

Lesson 2: The Colonists Rebel

Vocabulary

Boston Massacre an event in 1770 in which British soldiers shot five colonists
Committee of Correspondence a group that let colonists share information by mail
Tea Act an act that forced colonists to pay taxes on British tea
Boston Tea Party an event in which colonists dumped British tea into Boston Harbor
Intolerable Acts five acts passed by Britain to punish colonists for the Boston Tea Party
Patriots colonists who were against British rule
Loyalists colonists who were loyal to King George and the British government
First Continental Congress a 1774 meeting at which representatives from the colonies voted to stop trading with Britain and to start training colonists to fight
militia a volunteer army
minutemen militia groups that could be ready to fight at a minute's notice

The Boston Massacre

On March 5, 1770, a group of angry colonists surrounded some British soldiers in Boston. The soldiers were frightened and fired into the crowd. They killed five people. This event is known as the **Boston Massacre**.

The Committees of Correspondence

The colonies needed a way to share news so they could work together. Samuel Adams formed the first **Committee of Correspondence** in Boston in 1772. Soon other colonies had these committees. Members wrote letters to each other about local events. These letters were carried by “express riders.”

The Boston Tea Party

Parliament passed the **Tea Act** to force the colonists to pay a tax on tea. The act also said that the East India Company was the only company allowed to sell tea to the colonies. Colonists did not agree with the act. They said they would not let British ships unload tea in any colonial ports. On December 16, 1773, members of the Sons of Liberty went onto three ships filled with tea. They dumped the tea into Boston Harbor. This event is called the **Boston Tea Party**.

Britain Punishes Boston

The British passed laws to punish the people of Boston for the Boston Tea Party. British soldiers returned to Boston. The colonists had to feed and house the soldiers. A British general was put in control of Massachusetts. Also, the British closed Boston Harbor until the people paid for the ruined tea. Colonists called these laws the **Intolerable Acts**. Colonists became **Patriots** or **Loyalists**. Patriots were against British rule. Loyalists supported British rule.

The Continental Congress

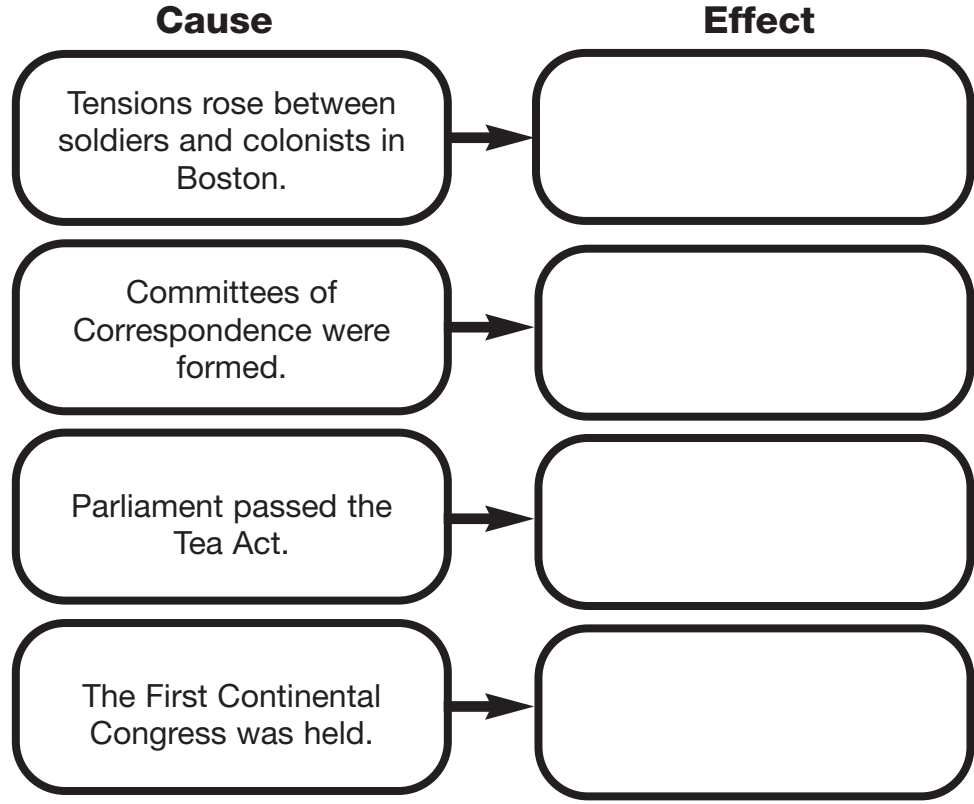
The **First Continental Congress** met in Philadelphia in September 1774. Leaders from most colonies decided to stop trade with Britain until the Intolerable Acts were repealed. They also decided that all colonies should train **militias**. Some militias called themselves **minutemen**. They could be ready to fight at a minute's notice.

Liberty or Death

Patrick Henry made a famous speech in Richmond, Virginia, in March 1775. He warned militias that there was going to be a war between Britain and the colonies.

Lesson 2: Review

1. **Cause and Effect** Fill in the missing effects.



2. What was the goal of the Committees of Correspondence?

3. What were the Intolerable Acts?

4. What events in Boston helped bring Britain and the colonies closer to war?

5. **Critical Thinking: Decision-Making** If you had been a colonist in 1773, would you have been a Patriot or a Loyalist? Use the decision-making steps on page H3 of your textbook.
