confrontation between British soldiers and angry colonists resulted in the deaths of five colonists. This event became known as the Boston Massacre and intensified colonial resentment toward British troops.

The Tea Act (1773)

The Tea Act was a measure that allowed the British East India Company to sell surplus tea directly to the American colonies at a lower price. While it made tea more affordable, it also angered colonial merchants who saw it as a British attempt to establish a tea monopoly.

The Boston Tea Party (1773)

The culmination of these tensions and protests was the Boston Tea Party. On the night of December 16, 1773, a group of colonists, disguised as Mohawk Indians, boarded British ships and dumped over 340 chests of British East India Company tea into Boston Harbor as a protest against British taxation.

The events leading up to the Boston Tea Party were marked by increasing resentment among the American colonists over British taxation and control. The protests and boycotts against these policies ultimately led to the dramatic protest in Boston Harbor, setting the stage for the American Revolution.

