

Station 1 Navigation Acts

Navigation Acts, in English history, a series of laws designed to restrict England's carrying trade to English ships, effective chiefly in the 17th and 18th centuries. The measures, originally framed to encourage the development of English shipping so that adequate auxiliary vessels would be available in wartime, became a form of trade protectionism during an era of mercantilism.

The first navigation act, passed in 1381, remained virtually a dead letter because of a shortage of ships. In the 16th century various Tudor measures had to be repealed because they provoked retaliation from other countries. The system came into its own at the beginning of the colonial era, in the 17th century. The great Navigation Act passed by the Commonwealth government in 1651 was aimed at the Dutch, then England's greatest commercial rivals. It distinguished between goods imported from European countries, which could be brought in either English ships or ships of the country of origin, and goods brought from Asia, Africa, or America, which could travel to England, Ireland, or any English colony only in ships from England or the particular colony. Various fish imports and exports were entirely reserved to English shipping, as was the English coastal trade. The law was reenacted in 1660, and the practice was introduced of "enumerating" certain colonial products, which could be shipped directly only to England, Ireland, or another English colony. These included sugar (until 1739), indigo, and tobacco; rice and molasses were added during the 18th century. Non-enumerated goods could go in English ships from English colonies directly to foreign ports. From 1664 English colonies could receive European goods only via England. Scotland was treated as a foreign country until the Act of Union (1707) gave it equal privileges with England; Ireland was excluded from the benefits of the laws between 1670 and 1779.

Although English tonnage and trade increased steadily from the late 17th century, critics of the navigation system argue that this would have occurred in any case and that the policy forced up freight prices, thus ultimately making English manufactured goods less competitive. Indeed, from the 1720s to the 1760s—under the leadership of Robert Walpole and then Thomas Pelham-Holles, 1st duke of Newcastle—Parliament practiced an unwritten policy of "salutary neglect," under which trade regulations for the colonies were laxly enforced as long as the colonies remained loyal to Britain and contributed to the profitability of the British economy. The tightening of the laws in 1764 contributed to the unrest leading to the rebellion of England's American colonies; their achievement of independence made the first serious breach in the navigation system, and from then on exceptions were increasingly made. Enumeration was abandoned in 1822, and the navigation laws were finally repealed in 1849 and 1854.

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Navigation-Acts>

Station 2 Sugar Act facts

Parliament passed the Sugar Act on April 5, 1764.

The proper name of the Sugar Act is The American Revenue Act of 1764.

The Sugar Act was an extension of the Molasses Act (1733), which was set to expire in 1763.

The Sugar Act was proposed by Prime Minister George Grenville.

The goal of the act was to raise revenue to help defray the military costs of protecting the American colonies at a time when Great Britain's economy was saddled with the huge national debt accumulated during the French and Indian War (aka Seven Years War).

The focus of the Sugar Act was to discourage colonial merchants and manufacturers from smuggling non-British goods to avoid taxes imposed by Parliament.

The Sugar Act increased the number of items that would be taxed when they were imported to the colonies, but it actually reduced the tax on molasses and sugar from 6 pence per gallon to 3 pence per gallon.

The purpose of lowering the tax on molasses was to induce importers to buy molasses from British colonies instead of smuggling it from competing French and Spanish colonies.

The Sugar Act also increased enforcement of smuggling laws.

Strict enforcement of the Sugar Act successfully reduced smuggling, but it greatly disrupted the economy of the American colonies by increasing the cost of many imported items, and reducing exports to non-British markets.

The Sugar Act empowered customs officials to have all violations tried in vice admiralty courts rather than local colonial courts where the juries often looked favorably on smugglers.

Protests against the Sugar Act led to boycotts of some British luxury goods, which did boost local manufacturing in some instances.

The language and official name of the bill made it clear that the purpose of the Sugar Act was not to simply regulate the trade (as the case with the Molasses Act), but to raise revenue.

Americans protested the Sugar Act primarily because of its economic impact, but for some "no taxation without representation" became a rallying cry against Parliament's right to tax the colonies.

<http://www.americanhistorycentral.com/entries/sugar-act/view/quick-facts/>

Station 3 Currency Act Use Ipads to visit this site and answer the questions

<https://www.landofthebrave.info/currency-act.htm>

Station 4 A Summary of the Stamp Act

The Stamp Act was passed by the British Parliament on March 22, 1765. The new tax was imposed on all American colonists and required them to pay a tax on every piece of printed paper they used. Ship's papers, legal documents, licenses, newspapers, other publications, and even playing cards were taxed. The money collected by the Stamp Act was to be used to help pay the costs of defending and protecting the American frontier near the Appalachian Mountains (10,000 troops were to be stationed on the American frontier for this purpose).

The actual cost of the Stamp Act was relatively small. What made the law so offensive to the colonists was not so much its immediate cost but the standard it seemed to set. In the past, taxes and duties on colonial trade had always been viewed as measures to regulate commerce, not to raise money. The Stamp Act, however, was viewed as a direct attempt by England to raise money in the colonies without the approval of the colonial legislatures. If this new tax were allowed to pass without resistance, the colonists reasoned, the door would be open for far more troublesome taxation in the future.

Few colonists believed that they could do anything more than grumble and buy the stamps until the Virginia House of Burgesses adopted Patrick Henry's Stamp Act Resolves. These resolves declared that Americans possessed the same rights as the English, especially the right to be taxed only by their own representatives; that Virginians should pay no taxes except those voted by the Virginia House of Burgesses; and that anyone supporting the right of Parliament to tax Virginians should be considered an enemy of the colony. The House of Burgesses defeated the most extreme of Henry's resolutions, but four of the resolutions were adopted. Virginia Governor Fauquier did not approve of the resolutions, and he dissolved the House of Burgesses in response to their passage.

<http://www.history.org/history/teaching/tchrsta.cfm>

Station 5 Quartering Act

On May 15, 1765, the British Parliament passed the Quartering Act, where several rules and regulations were put forth so that British soldiers who remained in North America would be given adequate room and board. It was expected that colonial families, complete with wives and children, make room in their homes for British soldiers if and when it was necessary. When this act was passed it outraged the colonists who were already not happy being under British rule. In fact, out of all of the 13 colonies, Pennsylvania was the only one to comply with the act. Read the lists below for more interesting facts about this act including why it was one of the major cause of the American Revolution.

Quartering Act Basic Facts

The Quartering Act was actually an extension of the Mutiny Act of 1686 which had clauses pertaining to the housing of British soldiers in homes in the American colonies.

When enacted by the British Parliament in 1765 this act required the colonist to not only provide shelter for the British soldiers but also to provide food, bedding, beer, candles, salt, cider, firewood, and eating utensils.

The British Parliament passed this act due to the request of British General Thomas Gage, who was the commander of the British forces in North America, and other commanders. These commanders found the colonist uncooperative in providing shelter for them and their soldiers.

When the French and the British fought for possession of North America in The French and Indian War or the Seven Years War (1754-1763), American colonists housed many British soldiers. They were not prepared to do this during times of peace.

By the end of the French and Indian War, the British had to find a way to deal with the massive debt they had amassed due to the war. By keeping British soldiers housed and fed in America, they felt they could both avoid the hefty cost of sending them back home and use the army to collect taxes from the colonists.

The Quartering Act stated that American colonists were to find accommodations for British soldiers which could include barracks, Inns, private homes, barns and even livery stables. It also stated that the soldiers were to be given food and bedding, as well as candles, firewood, alcohol and other associated items at the cost of the colonist.

Quartering Act Resistance

The colonists felt that the Quartering Act of 1765 violated the 1689 English Bill of Rights.

In 1766 1,500 British soldiers sailed in New York Harbor. The New York Colonial Assembly disliked being ordered to house and feed the British and refused to do so. The British soldiers had to remain on their ships. The British Parliament responded by making any further legislation from the governor of New York and the New York assembly invalid until the assembly had complied with the Quartering Act.

The Quartering Act was one in a series of events that caused the American Revolution. Some of the other events include the Townshend Acts of 1767 and the Boston Massacre in 1768. All these events would added to the tension between the colonist and the British government which would boil over in 1775 with the outbreak of the American Revolution.

<http://www.american-revolutionary-war-facts.com/Events-Leading-To-American-Revolution/Quartering-Act-Facts.html>

Station 6 Declaratory Acts

There was nothing drastic or immediately threatening about the Declaratory Act, passed by the British parliament immediately after the Stamp Act was repealed in 1766. It raised no new tax, placed no restriction or requisition on the colonial assemblies, in fact it did not require anything from the colonists at all – except an understanding of their subordinate role to the British crown and parliament. The Declaratory Act was simply a proclamation that reinforced parliament’s law-making power over the American colonies. It was designed to clarify the relationship between Britain and America, passed really for the benefit of the Americans themselves, who seemed to have forgotten their place. According to historian John E. Findling, the Declaratory Act “reaffirmed the Parliament’s commitment to govern and to tax for the entire empire” and “satisfied the members of Parliament about the legitimacy and reach of their power”. The act read in part:

“Several houses of representatives in his Majesty’s colonies and plantations in America , have against law, claimed to themselves the sole and exclusive right of imposing duties and taxes upon his majesty’s subjects in those colonies and plantations; they have passed certain votes, resolutions, and orders derogatory to the legislative authority of parliament. The said colonies and plantations in America have been and are subordinate unto, and dependent upon the imperial crown and parliament of Great Britain; the King and parliament [has] full power and authority to make laws and statutes to bind the colonies and people of America, subjects of the crown of Great Britain, in all cases whatsoever.”

The Declaratory Act was viewed by some in the colonies, quite justifiably, as a face-saving measure. Many considered it a statement of political sovereignty, issued to ease the embarrassment of the Stamp Act repeal. Others thought the Declaratory Act a more sinister development. They saw it not just as a declaration of principle but also a statement of intent; some took it as evidence that parliament intended more legislation to tax the colonies and subordinate the colonial assemblies. To the radicals, the Declaratory Act was inherently more worrying than the earlier attempts to implement petty taxation. Whatever the case the Declaratory Act did not have an immediate impact on the colonies; it would take another raft of taxation legislation the following year to stir the Americans once more.

<http://alphahistory.com/americanrevolution/declaratory-act/>

Station 7 Tea Act

The Tea Act Facts

The Tea Act was an Act of Great Britain's Parliament to impose a tax on tea and reduce the massive tea surplus of the British East India Company in London, a company in financial trouble. The Tea Act was part of a group of taxes imposed on the colonies by Britain called The Townsend Acts. When the Townsend Acts were repealed the Tea Act remained in place. North Americans were already buying illegal tea that was being smuggled into the colonies, and Great Britain wanted to curb the practice while saving the British company. The resistance to being forced to buy the more expensive tea from the British East India Company culminated in a protest referred to as the Boston Tea Party, on December 16th, 1773. Colonists boarded the tea ships in the Boston Harbor and dumped the tea overboard. These actions helped to fuel the eventual rebellion against Britain in the American War of Independence which began in April 1775.

The tea from the British East India Company was more expensive than what could be imported from elsewhere - and they had a monopoly of the sale of 'legal' tea in the 13 colonies.

The smuggler's tea being brought into the colonies meant that the British East India Company's tea was left to rot in warehouses in London.

Despite the reduced price of tea thanks to the Tea Act, colonists did not appreciate the monopoly being imposed on them or the taxes they were being forced to pay.

One of the main leaders in the protest in the colonies against the Tea Tax was John Hancock.

Colonists refused to allow the ships to unload their tea in the harbors in America, and the ships often sailed home with full cargo.

The British East India Company had to ship the tea directly to the colonies instead of to London first, which helped to reduce the price. However this did not improve the response of Americans to the tea. They still resented the monopoly and the taxes.

Approximately 900,000 pounds of tea was being smuggled into the colonies each year from the Dutch, while only 562,000 pounds of tea was being bought from the British East India Company.

The cheaper tea being smuggled into the colonies was not as good as the tea from the British East India Company, but those who wanted to protest British taxation and control had no problem drinking the lesser quality tea.

In 1770 when most of the Townsend Taxes were repealed the tea tax remained. The Townsend Acts had been met with so much resistance that the British sent troops in 1768 to occupy Boston. This had led to the Boston Massacre in 1770, and the subsequent decision to repeal most of the taxes of The Townsend Act.

The Tea Act was introduced by the Rt. Hon. Lord North, KG, MP, in 1773. It wasn't officially repealed until 1861 by the Statute Law Revision Act, despite becoming a 'dead letter' after 1778 when a number of taxes were repealed in Parliament.

http://www.softschools.com/facts/13_colonies/the_tea_act_facts/2052/

Station 8 Townshend Acts

Use Ipads for this station to answer the questions.

<https://www.landofthebrave.info/townshend-acts.htm>

Station 9 Coercive and Intolerable Acts

Upset by the Boston Tea Party and other blatant acts of destruction of British property by American colonists, the British Parliament enacts the Coercive Acts, to the outrage of American Patriots, on this day in 1774.

The Coercive Acts were a series of four acts established by the British government. The aim of the legislation was to restore order in Massachusetts and punish Bostonians for their Tea Party, in which members of the revolutionary-minded Sons of Liberty boarded three British tea ships in Boston Harbor and dumped 342 crates of tea—nearly \$1 million worth in today's money—into the water to protest the Tea Act.

Passed in response to the Americans' disobedience, the Coercive Acts included:

The Boston Port Act, which closed the port of Boston until damages from the Boston Tea Party were paid.

The Massachusetts Government Act, which restricted Massachusetts; democratic town meetings and turned the governor's council into an appointed body.

The Administration of Justice Act, which made British officials immune to criminal prosecution in Massachusetts.

The Quartering Act, which required colonists to house and quarter British troops on demand, including in their private homes as a last resort.

A fifth act, the Quebec Act, which extended freedom of worship to Catholics in Canada, as well as granting Canadians the continuation of their judicial system, was joined with the Coercive Acts in colonial parlance as one of the Intolerable Acts, as the mainly Protestant colonists did not look kindly on the ability of Catholics to worship freely on their borders.

More important than the acts themselves was the colonists' response to the legislation. Parliament hoped that the acts would cut Boston and New England off from the rest of the colonies and prevent unified resistance to British rule. They expected the rest of the colonies to abandon Bostonians to British martial law. Instead, other colonies rushed to the city's defense, sending supplies and forming their own Provincial Congresses to discuss British misrule and mobilize resistance to the crown. In September 1774, the First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and began orchestrating a united resistance to British rule in America.

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/british-parliament-adopts-the-coercive-acts>

Station 10 Tax Collector



Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Station 1 Navigation Acts

Date of the Act	
In order for the English Colonies to receive goods, where did they have to go through?	
What do you think the term "Salutary neglect" refers to?	
What was the Colonists reaction?	

Station 2 Sugar Act Facts

Date of the Act	
What was the goal of the act?	
Protests by the colonists led to boycotts. Define the term boycott.	
What became the rallying cry of Colonists in their effort to protest this tax and other taxes?	

Station 3 Currency Act

Date of the Act	
Why did the paper money depreciate in value?	
Based on the reading, define the term "Salutary neglect."	

Write down three inconsistencies between the Colonies regarding "Bills of Credit."	
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Station 4 Stamp Act

Date of the Act	
What documents were taxed under the Stamp Act?	
What did the Colonists believe the Stamp Act would lead to if it was left unchallenged?	
Who imposed the Stamp Act tax?	

Station 5 Quartering Act

Date of the Act	
What was the purpose of the Quartering Act?	
Why was this law necessary?	
What did the Colonists do to resist the Quartering Act?	

Station 6 Declaratory Acts

Date of the Act	
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What was the purpose of this act if it didn't impose any new taxes?	
What does the term subordinate mean?	
How did the Colonists view this act?	

Station 7 Tea Act

Date of the Act	
What was Great Britain's motivation for passing the Tea Act?	
Who was one of the leaders protesting the Tea Act?	
How did the Colonists keep the British from selling the Tea from the British East India Company?	

Station 8 Townshend Acts

Date of the Act	
The Townshend Act imposed taxes on many different goods. What were these taxes intended to pay for?	
What do the Colonists mean by the phrase "No taxation without representation?"	

How did Colonists respond to the Townshend Act?	
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Station 9 Coercive and Intolerable Acts

Date of the Act	
What was the purpose of the Coercive Acts?	
What did the British do to the port of Boston?	
What response did Britain expect from the other Colonies? What actually happened?	

Station 10 -The man in the middle of the picture is a tax collector.

What are the Colonists doing to him?	
What message are the Colonists trying to send to him and to other tax Collectors?	
What is the significance of the tree in the background?	