

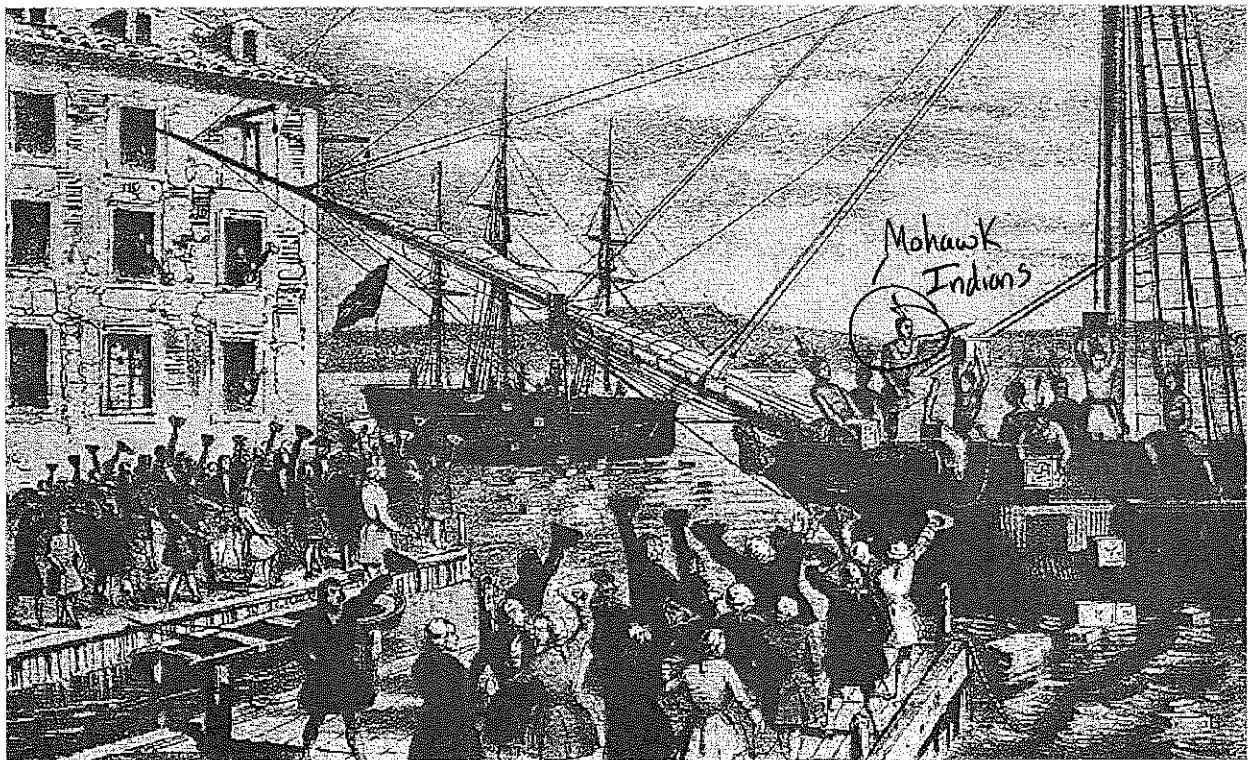
BOSTON TEA PARTY 1773 - Notes

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Riot

The British East Indian Company was in financial distress, partly as a result of the colonial boycott of English tea. To save the company from ruin, Parliament passed the Tea Act, which allowed the company to ship tea to America without paying the existing heavy duty in England. This allowed the company to sell the tea more cheaply than the colonial importers of English tea as well as the smugglers of foreign tea. This would ruin many American tea merchants.

In many American ports, the colonists boycotted the tea. It was either sent back to England, or locked up in warehouses and left to rot. In Boston, with the encouragement of The Sons of Liberty, the citizens refused to permit the unloading of three tea ships. During the night of December 16, 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place. Bostonians disguised as Indians boarded the ships and dumped 342 chests (worth \$75,000) into the harbor.



Effect of the Tea Act and Boston Tea Party of 1773

Detail of The Bostonians Paying the Excise (tax) Man (1774), a color engraving by an unknown artist. The sign on the Liberty Tree is upside down and reads "Stamp Act". It has the word "TEA" printed on it.

1. What event is taking place on the ships in the background?

Boston Tea Party

2. What was the purpose of the actions in the background?

Colonists protested the taxes

3. Who is being tarred and feathered?

Tax collector

4. What are the men pouring into his mouth? Why would they do this?

Colonists

5. What does "Liberty Tree" mean?

