



Boston Tea Party: Lesson Plan

Topic	
On December 16, 1773, colonists, many of whom belonged to the Sons of Liberty, snuck aboard three ships and dumped all their cargo of tea into the Boston Harbor. This was done in protest of taxes issued without any of their input, Britain's decision to exercise more control over the colonies than they previously had, and the Tea Act's attempt to create a monopoly for the East India Tea Company, directly interfering with already established American businesses.	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
Government, History, Politics, Philosophy	30-45 minutes
Video link:	
https://academy4sc.org/topic/boston-tea-party-a-brewing-cup-of-rebellion/	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
Students will be able to... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain the logic behind the Tea Act and why colonists detested it.• Summarize how the Boston Tea Party took place.• List the ramifications the Boston Tea Party had on the American Revolution and today.	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
American Revolution, Boston Massacre, Seven Years War	
Materials Needed	
Worksheet (optional activity), Student internet access (optional research activity)	
Before you watch	
Think-pair-share: How do you react when you believe someone (parents, guardians, teachers, etc) is trying to exert more control over you than you'd like?	



Investigate what causes your reactions to change and how.

While you watch

1. Define salutary neglect.
2. What made the situation in Boston different from that of other colonies that received tea shipments from the East India Tea Company? List two differences.
3. Name one direct consequence of the Intolerable Acts.

After you watch/discussion questions

1. Why was it important to destroy the tea rather than steal or resell it?
2. How might've things been different if the Boston Tea Party hadn't occurred?
3. Why do you think the colonists disguised themselves as Native Americans? Think of how such an act would've been received at the time in question.

Activity Ideas

- Hold a class trial for the Bostonians who participated in the Boston Tea Party. Separate into groups for the defense (those representing and defending the Bostonians), the prosecution (those representing the Crown's interests and prosecuting the Bostonians), and jury (citizens of an uninvolved country). The teacher acts as the judge. After a bit of brainstorming, have the defense and prosecution present their arguments. Then let the jury decide the guilt or innocence of the defendants and their culpability.
- Get into small groups of three to five and research how the Bostonians dressed up Mohawk Indians. Then look into possible explanations for why they might have chosen to dress up at all, and why they specifically chose this group. Determine what seems like the most likely reasoning and provide evidence for your hypothesis. Debrief as a class.
- Individually complete the Worksheet. Then break up into small groups and review answers.

Sources/places to learn more

1. Carp, Benjamin L. *Defiance of the Patriots: The Boston Tea Party and the Making of America*. Yale University Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-300-11705-9.
2. Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Boston Tea Party." Encyclopædia Britannica, 9 December 2019. britannica.com.



3. History.com Editors. "Boston Tea Party." HISTORY, A&E Television Networks, 30 July 2019. history.com.
4. Unger, Harlow Giles. *American Tempest: How the Boston Tea Party Sparked a Revolution*. Da Capo Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-306-81962-9.
5. Volo, James M. *The Boston Tea Party: The Foundations of Revolution*. Praeger, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-313-39875-9.