

# Discover America

## Course 3 - Teacher Guide



**COURSE 3: THE ORIGINAL COLONIES  
AND THE BOSTON TEA PARTY**

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4th Grade

# Teacher Guide



## Key Themes

- Courage
- Freedom
- Persistence

## Core Values

- Faith
- Liberty
- Community
- Life

# Learning Objectives

**Students will be able to:**

- Define Sons of Liberty.
- Explain what happened during the Boston Tea Party.



# Boston Tea Party - 4th Grade

## Key Terms

- 01 **activism** - taking action to achieve political goals.
- 02 **Boston Tea Party** - a protest where a large group of colonists disguised as Native Americans dumped 342 chests of tea into the Boston Harbor.
- 03 **protest** - publicly expressing disagreement with something for others to see.
- 04 **Sons of Liberty** - a group of merchants and traders led by Samuel Adams that opposed British taxation.
- 05 **Townshend Acts** - taxed items including paint, paper, glass, lead, and tea.

# Boston Tea Party - 4th Grade

# Introduction

## ASK Students

How do you show that you disagree with something?  
Are there right ways and wrong ways to show disagreement?  
Is there more than one good way to express disagreement?

Remember, everything we do has a consequence. Sometimes our actions result in a positive consequence, and sometimes we suffer negative consequences for choices we make.

(allow students to respond)

## TELL Students

The American colonists were very unhappy with the tax on tea from the British government. They decided to lead a protest to show their disagreement. Even though it was called a “party,” the Boston Tea Party was not exactly what you and I think of when we hear the word party. There was no cake nor presents at this particular “party.” This party was actually a protest against the King.

## WATCH

Star Spangled Adventures Episode:

*The Boston Tea Party*



Scan Me!

# Boston Tea Party - 4th Grade

# Lesson

## The Boston Tea Party

### **TELL** Students

In April, the British repealed the Townshend Acts—except for the tax on tea. You should know, the colonists loved to drink tea—just like some grown-ups today love to drink coffee. In fact, the colonists drank 1.2 million pounds of tea every year. That’s a lot of tea!

In the winter of 1773, the American colonists staged another protest at Griffin’s Wharf in Boston, Massachusetts. A group called the “Sons of Liberty,” led by Samuel Adams, was a group of merchants and traders that were deeply against British taxation. When three ships, the Dartmouth, Beaver, and Eleanor, arrived, filled with tea to be sold, the colonists refused to pay the taxes and unload the tea. In response, Governor Thomas Hutchinson, who was loyal to the King, demanded that the tea be unloaded, and the taxes be paid. This did not go over well with the colonists.

On the night of December 16, 1773, led by revolutionaries Samuel Adams, John Hancock, and the Sons of Liberty, a large group of men disguised themselves in Native American dress and boarded the ships. The colonists dumped 342 chests of tea into the Boston Harbor—in an event that has since become known as the “Boston Tea Party.”

It took almost three hours to dump more than 90,000 pounds of the tea into the harbor, (enough for 18.5 million teabags). Today, the value of the tea that the colonists destroyed is estimated at \$1-1.7 million!

# Boston Tea Party - 4th Grade

# Lesson

## The Boston Tea Party

### TELL Students

The events surrounding the Boston Tea Party were the first major demonstrations of activism in America. Although standing up for what you believe in is an important part of being an American – and has been since before our nation’s founding—protests should not be violent or destroy property, because that is against the law.

Even George Washington, who later became America’s first president, disagreed with the colonist’s destruction of private property. Benjamin Franklin, too, disapproved and offered to pay for the destroyed tea. The King’s response to the Boston Tea Party was harsh. Another law was put into place to ensure the colonists paid for the tea they destroyed, and that was just the beginning of their consequences.

### REFLECTIONS

How did the colonists use their liberty to show disagreement with the tax on tea?

### WATCH

Supplemental Learn More With Liberty Course Videos:  
*Representative Government*  
*Why Life Matters: Government Influence*  
*Government Oppression vs. Liberty*





Boston Tea Party - 4th Grade

# Flash Cards



**ACTIVISM**

taking action to  
achieve political  
goals

**BOSTON TEA  
PARTY**

a protest where a large  
group of colonists  
disguised as Native  
Americans dumped  
342 chests of tea into  
the Boston Harbor

**PROTEST**

publicly expressing  
disagreement with  
something for others  
to see

## Boston Tea Party - 4th Grade

# Flash Cards

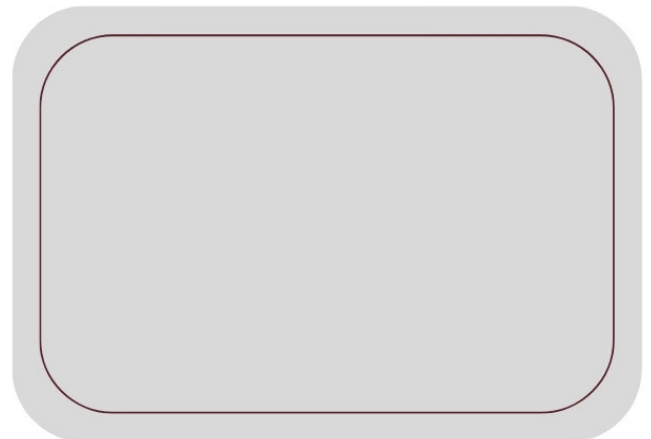
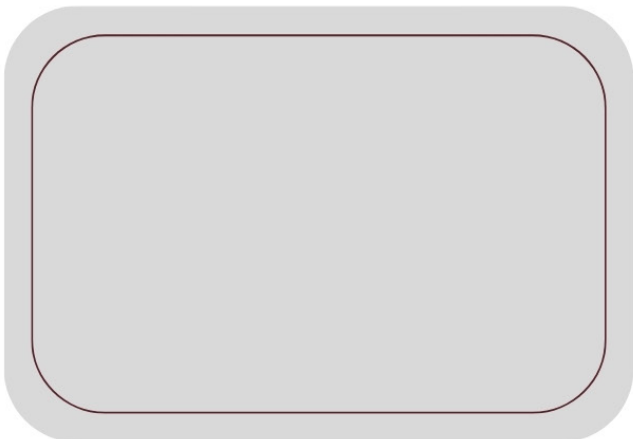


**SONS OF  
LIBERTY**

a group of merchants  
and traders led by  
Samuel Adams that  
opposed British  
taxation

**TOWNSHEND ACTS**

taxed items  
including paint,  
paper, glass, lead,  
and tea



# Boston Tea Party

## Text Me!

**Directions:** Using what you know about Samuel Adams and the Sons of Liberty, create a group text that Adams may have started when making arrangements to dump tea into Boston Harbor.

The form is a vertical rectangle with a light blue background and a dark grey border. It contains four speech bubbles arranged in two pairs. The top pair has a speech bubble on the left with a tail pointing to a black and white illustration of Samuel Adams, and a larger empty speech bubble on the right. The second pair has a larger empty speech bubble on the left and a speech bubble on the right with a tail pointing to a black and white illustration of two Sons of Liberty members. The third pair has a speech bubble on the left with a tail pointing to a black and white illustration of Samuel Adams, and a larger empty speech bubble on the right. The bottom pair has a larger empty speech bubble on the left and a speech bubble on the right with a tail pointing to a black and white illustration of two Sons of Liberty members.

# Boston Tea Party - 4th Grade

# Assessment

1. Where did the Sons of Liberty stage a protest in 1773?

a. Delaware

c. New York

b. South Carolina

d. Massachusetts

2. The Boston Tea Party was led by:

a. Samuel Adams

c. Sons of Liberty

b. John Hancock

d. All of the above

3. The tea the colonists dumped in the Boston Harbor is estimated at \$1-1.7 million.

a. True

b. False

4. It took almost three hours to dump 900,000 pounds of tea into the Boston Harbor.

a. True

b. False

# Boston Tea Party - 4th Grade

# Assessment Key

1. Where did the Sons of Liberty stage a protest in 1773?

a. Delaware

b. South Carolina

c. New York

**d. Massachusetts**

2. The Boston Tea Party was led by:

a. Samuel Adams

b. John Hancock

c. Sons of Liberty

**d. All of the above**

3. The tea the colonists dumped in the Boston Harbor is estimated at \$1-1.7 million.

**a. True**

b. False

4. It took almost three hours to dump 900,000 pounds of tea into the Boston Harbor.

a. True

**b. False**

# Boston Tea Party

# Resource List

<https://www.history.com/topics/colonial-america/thirteen-colonies>

<https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/boston-tea-party>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/road-to-revolution/the-american-revolution/a/the-townshend-acts>

<https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/boston-massacre>

<https://www.biography.com/military-figure/crispus-attucks>

<https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/townshend-acts>

<https://www.bostontea-party-ship.com/boston-tea-party-cause#:~:text=In%20simplest%20terms%2C%20the%20Boston,the%20French%20and%20Indian%20War>

<https://www.bostontea-party-ship.com/disguise-of-sons-of-liberty#:~:text=In%20an%20effort%20to%20hide,as%20Mohawks%20or%20Narragansett%20Indian>

<https://www.history.com/news/10-things-you-may-not-know-about-the-boston-tea-party>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/road-to-revolution/the-american-revolution/a/the-boston-tea-party>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/road-to-revolution/the-american-revolution/a/the-intolerable-acts-and-the-first-continental-congress>

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/congress-petitions-english-king-to-address-grievances#:~:text=On%20October%2025%2C%201774%2C%20the,be%20standing%20behind%20British%20rule>

