

Summary: Conflicts Grow

Trouble in Boston

Britain sent soldiers to Boston when colonists resisted taxes. Colonists did not want soldiers in their city. On March 5, 1770, a crowd yelled and threw snowballs at some of the soldiers. The soldiers started to shoot. Five colonists were killed. Colonists called the fight a massacre.

News traveled slowly. Samuel Adams started the Committees of Correspondence to share news and ideas with people in other colonies. Members wrote letters that told what the British were doing. Members suggested action colonists could take.

The Boston Tea Party

In 1773, the Tea Act allowed the East India Company of Britain to sell tea for a very low price. But if colonists bought the cheap tea, they also paid a tax to Britain. Many colonists did not want to pay taxes to Britain at all. They also didn't want one company to control the tea trade. Merchants refused to sell the tea or unload it from the ships. On December 16, 1773, some Sons of Liberty illegally boarded the ships. They threw the tea into the harbor. This protest was called the Boston Tea Party.

The British government was angry. It passed laws called the Coercive Acts. These laws stopped all trade between Boston and Britain, did not allow town meetings, and gave Britain control of the colony. Britain sent soldiers back to Boston. Colonists were forced to quarter them. Colonists called the laws the "Intolerable Acts" and said they were too harsh.

On September 5, 1774, delegates from most colonies met in the First Continental Congress. Delegates discussed the Intolerable Acts. They asked King George III to stop taxing the colonies without their agreement. They stopped trade with Britain. Colonists gathered weapons in case they needed to fight. King George sent more soldiers. He said the colonists had started a rebellion.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

massacre *noun*, the killing of many people

correspondence *noun*, written communication

quarter *verb*, to give people food and shelter

delegate *noun*, someone chosen to speak and act for others



After You Read

REVIEW What was the importance of the Committees of

Correspondence? Circle the sentence that tells why Samuel Adams started the Committees of Correspondence.

REVIEW Why did the First Continental Congress meet? Draw a box around the sentence that tells what the delegates wanted King George III to do.