Name _____ Date _____

Causes of the American Revolution: From the French and Indian War to Lexington

Directions: Read the passage and study the timeline. Then answer each question.

Causes of the American Revolution

From Victory to Rebellion

The French and Indian War ended in 1763 with a British victory. The war gave Britain a huge empire in North America but left it deep in debt. Its leaders wanted colonists to help pay for troops guarding those lands. The king also ordered colonists to stay east of the Appalachian Mountains to avoid new wars with Native American nations. Colonists who wanted western land were angry.

In 1765, Parliament passed the Stamp Act, a tax on newspapers and other printed papers. Colonists elected no one to Parliament, so many argued that only their own assemblies could tax them. To protest, they refused to buy British goods. The boycott worked, and Parliament repealed the tax in 1766. Even so, it insisted that it had full power to make laws for the colonies.

In 1767, new taxes on glass, lead, paint, paper and tea set off new boycotts. British troops arrived in Boston in 1768 to enforce the laws, and clashes with townspeople followed. The clashes turned deadly in March 1770, when soldiers facing an angry crowd fired, killing five people. The boycotts hurt British merchants again, and that spring Parliament ended the new taxes except the one on tea.

In 1773, a new law let a British company sell cheaper tea in the colonies, but the tax remained. Many colonists saw the law as a trick to make them accept the tax. That December, protesters dumped the company's tea into Boston Harbor. Parliament struck back with harsh laws that shut Boston's port. In response, leaders from twelve colonies met to plan a joint protest. In April 1775, British soldiers marched to seize weapons at Concord, and the war began.

Timeline: Causes of the American Revolution, 1763 to 1775

Date	Event
February 1763	The French and Indian War ends with the Treaty of Paris. Britain gains Canada and most French land east of the Mississippi River.
October 1763	King George III issues the Proclamation of 1763, which bars colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains.
April 1764	Parliament passes the Sugar Act, which taxes molasses, sugar and other goods shipped into the colonies.
March 1765	Parliament passes the Stamp Act, which taxes printed papers such as newspapers and legal documents.

Date	Event
October 1765	Delegates from nine colonies meet in New York at the Stamp Act Congress to protest the tax.
March 1766	Parliament repeals the Stamp Act. In the same month, it passes the Declaratory Act, which claims full power to make laws for the colonies.
1767	Parliament passes the Townshend Acts, which tax glass, lead, paint, paper and tea brought into the colonies.
March 1770	Boston Massacre: British soldiers fire into a crowd and kill five people.
May 1773	Parliament passes the Tea Act, which helps the British East India Company sell tea in the colonies. The tax on tea stays in place.
December 1773	Boston Tea Party: in Boston Harbor, protesters dump more than 300 chests of tea owned by the East India Company.
March to June 1774	Parliament passes the Coercive Acts to punish Massachusetts. One of them shuts Boston's port to shipping.
September 1774	Delegates from twelve colonies meet in Philadelphia at the First Continental Congress and agree to boycott British goods.
April 1775	British troops march to seize colonial weapons at Concord. Fighting breaks out at Lexington and Concord.

1. According to the passage, what was one reason British leaders wanted colonists to pay new taxes after 1763?

A. France demanded that Britain pay for the land it lost in the war.

B. The war left Britain deep in debt, with troops to pay in North America.

C. Britain needed money to fight the colonists in the Revolutionary War.

D. Colonists had asked Britain to send more soldiers to Boston.

2. Many colonists said Parliament had no right to tax them. What reason does the passage give?

A. The Treaty of Paris had let each colony set its own taxes.

B. They elected no one to represent them in Parliament.

C. The Declaration of Independence had already freed them from British laws.

D. Their taxes were already higher than taxes in Britain.

3. The passage says that after repealing the Stamp Act, Parliament "insisted that it had full power to make laws for the colonies." Which law on the timeline made that claim?

A. The Declaratory Act

B. The Sugar Act

C. The Coercive Acts

D. The Townshend Acts

4. Match each cause to its effect, as the passage describes them.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ The king hoped to avoid new wars with Native American nations
2. _____ Colonists refused to buy British goods to protest the Stamp Act
3. _____ British troops arrived in Boston in 1768 to enforce the laws
4. _____ Many colonists saw the 1773 tea law as a trick to make them accept the tax

Choices for question 4

A. Clashes with townspeople turned deadly in 1770
B. Colonists were ordered to stay east of the Appalachian Mountains
C. Protesters dumped the company's tea into Boston Harbor
D. Colonists won seats in Parliament
E. Parliament repealed the Stamp Act in 1766

5. What was one effect of the boycotts that followed the new taxes of 1767?

A. In 1774, Parliament shut the port of Boston.
B. In 1763, the king ordered colonists to stay east of the mountains.
C. In 1766, Parliament repealed the Stamp Act.
D. In 1770, Parliament ended the new taxes except the one on tea.

6. Use the dates in the timeline to put these events in order. Match each event to First, Second or Third.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ Parliament passes the Tea Act
2. _____ Delegates meet at the Stamp Act Congress
3. _____ Parliament passes the Townshend Acts

A. Second
B. Third
C. First

7. Complete the sentences with terms from the word bank. You will need both the passage and the timeline.

Word bank
First Continental Congress • Declaratory Act • Stamp Act Congress • Coercive Acts Townshend Acts

After the Boston Tea Party, Parliament passed the _____, and one of them shut Boston's port. In response, delegates from twelve colonies met at the _____ in Philadelphia.

8. Why did British soldiers march to Concord in April 1775?

A. To seize weapons the colonists had stored there
B. To stop colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains
C. To defend Concord from an attack by French troops
D. To collect the tea tax from shops in Concord

9. Based on the passage and the timeline, which three of these were ways colonists protested British laws between 1765 and 1774?

☐ A. Sending delegates to the Stamp Act Congress

☐ B. Signing the Declaration of Independence

☐ C. Passing the Declaratory Act

☐ D. Dumping tea into Boston Harbor

☐ E. Refusing to buy British goods

☐ F. Electing their own members to Parliament

10. Which statement best describes how the conflict changed from 1765 to 1775, based on the passage and the timeline?

A. Colonists stopped protesting once the Stamp Act was repealed.

B. Parliament gave up its claim to make laws for the colonies.

C. Britain and the colonies slowly agreed on who could tax the colonies.

D. A quarrel over taxes grew, step by step, into armed fighting.