

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Protest and Resistance in Colonial America

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The Stamp Act of 1765 was a British law that required colonists to purchase and use special stamps on various paper products, including legal documents, newspapers, and playing cards. Colonists reacted to this tax with widespread opposition. They boycotted British goods, organized protests, and formed the Stamp Act Congress to challenge its legality. Some even resorted to violence and property destruction.
2. The Boston Massacre, occurring in 1770, was a tragic event where British soldiers opened fire on a crowd of colonists in Boston, resulting in the deaths of five people. This event is significant because it became a symbol of British oppression and further fueled anti-British sentiments among the colonists, contributing to the growing resistance movement.
3. The First Continental Congress, convened in 1774, aimed to address the grievances of the American colonies and plan a coordinated response to British policies. Representatives from twelve of the thirteen colonies came together to discuss their concerns, laying the groundwork for future actions against British rule.
4. The Battle of Lexington and Concord is often seen as the starting point of the American Revolution because it marked the first armed conflict between colonial militia and British troops in Massachusetts. It began with the famous "shot heard 'round the world" and signified the colonies' willingness to use force to defend their rights and resist British oppression. This battle set in motion the events that would lead to the American Revolution.

