

Name _____

The Boston Tea Party and Public Opinion

Short Answer Key

1. Many American colonists opposed the Tea Act of 1773 because they saw it as another example of British taxation without representation. They believed it violated their rights and economic interests. It granted a monopoly to the British East India Company and threatened the livelihoods of colonial merchants and smugglers.
2. The Boston Tea Party took place on the night of December 16, 1773, when colonists, led by members of the Sons of Liberty, boarded three British ships—the Dartmouth, the Eleanor, and the Beaver—and dumped 342 chests of British East India Company tea into Boston Harbor. Their motivations were to protest the Tea Act and British oppression.
3. The response to the Boston Tea Party varied among the thirteen colonies. Some expressed support and solidarity with the protesters in Boston, while others were cautious about potential British retaliation.
4. Support for the Boston Tea Party varied among colonists, influenced by economic interests, geography, and political beliefs. While it symbolized resistance to British oppression, it did not receive unanimous support across all colonies.
5. The support for the Boston Tea Party was not universal among American colonists. It varied depending on individual circumstances, geography, and political beliefs. Economic interests, geography, and revolutionary sentiments influenced whether colonists supported or opposed the protest.

