

You Owe Us Money!



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Characters

Narrator 1	Merchant 1	Colonists	Sam
Narrator 2	Merchant 2	Soldier 1 & 2	George

Scene 1:

(Tuesday Morning 1764)

Narrator 1: The British decided that they needed a way to pay back the money that they borrowed from other countries during the French and Indian War.

Narrator 2: The way to solve the problem was to have their colonists in America pay taxes to help pay back the money.

Sam: Look there is a notice going up! (two soldiers are hanging up the notice)

George: What does it say?

Sam: (in a loud voice since other colonists are gathering around)
The British Parliament has decreed that all colonists will hereby be asked to pay taxes on sugar and molasses.

Colonists: (shouting together) No Taxation Without Representation!!

Narrator 1: The colonists shouted this because they are required to pay British taxes but they have no say in their government. They just have to go along with what the British Parliament says because the colonists are ruled by the King.

George: This is not fair! We did not ask to be part of the war and we did not spend all of the money.

Sam: This is really going to affect the prices we pay from the merchants.

Colonists: No Taxation Without Representation!

Narrator 2: The colonists were worried and would riot about the taxes.

Soldier 1: Hey all of you, what are so angry about?

Colonists: No Taxation Without Representation!

Soldier 2: This group is out of control! We need them to calm down.

Narrator 1: What the soldiers didn't know was that their job was about to get much harder and the colonists were about to get even more angry.

Scene 2:

(down by the docks)

Narrator 1: Two merchants are down by the docks discussing the new Sugar Act and how it will affect their businesses.

Merchant 1: What are we going to do? Trade has been hard enough and now more taxes.

Merchant 2: I think there will be more smugglers who will try to sneak in sugar and molasses to avoid the taxes.

Narrator 2: Once the Sugar Act was passed any smuggler caught and found guilty would have their shipload of goods taken away from them.

Merchant 1: Now we are also being told how our products should be traded.

Merchant 2: These taxes and rules are going to hurt our businesses.

Narrator 2: The merchants were concerned because the Sugar Act had already weakened the rum and lumber trades. These were both big moneymakers in the colonies.

**Merchants
1 & 2:** No Taxation Without Representation!

Narrator 1: Great Britain sent more ships of soldiers to the colonies to make sure everyone was following the rules and this led to new problems.

Scene 3:

(One year later 1765)

Narrator 1: It is now a year later and yet another tax has been issued to the colonists.

Narrator 2: Since the French and Indian War ended the British sent 10,000 troops to the colonies to protect them from the French.

Sam: Why are there still soldiers here? The French are no threat to us anymore.

George: I have heard the other colonists saying that the soldiers are here to keep order and make us follow the rules.

Sam: Well we don't need them and where are they all going to live?

Narrator 1: Well, the soldiers did need a place to live as well as beds and food too, so Parliament passed the Quartering Act.

Narrator 2: This act forced the colonists to provide housing, food and beds for the soldiers and the British did not pay them for these services even though supplies were limited.

Colonists: Oh no another cost to us!

Sam: This is too much. We have not asked for these soldiers to be here and now we have to take care of them too.

George : Why should we have to pay for something we are being forced to do? Why is Britain treating us like this?

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Narrator 1: The colonists had every right to be upset and they were about to be hit with another tax.

Narrator 2: This next tax was about to affect more colonists than before because this tax affected an everyday item that the colonists used: Paper.

Scene 4:

(outside of town hall)

Sam : (loudly proclaiming to the crowd) Parliament decrees that the colonists pay a tax on every piece of paper and these items must show a stamp to prove the tax was paid.

Colonists: No Taxation Without Representation!

George : This is ridiculous Sam. What items are they talking about?

Sam: All important documents, court papers, almanacs, pamphlets, newspapers, and even playing cards must show a special stamp that proves we paid the tax.

Colonists: PLAYING CARDS!?!?

Narrator 1: Needless to say the colonists were very upset and they held angry protests and attacked British officials.

Narrator 2: The colonists even broke into the homes of British officials and set their possessions on fire. A lot of these officials who were in charge of collecting the tax quit their jobs out of fear for their lives.

Scene 5:
(*New York City 1765*)

Narrator 1: Representatives from nine colonies met in New York City in 1765 in a meeting called the Stamp Act Congress.

Sam: The colonies should not be taxed by Parliament.

George: The only taxes we will accept are from groups elected by the colonists.

Colonists: We agree!

Sam: Fellow colonists we must stop the ships coming from England with the stamps.

Colonists: Destroy the stamps!

Narrator 1: The colonists plan to not use the stamps caused many businesses to be unable to operate.

Narrator 2: The plan worked because in March 1766 The Stamp Act was repealed.

Narrator 1: These events showed the colonists what they could do when they worked together and that they needed to stand united.

Wait, More Taxes?

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Wait, More Taxes?

Characters

Narrator 1	Charles Townshend	Parliament Member 1
Narrator 2	Colonists/Parliament	Benjamin
Tea Agents	Royal Governor	

Scene 1:

(Great Britain, Parliament Meeting 1767)

Narrator 1: In Great Britain, Parliament was convening together to decide what to do about the colonists and how to maintain their power over the colonies.

Narrator 2: Charles Townshend was a member of Parliament and had an idea to raise money by adding another tax for the colonists to pay.

Charles Townshend: I would like to propose that we place a tax on items not made in the colonies. It seems like the colonists are upset about paying taxes on common items they have in the colonies.

Parliament: Good thinking Townshend.

Charles Townshend: Let's tax imported goods such as paper, glass, tea, lead, and paint since they can only be bought from Great Britain.

Parliament: It will be much harder to smuggle goods.

Charles
Townshend: We can track these items better and stop smugglers
because we know everything comes from us.

Parliament: Here! Here! The Townshend Acts are approved.

Scene 2:

(The Colonies, Town Hall, 2 weeks later)

Narrator 1: The colonists gathered outside of town hall to hear about the new taxes they were about to be imposed on them.

Royal
Governor: Colonists will hereby pay taxes on the following items that are imported from Great Britain: paper, glass, tea, lead, paint.

Colonists: (angrily) No More Taxes!!!

Narrator 1: The colonists were very upset and felt that their rights were being challenged. They would hold demonstrations to show their outrage.

Benjamin: Fellow colonists we are tired of having these taxes imposed on us.

Colonists: We refuse to pay these taxes!

Benjamin: Enough is enough! We will continue to fight for our rights.

Narrator 2: In addition to the taxes Parliament wanted to crack down on smugglers.

Narrator 1: They said anyone caught smuggling would face trial by British judges not colonial judges.

Narrator 2: Eventually the colonists voices were heard and Parliament repealed most of the Townshend Acts in 1770, but they kept the tax on tea.

Scene 3:

(Great Britain 1773)

Parliament Gentlemen it has come to our attention that the East India

Member 1: Tea Company is in trouble.

Narrator 1: The East India Tea Company was the primary tea company of Great Britain.

Narrator 2: The company was having great financial difficulty and had 18 million pounds of unsold tea.

Parliament We will let The East India Company send their tea to the

Member 1: colonies.

Narrator 1: The British government was afraid that their economy would suffer if The East India Company went bankrupt.

Parliament: Let's create the Tea Act.

Parliament We will loan The East India Company money to ship the
Member 1 : tea to the colonies and then we will only let their agents
sell their tea there.

Parliament: Agents won't pay taxes, but the colonists will.

Narrator 1: The Tea Act would allow the company to sell its tea at a
lower price than other imported teas in the colonies.

Narrator 2: While Parliament was working to keep The East India
Company in business, they really did not take into
consideration how the colonists would respond to this new
tax.

Scene 4:

(The Royal Governor's office in the colonies)

Royal Governor: (talking to tea agents) Parliament has required us to
institute the Tea Act, which asks the colonists to pay tax
on tea from the East India Company. You will all be
required to sell their tea to the colonists.

Tea Agents: Sell the tea and tax the colonists !

Royal Governor : Time to introduce the colonists to the Tea Act and The
East India Company.

Scene 4:

(Benjamin's house in the colonies)

Benjamin: Fellow colonists we have been given yet another tax and the worst part of all it is on our beloved tea.

Colonists: We oppose this act and will not stand for this!

Narrator 1: The colonists opposed this act for a few reasons: 1. some of their favorite teas came from other countries 2. tea importers who obeyed the law but did not work for The East India Company would be put out of business.

Narrator 2: They also opposed the act because it was yet another tax and also because Great Britain gave the East India Company a monopoly on tea sales.

Colonists : We vow to boycott this tea and this act!

Narrator 1: The colonists decided to take their boycott to the docks and refused to unload the East India Tea.

Scene 5:

(The docks in various colonies)

Narrator 2: In some of the colonies the colonists boycotted The East India Tea in a variety of different ways.

Narrator 1: Here is what happened in New York and Philadelphia:

Benjamin: Fellow colonists we are going to refuse this shipment of East India Tea and send it back to Great Britain.

Colonists: Send it back ! Send it back!

Narrator 2: Here is what happened in Charleston:

Colonists: Leave the tea on the docks! Let it rot!

Narrator 1: In Boston the Royal Governor insisted that the ships be allowed to dock, but the colonists ...

Colonists: Don't let the ships dock and don't pay the taxes

Narrator 2: Needless to say we know how the colonists feel about the Tea Act and there will be several more events that will prove to Parliament and the king that the colonists are not pushovers and they will fight for their rights.

Tensions are Running High



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Characters

News Reporter 1	Colonists	Edward Garrick
News Reporter 2	Soldier1 & 2	John Adams
Sons of Liberty	Parliament Member	

Scene 1:

(Boston, Massachusetts March 5, 1770)

News Reporter 1: Well Bob I'm here in Boston and we have found that the Boston colonists feel great resentment towards the British soldiers who are stationed here.

News Reporter 2: Yes Sam, in talking to the colonists we found that they feel like prisoners in their own homes, but on the other side of that the soldiers told us that they are constantly harassed and made to feel unwelcome.

News Reporter 1: We were also told that at first when the soldiers arrived there were small arguments, but now these arguments have turned violent.

News Reporter 2: Wait! I am getting word that something is going on between some colonists and soldiers right at this moment let's see what is happening.

Edward Garrick: (yelling at a soldier) Hey Lobsterback why don't you go back to where you came from!

News Reporter 1: It looks like Mr. Garrick and some of the other colonists have started throwing snow balls, sticks and stones at the soldier.

Soldier: (swinging at Edward) Enough! Enough! I say what is the issue here?

Colonists : You are and how dare you take a swing at one of us.

Soldier 2: Where are the other soldiers? We need to get this crowd under control.

News Reporter 2: The crowd is not liking this and it is getting ...hold on now they are charging at the soldiers. This is crazy! Oh no. An unidentified hard object has hit one of the soldiers, and he has fired his musket.

Soldier 2: Hold your fire!! (more muskets fire)

News Reporter 1: Oh my that really escalated quickly but now the smoke has cleared and we are told that 5 colonists are dead and several others have been injured.

Scene 2:

(Courthouse in Boston)

News Reporter 2: 9 soldiers were arrested and put on trial.

News Reporter 1: John Adams, an outspoken patriot, spoke on behalf of the soldiers. Let's hear what he had to say:

John Adams: These men were just doing their job. They were provoked into firing their weapons into the group of colonists.

News
Reporter 1: Thanks for that Mr. Adams. Six of the soldiers went free, but two of the soldiers were allowed to go free only after their thumbs were branded with a hot iron for the crime of manslaughter.

Colonists:
After the trial the British troops were moved out of Boston, but we believe the massacre showed us that the British were not afraid to use physical force.

News
Reporter 2: The colonists may have lost during this event but the next event was meant to hurt the British

Scene 3:

(December 1773, Boston, Massachusetts)

Sons of
Liberty: We need to make a point to the British. They've killed some of our fellow colonists at the Boston Massacre and they've issued the Tea Act. They have gone too far.

News
Reporter 1: Strong words from the Sons of Liberty. If you are just joining us we are talking about some of the events that have led to this animosity the colonists feel towards the British.

Sons of
Liberty: We will show the British they cannot keep pushing us around and that we do not want this tea from the East India Company.

News
Reporter 2: This reporter thinks something big is about to happen. Back to you Sam.

Scene 4:

(December 16, 1773 Boston Harbor)

- News
Reporter 1: I'm standing here at Boston Harbor and there are three ships sitting here with the cargo still onboard. I am told that these ships have been sitting here for 2 weeks
- Colonists : We will not pay the tax! Take this tea back to Britain.
- News
Reporter 2: I am standing on the other side of the harbor and I believe there is some movement happening. I was told that the patriots had petitioned the governor to return the tea to Britain but he refused. Wait! I see a bunch of Native Americans?
- Sons of Liberty : Dump it all boys! Dump it all! We will not stand for this corrupted tea.
- News
Reporter 1: Bob what are you seeing over there sounds like history in the making!
- News
Reporter 2: I am told that it is not Native Americans on the ships right now. It is actually 60 members of the Sons of Liberty.
- News
Reporter 1: I have just found out that they have dumped more than 96,000 pounds (342 crates) of East India Company Tea into the harbor.
- Sons of Liberty: Ok Boys do not do any other damage only the tea is what we are after.

News
Reporter 2: Well isn't that something. They are only after the tea and not to cause any other damage. Supposedly we are calling this event the Boston Tea Party. However, I think this is one tea party that is not going to bode well with Parliament and King George.

Scene 5:

(Great Britain 1773 just after the Boston Tea Party)

News
Reporter 1: (speaking in a British accent) I am standing outside Parliament and it sounds like a very heated discussion is going on inside. Let's take a listen.

Parliament
We are not amused by this behavior in the colonies. King George will not stand for this.

Parliament
Member: Fellow members this is the highest insult to our authority. We cannot go easy on the colonists this time. It was our job to help the East India Company and they ruined that.

Parliament: We have lost so much money !

Parliament
Member : We vow to make Boston pay the East India Company for all of the damages. They will learn not to question our authority again.

Parliament: We need to punish the colonists it is not enough to make them pay back the East India Company.

Parliament Any ideas on how to punish them?

Member :

Parliament: We need the Coercive Acts!

Parliament We will close Boston Harbor until the colonists pay back
Member: the damage to the tea and the Massachusetts legislature
can no longer meet. This will show them that we will not
back down.

News (using a British accent) Wow!! Parliament is mad and they
Reporter 1 : are not backing down. Colonists in Boston are in for a lot
of backlash for their actions. It will be interesting to see
where these actions take this battle and who will win and
who will lose. Only time will tell.