

Hello, fellow teacher!

Below is your reading passage; I hope it serves you well. Print it out and it's ready to use. Or, if you want to differentiate for struggling students, use the highlight feature on the PDF to annotate what you want the kiddos to focus on.

I named my website and Teachers Pay Teachers store "Teach 'n Thrive" because I truly want to help teachers enjoy their jobs and still have time, energy and brain bandwidth for the other things in life. Hope this helps. Don't forget to check back to the site regularly and see what has been added!

Warmest Wishes,
Joan

If you're interested in an entire done-for-you lesson check out my 3 Day Unit for the American Revolution [here](#)

The American Revolution In 3 Days



Modified Reading Passages
& Activities

If you haven't discovered my word puzzles on the site, there are dozens of them ready for download. See your choices [here](#).

American Revolution - Causes



After 1763, the end of the French and Indian War - relations between Britain and her colonies began to deteriorate. Colonists who had been loyal to the king and considered themselves British subjects began to become frustrated, then angry, and finally declare independence.

There were many events leading up to the American Revolution. The road to war was both politically and economically motivated.

Political Causes

French & Indian War - Britain won the war against France and gained large territorial gains. They also faced huge war debt and looked to its colonies to raise money.

Salutary Neglect - While Britain was engaged in their long war with France (The Seven Years' War) they were too busy to closely monitor their colonies. The colonists got used to running themselves with little interference from Britain. This policy of non-interference was known as salutary neglect. The colonies were neglected in a good way; nobody was watching them closely.

Britain's goal for the colonies, as with all territories under her control, was to profit. The Navigation Acts were a series of laws that restricted the colonies trade with other countries. The colonies had to be charged with selling raw materials only to the mother country, who would in turn manufacture goods and sell them back to America. Prior to the end of the French and Indian War Britain did not strictly enforce these laws. Many colonists did not abide by the Navigations Acts and profited through trade with other countries.

After the war this changed. Britain focused on the American colonies and began enforcing their rules. This caused increasing friction between the colonies and the mother country.

Taxes - New taxes were imposed on the colonies. There was a sugar tax, a stamp tax and a tea tax. Colonists protested these new taxes because they had no voice in creating them. "No taxation without representation" became a common refrain.

Enlightenment Ideas - Many of the founding fathers read and embraced the ideas put forth by Enlightenment thinkers.

- John Locke's belief that all people had natural rights of life, liberty and property
- Montesquieu's ideas of separation of powers
- Voltaire's writings on freedom of speech and religion

These philosophies did not comport with being ruled by a monarch. King George III believed that the colonies were possessions of England and subject to what laws and regulations were placed upon them.

Quartering Act - In 1765 Parliament passed the Quartering Act referable to housing soldiers. It called for colonies to accommodate British soldiers in local inns. If there were too many soldiers, then private homeowners were obligated to allow soldiers to stay on their property.

This new law angered many because they were being forced to quarter soldiers rather than asked. It is the same idea a no taxation without representation; the colonists wanted a voice in decisions that pertained to them.

Economic Causes



The new taxes and harsh enforcement began to negatively affect the economy in many of the colonies. A group called the Sons of Liberty formed in Boston to protest the new taxes. They began to consider declaring independence from Britain.

In 1773 the British imposed a new tea tax. In response, a group of patriots (men in favor of independence) boarded ships in the Boston Harbor and dumped tea (\$1 million in today's value) into the water. This became known as the Boston Tea Party. The British punished the colonists for the Boston Tea Party with several new laws further restricting business that the colonists nicknamed the Intolerable Acts. One of these new laws, the Boston Port Act, shut down the Boston Harbor. These actions led to an increasing call by many for independence.

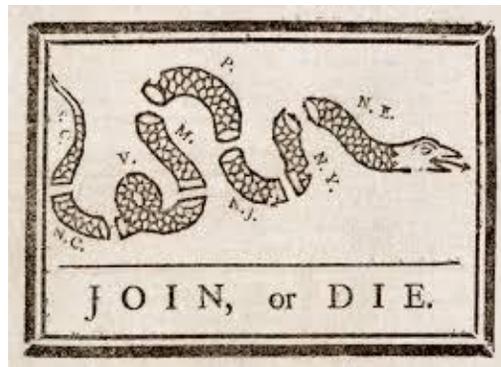
Social Causes

Boston Massacre - In 1770 A British soldier was guarding the king's money that was stored in the Custom House in Boston. A group of patriots began calling him names and throwing snowballs and rocks at him. The soldier called for back up. British soldiers arrived. The group of locals grew. As tension mounted one of the soldiers fired on the crowd causing others to open fired. After the shooting stopped 5 people had been killed. The murder of unarmed colonists further deteriorated relations between the mother country and her colonies.

Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet (small book) called "Common Sense". This short booklet was written in simple English so that most people could read and understand it. The message Paine spread was simple: the mounting problems with Britain made it clear that the colonies could no longer continue their relationship and must instead be an independent nation. Paine's ideas spread quickly and greatly influenced many to join the patriot movement.

The new laws and taxes had the unintended consequence of bringing the colonies together. Prior to the 1770's each colony was autonomous. Resentment and anger against Britain began to unite with a common cause. In 1775 12 of the 13 colonies met in the First Continental Congress.

The Congress submitted a request to Britain to repeal the Intolerable Acts. When they received no response a boycott of British goods was organized.



This well-known political cartoon was created by Benjamin Franklin and rallied the colonists behind the idea of independence