

Name:

Date:



Sewardville Town Meeting  
~~September 2012~~ 2012

Directions: You and your classmates are attending the Sewardville Town Meeting to discuss the various Acts being passed by the British government. Your table will be assigned a role to explore. You will be asked to:

- A. Choose 2 Acts that affect your character.
- B. Be ready to explain how they influence your role.
- C. What if any actions should your group take?

**Parliamentary Acts (see reverse side for more in depth explanation of acts)**

- A. **Navigation Acts** – regulates colonial trade (*mercantalism*)
- B. **Proclamation Act of 1763** – orders settlers to withdraw from lands west of Appalachian Mountains and reserves certain lands for the Indians.
- C. **Sugar Act (1764)** places a duty (tax) on sugar, molasses, cloth, coffee and iron imported from places outside the British Empire.
- D. **Quartering Act (1763)** requires that the colonists provide food and housing for British soldiers here.
- E. **Stamp Act (1765)** taxes all printed materials, including newspapers, deeds, wills, sales receipts, and playing cards. These stamps must be purchased at the nearest government office.
- F. **Townshend Acts (1766)** provides for duties on certain manufactured goods imported into the colonies, such as glass, lead, paints, paper, and tea.

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**Roles:**

- 1. **Frontier Land Speculator** – You came west to the Ohio Valley to find good lands which could be sold to farmers seeking to settle the west. Your only problem so far has been getting the local Indians to sell you land, but you are usually able to scare them with stories of English soldiers who are about to move in and take the land by force, if necessary.
- 2. **New England Rum Manufacturer** – You import molasses from the West Indies to make your rum. You sometimes buy the molasses from French or Dutch suppliers. You usually avoid buying from British suppliers, who generally charge more.
- 3. **New England Merchant** – You sell both retail (directly to local customers) and wholesale (to traveling salesmen who carry goods throughout New England by horse and cart). You sell a wide variety of household goods and hardware. You also sell cloth and imported glass and china.
- 4. **Farmer** – You grow wheat, corn, and vegetables for the local market. You also raise cattle and sheep. The meat and vegetables get sold locally, but wheat and corn you sell to merchants who specialize in exporting agricultural products to Europe.
- 5. **Shipper** – You import various manufactured goods from England and France, and export colonial materials to Europe. For years, you have been troubled by French and Dutch rivals who bring their ships directly (and illegally) into port, selling goods and picking up raw materials to export.
- 6. **Customs Official** – You have been sent to the American colonies to inspect all products being shipped to and from the port of Boston, Massachusetts. All ships entering and exiting the harbor must be inspected and searched for goods available for sale in their final destination by Customs Officials.

## Tyranny is Tyranny

In 1763, Lord Grenville, the English Prime Minister, had to reduce the large debt left over from the French and Indian War and pay for the 10,000 British Troops stationed in the American colonies. He also discovered that a great deal of smuggling was occurring in the colonies and reducing the amount of taxes being collected from the colonies. Therefore, a series of laws and acts were passed to ensure the repayment of debt. Although some of them were later repealed, the colonists were frustrated and angered by the latest restrictive measures placed on them by both the King and Parliament.

- **The Navigational Acts (1651, 1660, 1663, 1673, 1696)** - These laws restricted how trade was to be conducted by American Colonists. Certain items could be sold only to England or its other colonies. All colonial goods had to pass through English ports before going on to other European ports so that they could be taxed. Taxes were later imposed on trade between American colonies and customs officials were able to use general search warrants to ensure these laws were enforced. Although these acts were passed before the French and Indian War, they are important because they laid the foundation for colonial resentment and frustration with the British Government.
- **PROCLAMATION of 1763** - forbid settlement west of Appalachian Mtns after the French + Indian War
- **The Sugar Act (1764)** - This act changed tax rates on raw sugar and molasses imported from foreign colonies. It also placed new taxes on silk, wine, coffee, pimento, and indigo. Merchants complained that the Sugar Act violated English rights and hurt trade. The colonists circulated pamphlets protesting the act and complained that the colonists had no representation in Parliament to defend their rights. The phrase "No taxation without representation" was born.
- **The Stamp Tax (1765)** - This law established the first direct taxation on goods (newspapers, playing cards, and other paper goods) within the British colonies in North America. Taxes would be collected on "stamped" products. Previous taxes, such as the Sugar Act, only taxed imported and exported goods. The colonist reacted by boycotting goods and harassing stamp distributors.
- **The Townshend Acts (1767)** - A heavy tax levied on the colonies by Parliament. Colonists had to pay Britain a tax on imported glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea. The colonists reacted by boycotting imported goods.
- **The Boston Massacre (1770)** - British troops in Boston were taunted by a mob of colonists. Troops fired into the crowd and killed 5 men. The colonists saw this as an act of hostility feeding their desire for freedom. One of the five men killed was Crispus Attucks, who became the 1<sup>st</sup> African American colonist to die in the American Revolution. This event led to the arrest of the soldiers (only 2 were convicted) AND to the repeal of the Townshend Acts with the *exception of the tax on tea*
- **The Tea Act (1773)** - Colonial Merchants who sold tea lost business when the British East India Company was granted permission from the British Government to sell tea directly to the colonists tax free. This allowed the British East India Company to cut out the middle man (the merchant). Some colonists in Boston disguised themselves as Native Americans and expressed their outrage by dumping 15,000 pounds of tea into the Boston Harbor (**The Boston Tea Party - 12/16/1773**)
- **The Intolerable Acts (or the Coercive Acts of 1774)** - As punishment for the colonists actions, King George III, passed a series of 4 Acts which greatly restricted colonial activities, particularly in Massachusetts. Boston Harbor was closed until the profits lost on the tea were repaid, the people holding elected positions removed from office and replaced by men appointed by the king, and troops were quartered in the houses of colonists. The colonies reacted by forming the First Continental Congress and drawing up a declaration of colonial rights.

Tensions continued to mount, other colonies had their governing bodies disbanded by the King's representatives in the colonies, and rebellion began to unfold, primarily in New England. By 1776, New England was in full rebellion against King George III and the Second Continental Congress united the various colonial armies and militias into the Continental Army led by General George Washington.