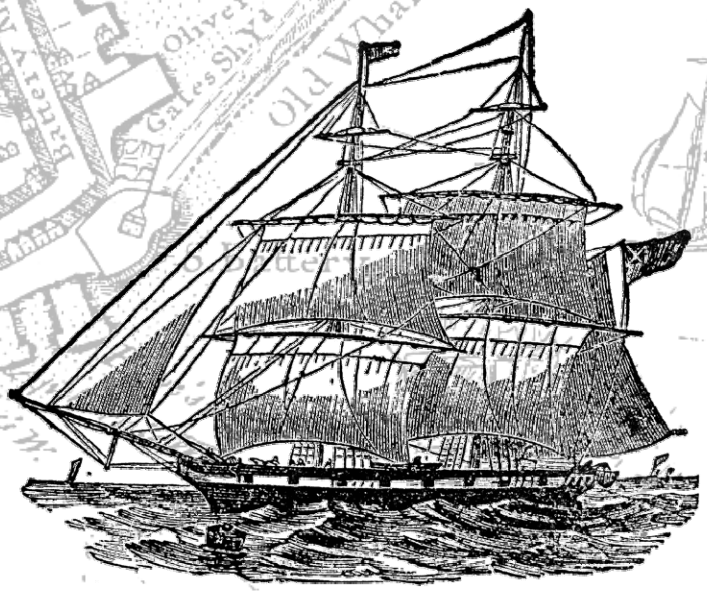
Tea is Brewing

A GUIDE FOR TEACHERS



OLD SOUTH MEETING HOUSE

WHERE THE BOSTON TEA PARTY BEGAN!

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Tea is Brewing

TEACHER'S GUIDE & PRE-VISIT MATERIALS

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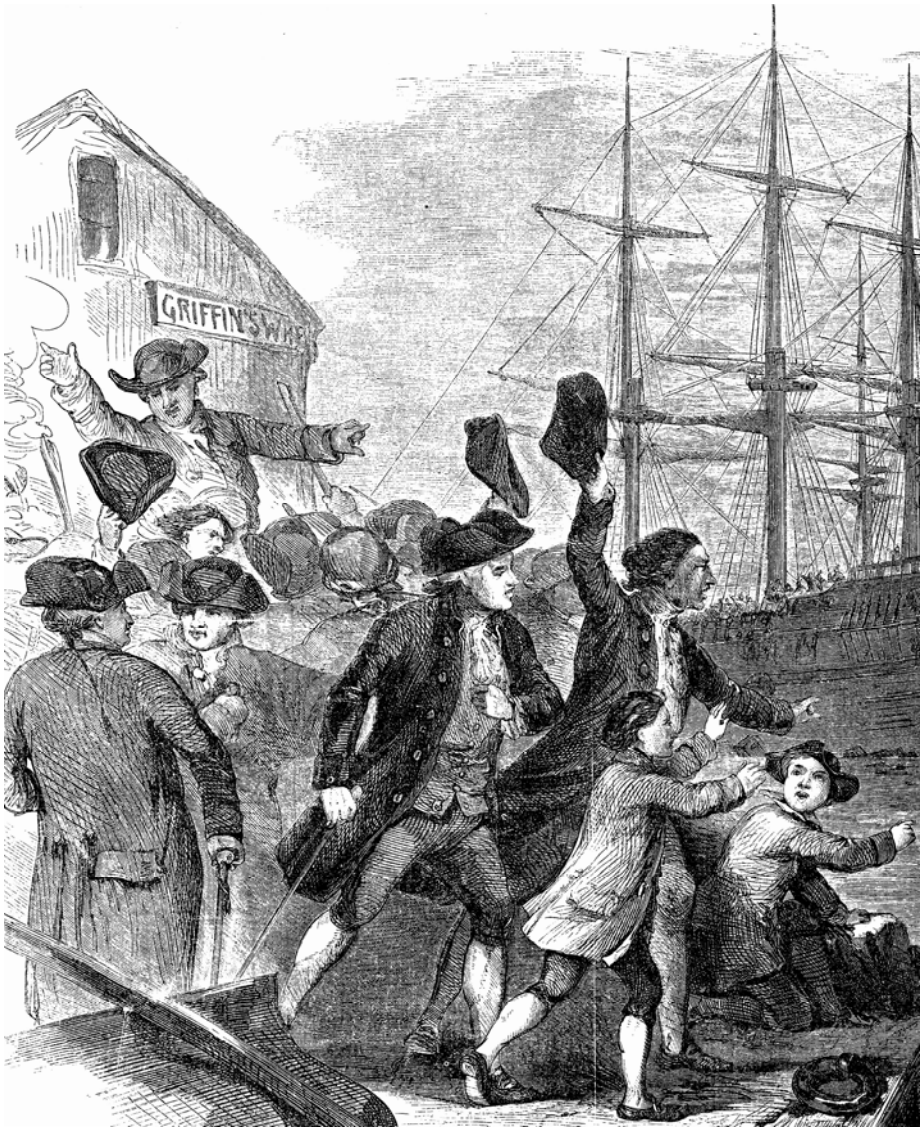
About the Tea is Brewing Program

Tea is Brewing is an educational program where students experience firsthand the events that led up to the Boston Tea Party. Through a visit to Old South Meeting House in our one hour program, or to Faneuil Hall and Old South Meeting House in our two hour program, your students will follow the same path the colonists took in their decision to dump the tea.



The enclosed materials are designed to help teachers prepare their students to take on the roles of actual 18th century Loyalists and Patriots and reenact the fiery Tea Tax Debate that led to the "Destruction of the Tea," or as we now know it, the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 1773.

Since 1984 over 200,000 students have participated in *Tea is Brewing*. These materials have been developed by the staff at Old South Meeting House as part of this longstanding program.

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How To Use This Guide

Tea is Brewing **is an interactive program that relies on the preparation of students for its success.** Please use the enclosed pre-visit materials to ensure that your students will have a memorable, thought-provoking, and fun experience.

Begin preparing your students by reviewing the pre-visit materials and historical background provided.

I. Read and discuss either *"What's all this Fuss About Tea?"* or *"The Story Behind the Tea Act"* in class.
II. Use the glossary to define key words and phrases, or have students create their own.
III. Move on to the section "*December 16, 1773: The Tea Party Meeting*."
IV. Read the section *How to Prepare for the Debate* and follow the instructions.

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Pre-Visit Materials and Historical Background

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

The program works best when the students have a general understanding of pre-Revolutionary Boston. Here are a few suggestions for classroom preparation:

- Have students fill in the time line of events which includes significant British actions and colonial reactions. Or have students create their own.

- Have students create posters, or broadsides, as they were known in the eighteenth century, for and against the Tea Tax then post them in the classroom.

- Have students create character name tags for the debate.

- For older students (middle school and up), instead of using the character cards provided, have students research the Loyalist and Patriot characters and write their own arguments. (Use the "Points for Debate" as a *guide*.)

- Have students take on the role of a Patriot or Loyalist shop owner in Boston. Ask them to create and design their shop sign. What items would they include? What items would they ban?

- Use the *Suggestions for Further Reading* at the end of this guide, there are many valuable sources on life in the colonies before the Revolution, most notably: *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes. (If you are showing the movie *Johnny Tremain* in your class, have students identify the historical inaccuracies and/or discuss how the film differs from the book.)

- Have students come up with a list of ways the colonists could have protested the Tea Tax. Discuss how citizens can protest against laws they feel are unfair.

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A Timeline of British Actions and Colonial Reactions

Year	British Action	Colonial Reaction
1763		
1764		
1765		
1766		
1767		
1768		
1769		
1770		
1771		
1772		
1773		

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"WHAT'S ALL THIS FUSS ABOUT TEA?"

In 1760, England crowned a new king, the 22 year old King George III. The people of Boston celebrated by lighting bonfires on Boston Common and burning candles in the windows of their homes and buildings like Faneuil Hall, Boston's official Town Meeting Hall. King George III was a very popular king in the American colonies. But in just a few short years, all of this would change and the American **colonists** would fight a war against the King and England's **Parliament**. That war is called the American Revolution. Why did King George and Parliament become so unpopular and why did the American colonists fight against England?

For over 100 years, the American colonists lived in peace and governed themselves with very little involvement from Parliament. Then, in 1756, England went to war with France. In North America, this meant that the American colonists were at war with the French colonists who lived in what is known today as Canada. This war was known as the Seven Years War in Europe and as the French and Indian War in North America. To help the American colonists fight the French, King George sent soldiers to the colonies. England spent a great deal of money to keep soldiers in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. It was very expensive to buy food, uniforms and muskets for the soldiers. In 1763, after seven long years, England won the war against France. England spent so much money on the war that the country started to go deeper and deeper into debt. Parliament began to think that the American colonies should pay their fair share of the costs of the war.

To help pay for the soldiers that protected the colonies during the war, King George and Parliament decided to **tax** the American colonists. The first tax Parliament enacted was the **Sugar Act**. The Sugar Act taxed molasses, an important ingredient in the making of rum, which was a big business in the colonies. In 1765, King George and Parliament passed another law called the **Stamp Act**. This law required the colonists to pay to have the King's seal stamped on all paper documents such as marriage licenses, newspapers, and even playing cards. Violent **protests** broke out, so it was **repealed** in 1766.

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The colonists' protests against the Stamp Act shocked Parliament. The leaders in England feared they had not been strict enough with the colonies. People in England were already heavily taxed and could not be expected to pay more to help the colonies. Parliament felt the colonies should pay for the protection provided to them by **British** troops. Therefore, in 1767, Parliament passed the **Townshend Acts**.

The Townshend Acts placed a small tax on glass, paper, lead, painter's colors, and tea. Parliament felt the colonists would not object to the small taxes placed on these items. The Townshend Acts, according to Parliament, were an easy way to raise money. Men in Parliament argued that England would be waiting forever for the thirteen colonies to agree on a way to raise the money themselves.

The taxes made some colonists very angry. The colonists who opposed the taxes were called **Patriots**. They believed that the King and Parliament did not have the right to tax them. The people who lived in England elected **representatives** to serve in Parliament, but the colonists did not have any representatives in Parliament. The Patriots declared, "Taxation without representation is **tyranny**!"

Some colonists thought the taxes were fair. They thought it was right to help King George pay for the soldiers. They felt the soldiers protected them against Indians and from other countries, like France and Spain. These colonists were called **Loyalists**. They liked having the King rule over them. They were angry with the Patriots who spoke out against King George. They declared, "Long live King George III!" They believed that the King was a good and just ruler, who helped the colonies in North America. Being a Loyalist in Boston was difficult and sometimes dangerous. Loyalist **merchants** who stocked and sold British goods in their stores would find themselves targets of Patriot mobs that would try to destroy all the British made items in their stores. Patriot mobs also threatened the lives and homes of many Loyalists.

Patriots protested against the taxes in many ways. Some Patriots protested against the taxes legally. They wrote letters to King George and asked him to repeal the taxes. Some Patriots staged a **boycott** of British goods. Other Patriots protested by breaking laws. One way that they broke the law was by **smuggling** goods into Boston. A group of Patriots, who called themselves the **Sons of Liberty**, caused a lot of trouble in Boston. They burned down a warehouse and even destroyed **Lieutenant Governor** Thomas Hutchinson's house.

The Loyalists were very upset with the Patriots. They cried, "This violence must stop! You Patriots are ruining our beautiful town of Boston!" Some Loyalists were scared. They refused to buy things from shopkeepers who were Patriots. The Patriots continued to protest. Finally, in 1773, Parliament repealed all the taxes—except one—the tax on tea.

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Most of the tea brought to the colonies was grown in Asia and shipped from China. In England, Parliament gave the British East India Company a **monopoly** on the **importing** and **exporting** of tea. That meant that any merchant living in the American colonies who wanted to sell tea in their store would have to buy it from the British East India Company in London.

In May of 1773, Parliament passed a new law, the Tea Act. This law kept the tax on tea. Also, as part of an agreement between the British East India Company and Parliament, only seven merchants, or **tea consignees**, were allowed to sell the tea in Boston. Before the Tea Act, any merchant could buy and sell tea in the colonies. But now, only these seven merchants were allowed to sell tea. And who did the King chose to sell the tea? Loyalists. Not one Patriot merchant was chosen. The Patriots were very angry now. In the fall of 1773, four ships sailed from England to Boston carrying the first **shipment** of tea from the British East India Company. The first ship, the *Dartmouth,* would arrive in Boston by late November. Two other ships, the *Eleanor* and *Beaver* would arrive in early December. The fourth ship, the *William* was ship wrecked off the coast of Cape Cod.

What were the people of Boston going to do about the tea? For weeks, everyone in Boston talked about taxes, tea, the King, and Parliament. The Patriots were angry—they didn't want the tea unloaded from the ships. The Loyalists were angry—they wanted the protests and riots to stop and for life in Boston to return to normal. The colonists decided to hold a series of meetings where everyone, Patriots and Loyalists, could share their opinions. But, what would happen to the tea? Would the tea consignees sell it and make a great deal of money? Would the Patriots buy the tea or boycott it?

Two weeks after the *Dartmouth* arrived in the harbor, Bostonians put signs up all over town inviting people to a big meeting at Old South Meeting House on the morning of December 16th.

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Glossary

Boycott: The effort of a group of people working together to refuse to use, buy from, or deal with a store or nation. It is used as a form of protest to force a change.

British: A person from England, also known as Great Britain. The term can also refer to an object

Colonists: A group of people who settle in another land but are still ruled by the government in their native country

Export: To send goods from one country to another

Import: To receive goods from another country

Lieutenant Governor: The person second-in-command to the Governor of a colony. If anything happens to the Governor, such as an illness, the Lieutenant Governor is in charge of running the government.

Loyalist: A person who supports King George III and the laws of Parliament

Merchant: A person who makes money by buying and selling goods

Monopoly: A company that has complete control over the selling or making of a product or service

Patriot: A person who questions King George III and Parliament's authority in ruling the American colonies

Parliament: A group of men in England who make laws for England and her colonies

Protest: A statement or gathering of people that shows dislike of, or objection to, someone or something

Repeal: To withdraw or cancel

Representative: A person chosen to act on behalf of others

Shipment: The act or process of transporting goods

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Glossary (continued)

Sons of Liberty: An organized group of Patriots in the colonies who protested against King George III and Parliament

Smuggle: To bring something in or take something out of a country secretly and illegally

Stamp Act: A law passed by Parliament in 1765 which forced colonists to put the King's seal on all paper documents. This Act resulted in massive riots in Boston. It was eventually repealed in 1766.

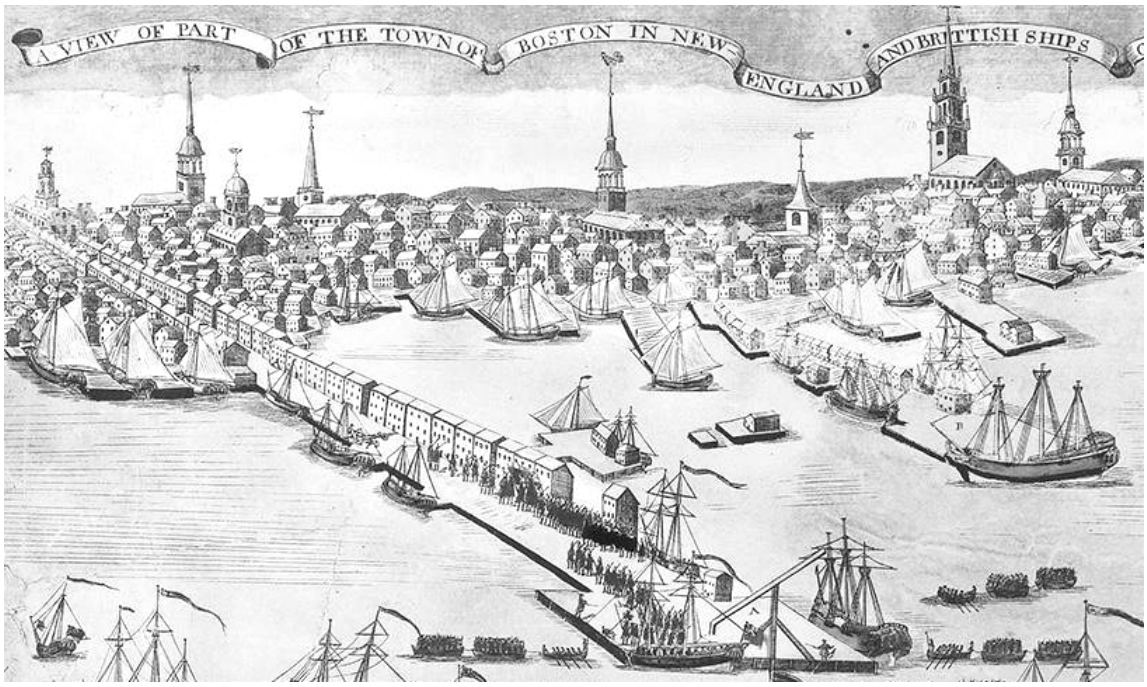
Sugar Act: A 1764 law which put a tax on molasses. This Act was disliked by Bostonians because it severely hurt trade.

Tax: Money that people must pay in order to help support their government

Tea Consignee: A person chosen by Parliament to sell tea in the colonies

Townshend Acts: Laws passed by Parliament in 1767 which placed a small tax on glass, paper, lead, painter's colors, and tea

Tyranny: A government which is cruel, unjust, and treats people unfairly



Paul Revere's 1770 engraving shows the city of Boston under British occupation

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"The Story Behind the Tea Act"

"Madam, is it lawful for a weary traveler to refresh himself with a dish of tea provided it has been honestly smuggled, or paid no duties?" -John Adams, July 1774.

Tea was first introduced to Europe in the 1600's and in just over one hundred years it would not only become one of England's most popular drinks, but would also be the match to ignite the flame of the American Revolution.

In the American colonies, the first regular importation of tea took place in the early 18th Century. Many European countries were involved in exporting and importing of tea from Asia, which gave colonists the option of buying tea from British as well as non-British sources, such as the Dutch. The British East India Company became concerned about losing their hold on the colonial tea market to other countries. In 1721, to ensure the survival of the British East India Company, Parliament passed laws making it illegal for colonists to buy tea from any country other than England. The British East India Company was now the sole importer of tea into the American colonies.

The tea trade between England and the American colonies flourished, and by the 1760's the colonists were drinking 1.2 million pounds of tea a year. Today that would be equal to 19.2 million tea bags. Both men and women had come to enjoy it as an everyday beverage, although it was most popular among the ladies of cosmopolitan communities. Regardless of one's social standing, tea drinking had become a habit the colonists did not want to give up.

Soon, England realized that it could make more money on the tea trade by imposing taxes on tea, which made English tea very expensive. In response to the increase in the price of English tea, merchants began to smuggle cheaper tea into the colonies from Holland and other countries. As a result, nearly 90% of the tea bought in the colonies was smuggled. Although Parliament knew about the smuggling, it had a hard time enforcing the law. There were not enough customs officials in the colonies to control all of the nooks and crannies of the American coastline, which made it easy for smugglers to sneak in their goods.

In 1767, Parliament finally responded to colonial tea smuggling. It passed the Indemnity Act, which repealed the duty on tea and made English tea the same price as Dutch tea. This act pleased both the British East India Tea Company and law-abiding colonial merchants. However, Parliament also passed the Townshend Acts that same year, which once again put a tax on tea. Angry colonists began protesting Parliament's taxes.

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Why did the colonists protest against the taxes? First of all, they did not feel that British troops were necessary for their protection during and after the French and Indian War. More importantly, they believed that Parliament had no right to tax them. There was no colonial representation in Parliament; therefore, they had not been allowed to vote on new laws. Colonists felt that only those taxes that they themselves voted upon were legal.

Cries of "taxation without representation is tyranny!" were soon heard throughout the colonies. The Sons of Liberty, a group of colonists opposed to English rule, warned merchants, artisans, and other people that more unjust laws would follow if the tax was not repealed. As a result, a boycott began. Agreements were signed by colonial merchants not to import British goods and many people agreed not to buy British goods. Although such a boycott was bad for business and hard on the people, it was a form of protest that many colonists felt was necessary to prevent Parliament from enacting other unfair laws.

Women were instrumental in the boycott against British goods. Instead of buying British cloth, for example, women participated in spinning bees and made homespun clothes from local materials. A group of women called the Daughters of Liberty also supported and publicized the boycott campaign among colonial women.

Tea was the most common and widely used of all the newly taxed items. Thus, attention was focused on the new tax on tea. A widespread campaign against British tea began in the colonies. English tea was condemned as a "poison capable of causing nervous disorders and tormenting stomach pains." Anti-tea drinking pledges became common in towns and villages. Broadsides were posted urging people not to drink English tea. Colonists tried growing their own tea. "Labradore" was one such locally grown variety. Newspapers even published poems to convince women of the benefits to drinking the new homegrown tea:

> Throw away your Bohea and your Green
> Hyson tea,
> And all things with a new-fashioned duty;
> Procure a good store of the choice
> Labradore,
> For there soon be enough here to suit ye;
> These do without fear, and to all you'll
> appear,
> Fair, charming, true, lovely and clever;
> Though the times remain darkish,
> young men may be sparkish,
> And love you much stronger than ever.
> --*Boston Post Boy*, 16 November 1767

As men like Samuel Adams discovered, most colonists did their part to support the Sons of Liberty. Although it is not known how many people actually boycotted British tea, it is known that the boycott was very successful in Philadelphia and New York. Almost all of the merchants in those two cities refused to buy tea, because it was easier for them to smuggle Dutch tea into their towns.

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In Boston, the situation was different. Three firms, Richard Clarke and Sons, the partnership of Thomas and Elisha Hutchinson, and the partnership of Isaac Winslow and Benjamin Faneuil, continued to buy and sell English tea. They did not want to lose their business. In addition, it was very hard for Patriot merchants to smuggle Dutch tea into Boston. Since 1765, as a result of the Stamp Act protests, Bostonians had been considered troublemakers and British troops were stationed in Boston to enforce English laws.

The anti-British tea movement and the boycott of British goods in the colonies were successful. British merchants began to complain to Parliament that their businesses were being ruined. In the spring of 1770, Parliament repealed the Townshend Acts and the duties on all items--except tea. Lord North, the Prime Minister of England, insisted on keeping that duty. The American colonists are British citizens, he argued, and as English citizens they had to obey all English laws. The idea that colonists could make their own laws seemed absurd to him.

Even after the repeal of the Townshend Acts, a few merchants attempted to maintain the boycott. They hoped that they could force Parliament to repeal the tax on tea as well. However, most colonial merchants began once again to import British products.

For the next three years, the American colonies were relatively quiet. Many Americans were glad to be able to buy British products again. Colonial merchants and craftsmen were happy to be back in business. Some colonists even began drinking legally imported tea from the British East India Company. In Boston alone, colonists drank 400,000 pounds of English tea from 1771-1772.

Yet this was not the case in all the colonies. In New York and Philadelphia combined, only 1,000 pounds of tea were imported from England between 1771-1772. Parliament soon realized that the wide scale smuggling of Dutch tea continued. In fact, smuggling was so widespread that the British East India Company was deep in debt!

A crisis occurred in the fall of 1772. The British East India Company had an enormous surplus of tea. To avoid going bankrupt, company officials asked Parliament for permission to sell the surplus tea directly to the American colonies, to drop the import duties, both in England and in the colonies, and for a loan from the government. These three changes would allow the company to sell its tea cheaper than the smuggled Dutch tea and, more importantly, save it from bankruptcy.

In May of 1773, Parliament approved the plan except for one provision: Parliament refused to drop the import tax in the colonies. The leaders in Parliament felt that they had the right to tax the colonists and wanted to demonstrate their power. The Tea Act of 1773 kept a small tax of three pence on all English tea brought into the colonies. Even with the tax, British tea would still be cheaper than smuggled Dutch tea.

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The British East India Company had to decide how to distribute the tea to colonial merchants. They decided not to set up colonial warehouses where all colonial merchants could buy tea. Instead, they chose what seemed to be a more efficient method for delivering tea to the colonies. In the fall of 1773, the British East India Company sent 600,000 pounds of dutied tea to four American ports: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Charlestown. Each shipment was consigned, or sold, to a specific group of merchants chosen in advance.

These merchants, called tea consignees, were the only colonial merchants allowed to sell British East India Company tea. In Boston, only seven men were chosen—and they were all Loyalists. The tea, which would be valued today between one and two million dollars, was due to arrive in Boston in the fall of 1773. The Patriots tried to persuade the tea consignees to refuse the tea through public embarrassment and harassment. However, the tea consignees refused.

The issue of what to do about the tea preoccupied Bostonians and others living in surrounding towns. A series of meetings during these tense months did not resolve anything. Finally, on December 16, 1773 the Patriots and the Loyalists met one last time at Old South Meeting House.

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"DECEMBER 16, 1773: THE TEA PARTY MEETING"

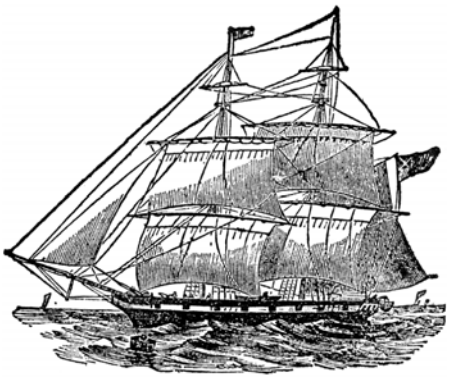
By December 16, 1773 all the fuss about the tea had come to a boil!

Four ships loaded with English tea set sail for Boston, from England in the fall of 1773. The *Dartmouth* was the first to arrive in Boston in late November. The *Eleanor* and the *Beaver* soon followed. The fourth ship, the *William*, was wrecked in a storm off Cape Cod. The Patriots were determined never to see that tea unloaded onto American soil, because if it was, a tax would be due upon it. The Patriots decided they would not pay the tax or buy the British tea.

Francis Rotch and his family, who were Quakers from Nantucket Island, owned the *Dartmouth*. He was under great pressure from both the Patriots and the Loyalists. The Patriots wanted Rotch to turn his ship around and sail it back to England with the tea still on board. The Loyalists, on the other hand, wanted that tea unloaded and the tax paid.

The Royal Governor, Thomas Hutchinson, refused to give Mr. Rotch permission to leave Boston until he unloaded the tea. Rotch did not want to sail the ship back to England without the Governor's permission, as the ship would most likely be fired upon from Castle Island, the armed fort at the entrance to Boston Harbor. He could not risk his ship becoming damaged, or even destroyed. For days, the *Dartmouth* just sat, anchored at Griffin's Wharf in Boston Harbor, ready to be unloaded.

According to the law in Boston, a ship had to be unloaded within twenty days of its arrival in the harbor and all taxes due upon the cargo paid. Since the *Dartmouth* was the first ship to arrive, it would be the first ship that would be required, by law, to be unloaded. Midnight, December 16th would mark the end of the twenty day deadline for the *Dartmouth*--its cargo had to be unloaded or the customs officials could confiscate the cargo and perhaps even the ship itself.



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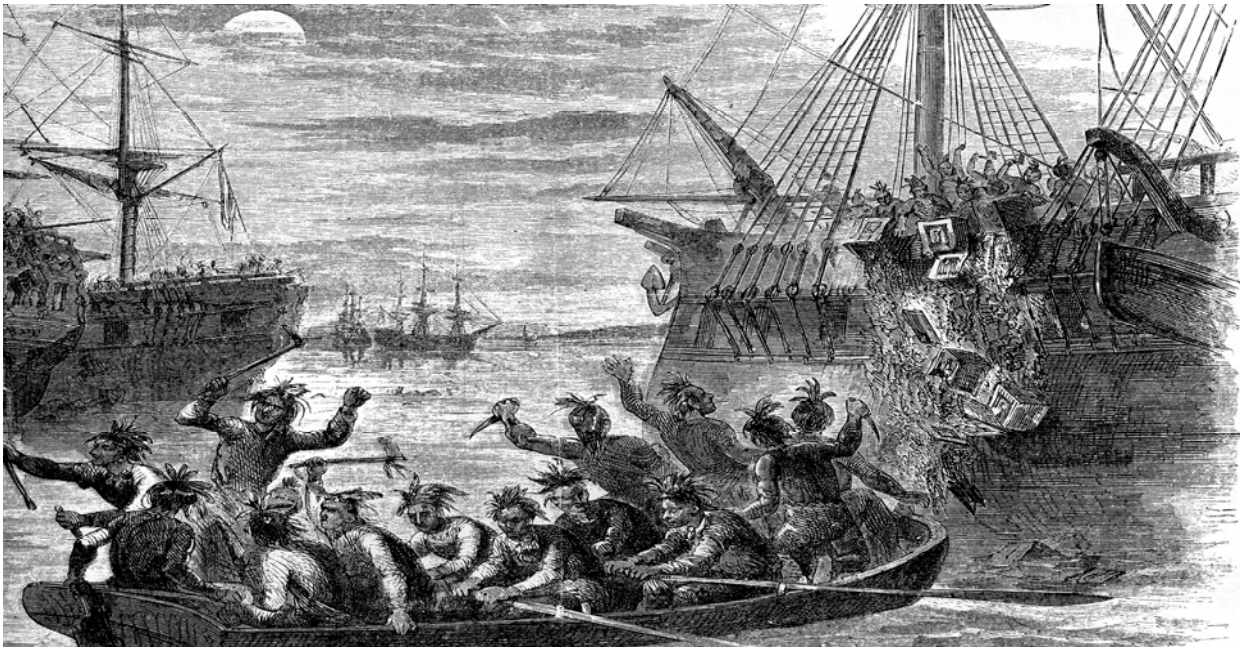
At 10 o'clock in the morning on December 16, 1773, thousands of colonists held a meeting to decide the fate of the tea. Over 5,000 people, more than a third of the population of Boston, crowded into the town's largest building, Old South Meeting House.

Throughout the long and angry meeting, Patriots and Loyalists argued over a number of issues: whether the tea should be unloaded, whether the tax should be paid, whether taxation without representation was fair, and whether the King and Parliament were looking after the colonists' best interests.

During the meeting, Patriot leaders asked Mr. Rotch to make a personal plea to Governor Hutchinson for permission to leave the harbor without unloading the tea. The Patriots were seeking a legal way to refuse the unwanted tea. Mr. Rotch left the meeting and made the trip to where the Governor was staying in Milton, Massachusetts. Rotch asked the Governor to grant him a pass to sail the *Dartmouth* out of Boston Harbor, safely past the British troops at Castle Island, so that the tea could be returned to England. The Governor refused!

Thousands of people waited at Old South Meeting House for Mr. Rotch to return with the Governor's answer. It was near evening when he finally returned. Mr. Rotch reported that he had not received a pass and that he would not try to leave Boston Harbor without the Governor's permission.

With the Governor's refusal, the only legal way the Patriots had to keep the tea from being unloaded had failed. At that moment, Samuel Adams declared: "This meeting can do nothing more to save our country!" Cries of "Huzzah for Griffin's Wharf!" and "Boston Harbor a Teapot Tonight!" were heard. Did the Sons of Liberty have a new plan? What would happen to the tea?



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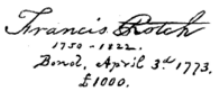
How To Prepare for the Debate

**Running through the debate prior to your visit is highly recommended.*

The key to an exciting experience for your class during the debate at Old South Meeting House is for the students to be prepared with arguments they understand and can act out with conviction. Dramatic interpretation is encouraged!

Complete the Broadside on page 19, filling in the date and time of your field trip to Old South Meeting House, and hang it in your classroom.



For the role play students take on the roles of an actual Patriot or Loyalist and argue from their point of view. **Divide the class evenly between Patriots and Loyalists**. Each card has a symbol in the top right corner: the Liberty Tree is used for Patriots and the Crown is used for Loyalists. Cut the character cards in half and distribute them to the students, as well as any participating adults. In addition to the speaking roles, some cards have further instructions for the debate. Assign one role per student.

Please Note:

While it is not necessary to distribute all 40 roles, there are two roles that ***must*** be distributed: **Francis Rotch** and **Samuel Adams**. Please make sure you have students playing these roles. Both Rotch and Adams have extra responsibilities: Toward the end of the debate the student playing Francis Rotch will be sent to see Governor Hutchinson (in our admission area) to ask permission to return his ship to England without unloading the tea. "Mr. Rotch" will be asked if he has received a pass from the Governor, so that he can sail his ship and its cargo of tea safely out of the harbor. He or she should be prepared to say that he has not, and that he will not leave the harbor illegally. The meeting closes with Samuel Adams reciting his famous words: "This meeting can do nothing more to save our country!" when instructed by the moderator. (This was the signal for the Boston Tea Party to begin!)

Saml Adams

Discuss the characters and their motivation; use the "Points For Debate" as a guide. Go over arguments for and against the Tea Tax and encourage students to get into their roles and express their opinions.

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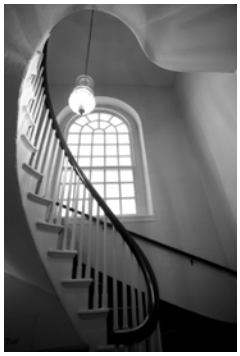
How To Prepare for the Debate (continued)



When students begin to practice their roles, make sure they ***speak loudly*** and add some dramatic interpretation to their roles. The more comfortable and familiar the students are with their roles, the more successful the debate will be at Old South Meeting House. (There is no designated order for the debate.)

Inform students that at the end of the debate Samuel Adams will exclaim: "This meeting can do nothing more to save our country." Afterwards they should cry out: "Huzzah for Griffin's Wharf" and/or "Boston Harbor a Teapot Tonight!" as they did at the actual meeting.

Groups with more than 40 participants can have the additional students act as "Citizens of Boston." These "Citizens" should be prepared to support either the Patriots or Loyalists by cheering at the appropriate time, and by bringing signs or posters supporting or opposing the Tea Tax. **If you are bringing more than 40 students please contact the Education Department at Old South Meeting House so our staff can work with you to develop a program that will benefit your entire class**.

Sample Exercise:

Chose two students to play the roles of Richard Clarke and Joseph Palmer. Have them read their cards aloud to the class. Ask the class why these two feel differently about the Tea Tax issue. What do they have in common? Where do they disagree? Have the two students argue in their own words.

Please Note:

On the day of your visit we encourage students to wear name tags with the name of their character written on them and to bring their character cards. If time is limited, or if the group is large, the moderator at Old South Meeting House may instruct students to read aloud only the bold words from their character cards.

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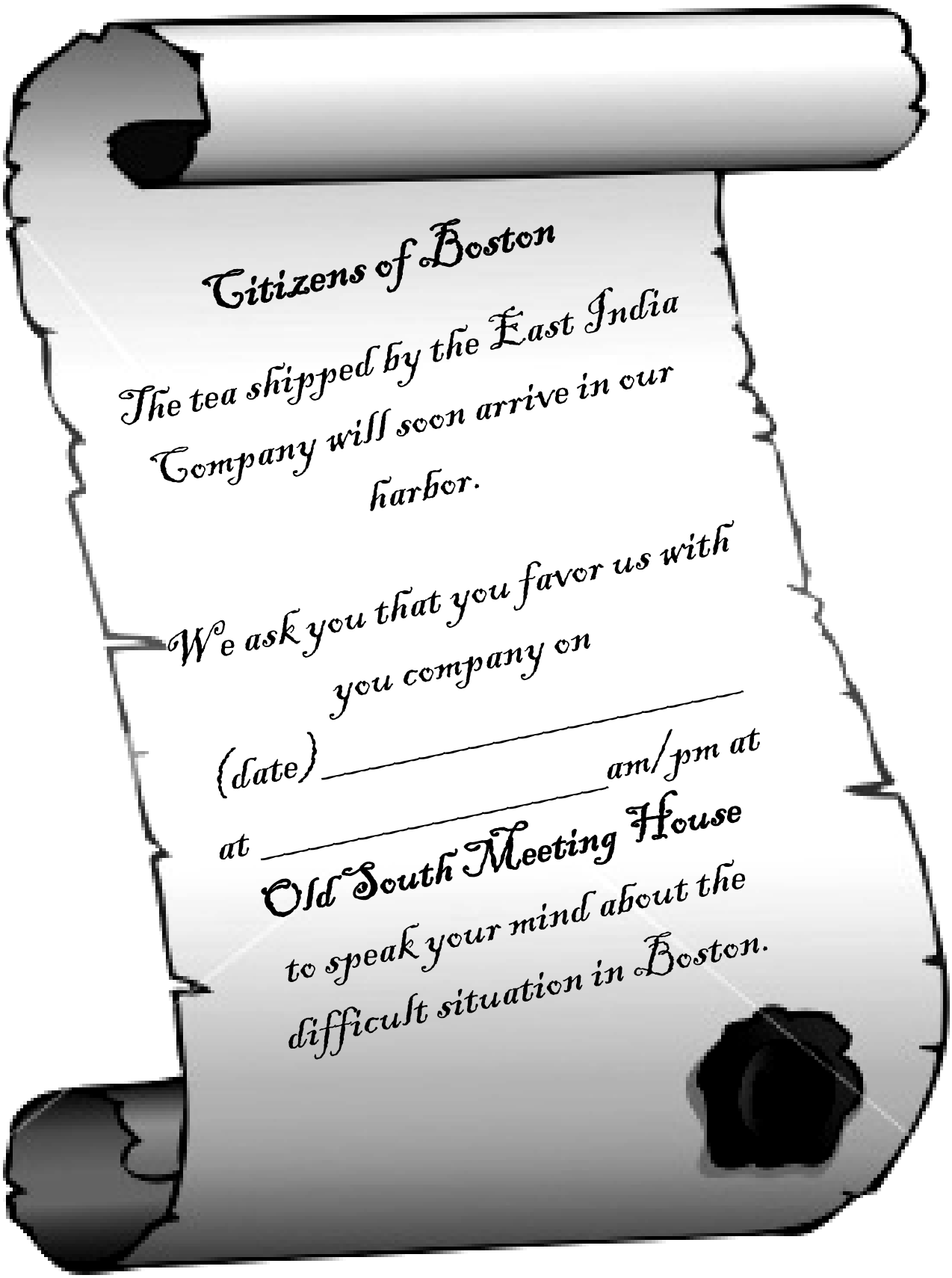

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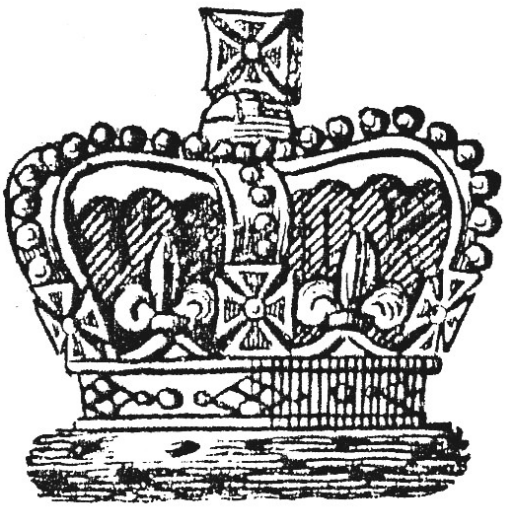
Points for Debate

IF YOU ARE A **LOYALIST** YOU MIGHT ARGUE:

- The English tea should be brought into Boston.
- All colonists are English citizens and everyone should obey the King's laws.
- All Englishmen pay taxes and so should we.
- The Tea Tax is only three pence!
- Parliament has lifted all other taxes in America.
- The King sent his soldiers to protect us during the French and Indian War. The Tea Tax is our way to help pay for our own defense.
- Peace, order, and obeying the law allow us to have a good life in the colonies. We should not throw that away over three pence!
- Three pence is not a reason to use violence.



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Points for Debate (continued)

IF YOU ARE A **PATRIOT** YOU MIGHT ARGUE:

- The tea must not be unloaded.
- The American colonies have no elected representation in Parliament and we did not vote on this tax.
- Why should we only buy tea from the British East India Company? It is unfair to pay taxes which will keep a private company in business.
- Choosing only seven merchants to sell the tea is unfair, what about the rest of us?
- We didn't ask for the British troops to help us during the French and Indian War, why should we pay for them?
- Parliament does not understand life in the colonies. We can govern ourselves.
- What will stop the King and Parliament from raising the 3 pence tax if we don't oppose it now?
- Sometimes laws are wrong and people should be willing to fight to change them!

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Samuel Adams

Political Leader, 51 years old

My Name is Samuel Adams.

We have suffered untold abuses at the hands of the King and Parliament for the last 10 years—from taxing us without our say, to firing upon and killing innocent colonists in the tragic and unjust Boston Massacre.

Gentlemen, the King and Parliament are three thousand miles away. They don't know what goes on here or how we live. They've left us alone for almost 150 years and we've been doing very well without them. Fellow colonists, we must not let the King and Parliament infringe upon our liberties. I say return the tea! The ships must go!

[At the end of the meeting, you will be asked to give the secret signal. Stand and say loudly and clearly: "This meeting can do nothing more to save our country."]

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Francis Rotch

Shop Owner, 23 years old

My name is Francis Rotch.

I own the ship the *Dartmouth* which is currently sitting in the harbor filled with British tea. I see many of my friends here on both sides of the aisle. I don't mind if people disagree with me about politics, but I do mind when politics start getting in the way of making a living, and that's exactly what's happening now. If anything happens to my ship, my family's business will be ruined!

[During the meeting, you will be sent by the moderator to the Governor to request a pass to return the tea to England. Go to the person at the Admissions desk to find out what the Governor said to your request.]

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Adam Collson

Leather Dresser, 35 years old

My Name is Adam Collson.

As a leather dresser, my business has benefited from the Patriot's boycott on British goods. Yet, I think that Parliament's taxes are ruining the lives and businesses of those of us who live in the colonies. I believe it is man's right to be free and live with a just ruler, not an unfair tyrant like King George.

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Nathaniel Noyes

Store Owner, age unknown

My Name is Nathaniel Noyes.

I own a drug store. I am friends and do business with both Patriots and Loyalists.

You know what I say about all this tax business? Big deal! So we have to pay a small three pence tax on tea. Life could be a lot worse if you ask me. The King and Parliament have already removed all other taxes. Why don't we show them our gratitude by paying this small duty on tea?

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John Crane

Carpenter, 29 years old

My Name is John Crane.

You Loyalists complain about violence and how violent we Patriots are. Well, let me tell you about violence.

My father was drafted to fight in the French and Indian War, but I went in his place. I was only fifteen years old. I saw more bloodshed by the age of sixteen than most of you will ever see in your lifetime. Because of that experience, I more than anyone detest violence. But if violence is the only way to get the King to sit up and take notice, then so be it—violence it is!

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John Singleton Copley

Artist, 35 years old

My name in John Singleton Copley.

I am an artist, not a politician. Many of you here have asked me to paint your portrait; James Otis, Samuel Adams, and my in-laws, the Clarke family, to name just a few.

I am friends with both Patriots and Loyalists and have been caught in the middle of this Tea Tax issue. However, since the Patriots started this campaign of threats and violence, I must side with the Loyalists. This violence must end now!

[When Richard Clarke mentions you, stand proudly and take a bow.]

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Benjamin Edes

Printer, 41 years old

My name is Benjamin Edes.

I print Boston's leading newspaper, the *Boston Gazette*. When the Stamp Act was passed 8 years ago, I replaced the sign of the King on the front page of my paper with skull and crossbones to protest the tax. My paper speaks for the Patriot cause every day! I even allow Samuel Adams, James Otis, and the rest of the Sons of Liberty to hold meetings in my print shop.

The tax on tea may only be three pence right now, but what's stopping the King from raising it to four pence? Four pounds? Ten pounds? Without a representative in Parliament, these taxes will continue to go up!

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Samson Salter Blowers

Lawyer, 31 years old

My name is Samson Salter Blowers.

The King does take care of us and he listens to us. The King and Parliament have repealed all taxes but the duty on tea.

Most Englishmen are paying a lot more in taxes to support the government of England than colonists are. Why are we complaining over a little three pence? I think it's a small price to pay to support our government.

[When Adam Collson calls King George an unfair tyrant, stand and say "Long live the King!"]

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John Hancock

Merchant, 36 years old

My name is John Hancock.

The King and Parliament are treating us like second class citizens—forcing us to buy only British goods.

I am proud to say that even though I consider myself an honest man, I proudly smuggle wine and other non-British goods into Boston. I am the richest man in town, but I will not pay this tax because I think Parliament has no right to tax us without our say in the matter. We need to demand our full rights as English citizens. Without representation, gentlemen, Parliament is committing a violent attack on the liberties of all colonists!

[When Jonathan Sewall mentions you, stand and shake your fist at him.]

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Jonathan Sewall

Attorney General, 45 years old

My name is Jonathan Sewall.

This tax issue has not only divided neighbors, but families too. My brother-in-law, John Hancock and I have terrible arguments over politics.

As a lawyer, I believe we must obey laws. As an Englishman, I believe that we must obey the King and Parliament. Our laws are meant to keep order and peace. You Sons of Liberty, with your threats of violence, break our good laws and now life in Boston has become dangerous. If you disagree with people, talk to them about it!

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James Lovell

Teacher, 36 years old

My name is James Lovell.

I am a teacher at the Boston Latin School. I am not popular with my students because I use the ruler freely. My father is the head teacher there, and he and I disagree over politics.

I teach my students that they should stand up to unfair laws. This Tea Act is unfair because we did not get to vote on it. I think we should be able to tax ourselves so that money can go directly to maintaining roads, schools, and life here in the colonies.

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John Lathrop

Minister, age unknown

My name is John Lathrop.

As a minister, I think peace is the most important thing. The Patriots say life here in the colonies is not perfect. Perfect, no, but our lives are quite good.

We have built a great town and a great community. I do not want to see this group of friends, neighbors, and relatives breaking apart over this tax issue. I fear that bloodshed is ahead of us. Life will be a whole lot worse if violence starts ruling our streets!

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Captain Ebenezer MacKintosh

Shoemaker, 36 years old

My name is Captain Ebenezer MacKintosh.

As "First Captain of the Liberty Tree," I led the riot that destroyed the Lieutenant Governor's house 8 years ago and I'm proud of it!

We've been talking to the King and Parliament for almost 10 years now, but they still refuse to listen. We will not pay the debts of the British East India Company, and we will not pay a tax we don't have a say in! The time for talk is over; I say we threaten the Loyalists with their lives!

[When Peter Erving calls the Patriots lunatics, stand and say: "Meet me at the Liberty Tree, sir!"]

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Benjamin Faneuil

Merchant, 32 years old

My name is Benjamin Faneuil.

I am one of the seven merchants chosen to sell tea. We lead a good life as a colony of England. King George treats us well. I believe we must abide by the great laws of England, and punish those Patriots who don't follow the laws.

Why are you Patriots causing so much trouble? You are criminals—you ransacked the Lieutenant Governor's house, what's stopping you from ransacking the rest of our homes? How long must we live in fear for the safety of our families and property? This violence must stop.

[When John Hancock admits to smuggling stand and shout: "Traitor!"]

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William Molineaux

Merchant, 57 years old

My name is William Molineaux.

The seven chosen tea merchants have committed a high insult on the people.

I asked you tea merchants to sign a paper containing a solemn promise not to unload the tea and instead ship it back to England. But since you have refused the Sons of Liberty, you must expect to feel the utmost weight of the people's resentment! Beware, we ransacked the Lieutenant Governor's house—yours might be next.

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Benjamin Gridley

Judge, 41 years old

My name is Benjamin Gridley.

I am a judge and I believe in, and uphold, the laws of England. I am here to show my support for King George and Parliament and the laws they make. My brother Peter is a Loyalist too, but he is afraid to attend this meeting because he fears the Sons of Liberty will threaten him with violence!

Remember the Boston Massacre only three short years ago? You Patriots hid stones inside snowballs and threw them at British soldiers. No wonder they fired on the mob! It is time we Loyalists stand up to these ruffians and demand order and a peaceful way of life!

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James Otis

Lawyer, 48 years old

My name is James Otis.

I am a lawyer and I know the laws of England. I can tell you gentlemen that as Englishmen we have the right to have representation in Parliament. The King and Parliament have not changed since the Stamp Act was passed several years ago. I led the protest against that dreadful tax and I think that <u>all colonists</u> deserve representation in Parliament!

[James Otis was a passionate man. Be sure to read the part with feeling!]

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George Bethune

Merchant, 53 years old

My name is George Bethune.

My friend James Otis and I have spent hours in taverns talking about politics. We don't anymore. These taxes have broken up our friendship; he is a Patriot and I am a Loyalist.

Parliament has lifted all other taxes except the Tea Tax. And what do Patriots like John Hancock do? They smuggle in Dutch tea. Smuggling is against the law and it hurts all merchants. Fiddlesticks to the Patriots, we must enforce these laws!

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Joseph Palmer

Merchant, 57 years old

My name is Joseph Palmer.

As a merchant I know that tea is big business here in the colonies. I used to earn a good living by selling tea. But I am very angry about what is happening in Boston.

The King is wrong to choose just seven men to sell the tea. Those merchants are going to make money, but what about those of us who weren't chosen? How can I be loyal to the King when his unfair laws are ruining my business?

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Francis Green

Shop Owner, 31 years old

My name is Francis Green.

I was born and raised in Cambridge. I am proud to say I studied at Harvard College, worked for General Gage, and helped to organize soldiers in Boston. Now I own a shop. People used to come to my shop to buy British goods, but the Patriot boycott is destroying my business!

Political ideas are fine, but we have to eat, wear clothes, and make a living. The Patriots and their political ideas are getting in the way of everyday life in the colonies. You Patriots should stop your troublemaking so we get our lives in order again!

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Josiah Quincy

Lawyer, 29 years old

My name is Josiah Quincy.

Whether you are a Patriot or a Loyalist, rich or poor, we are all colonists. We have lived on our own for almost 150 years and have done a good job of governing and defending ourselves. We didn't need those British soldiers during the French and Indian War, and we don't need the British Parliament now!

Parliament is only paying attention to us because it wants our money. I say we return the tea to England and keep our money in our pockets—where it belongs!

[When your brother Samuel mentions you, stand and say, "Proud to be a Patriot!"]

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Samuel Quincy

Lawyer, 38 years old

My name is Samuel Quincy.

After studying at Harvard College I became a lawyer and I believe in the King's laws. We are all Englishmen. We have been loyal to the King and so have our fathers, and their fathers before them.

I am friends with many Patriots. In fact, my brother Josiah is an active Patriot. You Patriots complain about Mother England, but I am proud of her and everything she stands for. I ask you, Patriots, how can you so easily turn your backs on the King, Parliament, and the great laws of England?

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Paul Revere

Silversmith and Engraver, 38 years old

My name is Paul Revere.

My father was a silversmith and taught me to be a silversmith as well.

I often attend meetings at the Green Dragon Tavern to listen to James Otis and Samuel Adams talk about liberty. I agree with them. I believe the King has no right to tax us because we do not have a representative in Parliament!

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William Walter

Minister, 34 years old

My name is William Walter.

Gentlemen, remember, we are all brothers.

As a minister at Trinity Church, what I pray for is peace. The threats of violence in Boston must end. No tax is important enough for men to lose their lives over. I pray that peace will come to the colonies, not war.

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Doctor Joseph Warren

Physician, 32 years old

My name is Doctor Joseph Warren.

I went to Harvard College and studied to become a doctor. Many of you have listened to me protest against Parliament's taxes and have read my articles that say that what the King is doing to the colonies is wrong.

The issue is not whether to pay taxes, but whether we will pay a tax we did not consent to. The only way to let Parliament know that "taxation without representation" is wrong is to protest! I ask everyone here today to protest against unfair laws—do not let the tea be unloaded!

[When Doctor Lloyd mentions you, stand and take a bow.]

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Doctor James Lloyd

Physician, 45 years old

My name is Doctor James Lloyd.

I was born and raised in New York, and I studied medicine in England. I'm not interested in politics; my only concern is curing sick people.

Dr. Joseph Warren, a brilliant student of mine, is an active Patriot. I beg him to stop this violence. These problems with England are not worth dying for! Riots and violence over a little tax are ruining our town. When will people learn to live in peace?

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Oliver Wendell

Merchant, 41 years old

My name is Oliver Wendell.

I used to be a Loyalist, but now I am a Patriot. I supported King George and Parliament until their laws started ruining my business. The Patriots are right; Parliament does not understand life here in the colonies. We would do a better job governing ourselves!

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Jonathan Clarke

Merchant, 30 years old

My name is Jonathan Clarke.

I am proud that my father, my brother, and I are three of the seven merchants chosen to sell tea in Boston. I ask you Patriots, why are you complaining about the Tea Tax? The British East India Company has lowered the price of tea so that with the three pence tax, British tea is still cheaper than your smuggled Dutch tea. Instead of arguing, why don't we enjoy the low price and all have a cup of tea!

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Dr. Thomas Young

Physician, 41 years old

My name is Dr. Thomas Young.

My family moved here from England so that we could live and practice our religion freely.

I believe in religious freedom and economic freedom. I stand here today with my good friend, Samuel Adams, and say it's unfair that the King and Parliament say we can only buy British goods. I think I should be able to purchase Dutch tea if I like. I think we should return the tea to England, tell the King we will not pay the tax, and demand the freedom to buy goods from anywhere in the world!

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William Brattle

Member of the Governor's Council, 67 years old

My name is William Brattle.

I am proud to be an Englishman and a member of the Governor's Council. I think the Patriots should stop complaining about this so-called monopoly of British goods. It's not a monopoly; it's supporting your own government. If I have to choose between buying two things, I will always choose the British-made item.

I say the Patriots should stop their whining and realize that life is good here in the colonies. We shouldn't let such things as three pence worry us.

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George Robert Twelves Hewes

Shoemaker, 31 years old

My name is George Robert Twelves Hewes.

This tax is more dangerous than the other taxes because it gives the British East India Company a monopoly on the tea trade in the colonies. What about our right to free trade?

If we allow only one company to have trading rights on tea, Parliament might do the same thing with sugar or cloth. Gentlemen, we cannot let the King and Parliament trick us like this. I say we send those ships back to England!

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Peter Erving

Occupation unknown, age unknown

My name is Peter Erving.

My family has lived here in the Massachusetts Bay Colony for over 100 years.

I think King George has been very good to us. If we make him angry, what will happen? These Patriots are lunatics if you ask me! Tell me this, how can thirteen small colonies go to war against the largest empire and the most powerful army and navy in the world? It is madness!

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Edward C. Howe

Ropemaker, 31 years old

My name is Edward Howe.

I am a rope maker. With so many ships coming in and out of Boston Harbor these days, many ship owners hire me to make or repair the ropes on their ships.

I disagree with this Tea Tax because I don't want to pay for the soldiers the King sent here during the French and Indian War. We didn't ask for them. We could have won the war without their help. I say let King George pay for those soldiers out of his own pocket and not out of my cup of tea!

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Peter Oliver

Chief Justice, 60 years old

My name is Peter Oliver.

I am Chief Justice of Massachusetts, the highest judge in the colony and the brother-in-law of merchant Richard Clarke. We could not have won the French and Indian War if Parliament hadn't sent soldiers here to help protect us. Don't we owe England our respect and support by paying her just three little pence?

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Abraham Hunt

Merchant, 25 years old

My name is Abraham Hunt.

If the King only lets seven men sell tea, what's stopping him from deciding that only seven men can sell meat or wood, or some other product? I am a wine merchant, not a tea merchant, but my business could be next. If we don't stop the King and Parliament now, we may all go out of business!

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Richard Clarke

Merchant, 62 years old

My name is Richard Clarke.

I am a merchant who has worked very hard to make a living and support my family. In fact, my daughter Susanna is married to the famous artist John Singleton Copley.

I think it's fair that the King allowed the British East India Company to chose only seven men to sell the tea, and I am proud to say that two of my sons, Isaac and Jonathan, have now joined me in selling it. You see, gentlemen, King George is good to those who respect him. If you Patriots had been loyal to the King, your probably would have been chosen too.

[When Peter Oliver mentions you, stand up and nod.]

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Jeremiah Williams

Blacksmith, age unknown

My name is Jeremiah Williams.

I am a blacksmith and I make horseshoes, nails, and other things out of metal.

I don't mind paying taxes if it keeps our streets clean and helps keep order. Yet if we pay taxes to the King and Parliament, the money goes straight to England and we don't see any of it. I think we should tax ourselves and let the money support our local government here in the colonies.

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Isaac Royall

Member of the Governor's Council, 54 years old

My name is Isaac Royall.

I am a member of the Governor's Council and I support the King. Everyone here knows, but may not want to admit, that we would have lost the French and Indian War if the King had not sent soldiers to help us. We are all Englishmen and all Englishmen pay taxes. We colonists need to contribute our fair share. I think three pence is a low price to pay for the support and protection of British soldiers.

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John Scollay

Merchant, 58 years old

My name is John Scollay.

As a member of the Town Council, I hoped for a compromise between the seven tea merchants and the townspeople. However, by being stubborn and refusing to send the tea back to England, you tea merchants are creating even more problems in Boston. You cannot expect the citizens of Boston to be patient any longer!

The British East India Company and Parliament cannot control the colonies just for their own benefit. This monopoly and this tax are wrong!

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Isaac Winslow Clarke

Merchant, 30 years old

My name is Isaac Winslow Clarke.

I am one of the seven merchants chosen by the British East India Company to sell the tea. My family and home have been under constant attack. The Patriots have attacked the homes of those loyal to the King by throwing bricks through the windows and barging through doors. It is time we put an end to these unruly mobs and act like gentlemen!

It is unreasonable that the Patriots demand the tea be returned to England. As Englishmen we must obey the laws of Parliament. The Patriots are acting like spoiled children refusing to follow the rules.

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Post-Visit Classroom Activities

Use the Suggestions for Further Reading at the end of this guide to learn more about the Revolutionary War and its aftermath.

There are no known images of the Tea Party. Have students create an image of the fiery debate at Old South Meeting House or the dumping of the tea at Griffin's Wharf.

It took months before the King and Parliament heard about the Destruction of the Tea. Have students recreate a British newspaper describing what happened at Old South Meeting House and Griffin's Wharf.

FOR OLDER STUDENTS: Have students examine how the story of the Tea Party has been told through the years. Look at what parts of the story have been exaggerated (the "Mohawks" marching to the sea, the actual participants in the Destruction of the Tea, for example) and discuss why. (Good resources for this activity: *Johnny Tremain* the movie and various children's books).

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

- Was dumping the tea the right thing for the Sons of Liberty to do?
- Could the issue of the Tea Tax have been resolved through other means? (More boycotts, petitions to Parliament, etc.)
- Was the use of violence by the Sons of Liberty to intimidate the Loyalists justified?
- Why could the Boston Tea Party be considered the start of the American Revolution?

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Suggestions for Further Reading

Many of the following books and materials are available for purchase directly from the Old South Meeting House Museum Shop. ***All teachers, with valid school I.D., receive a 10% discount off of their total purchase.***

READINGS ON THE BOSTON TEA PARTY:

FOR TEACHERS AND OLDER STUDENTS

Allison, Robert J. *The Boston Tea Party*. Beverly, MA: Commonwealth Editions, 2007.

Drake, Francis. *Tea Leaves: Being a Collection of Letters and Documents Relating to the Shipment of Tea to the American Colonies in the year 1773, by the East India Tea Company*. Boston: A.O. Crane, 1884. [Available on Google Books]

Labaree, Benjamin Woods. *The Boston Tea Party*. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1979.

Young, Alfred. *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1999.

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Cook, Peter. *You Wouldn't Want to Be at the Boston Tea Party*. Danbury, CT: Scholastic, Inc., 2006.

Kroll, Steven. *The Boston Tea Party*. New York: Holiday House, 1998.

Stanley, Diane. *Joining the Boston Tea Party*. New York: HarperCollins, 2001.

Truit, Trudi Strain. *The Boston Tea Party (Cornerstones of Freedom Second Series)*. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 2008.

Winters, Kay. *Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak*. New York: Penguin Group, 2008.

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Walker, Ida. *The Boston Tea Party*. Edina, MN: ABDO Publishing Co., 2008.

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READINGS ON THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION:

FOR TEACHERS AND OLDER STUDENTS

Bailyn, Bernard. *The Ordeal of Thomas Hutchinson*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1974.

Bicheno, Hugh. *Rebels and Redcoats: The American Revolutionary War*. New York: HarperCollins, 2004. [Companion book to PBS Documentary]

Bourne, Russell. *Cradle of Violence: How Boston's Waterfront Mobs Ignited the American Revolution*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2006.

Forbes, Esther. *Paul Revere and the World He Lived In*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1999.

Fowler, William M., Jr. *Samuel Adams: Radical Puritan*. New York: Longman, 1997.

Langguth, A.J. *Patriots: The Men Who Started the American Revolution*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1988.

McCullough, David. *John Adams*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001.

Pearson, Michael. *Those Damned Rebels: The American Revolution as Seen Through British Eyes*. New York: Perseus Books Group, 1972.

Raphael, Ray. *Founding Myths: Stories that Hide Our Patriotic Past*. New York: The New Press, 2006.

Stuart, Nancy Rubin. *The Muse of the Revolution: The Secret Pen of Mercy Otis Warren and the Founding of a Nation*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2008.

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Bobrick, Benson. *Fight For Freedom: The American Revolutionary War*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004.

Fritz, Jean. *And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?* New York: Putnam & Grosset Group, 1996.
– *Can't You Make Them Behave, King George?* New York: Putnam & Grosset Group, 1996.
– *Why Don't You Get a Horse, Sam Adams?* New York: Putnam & Grosset Group, 1996.

Lawson, Robert. *Mr. Revere and I: Being and Account of Certain Episodes in the Career of Paul Revere, Esp. as Revealed by His Horse*. Boston: Hatchett Book Group USA, 1988.

Penner, Lucille Recht. *Liberty!: How the Revolutionary War Began*. New York: Random House, Inc., 2002.

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READINGS ON THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION:

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS (Continued)

Schanzer, Rosalyn. *George vs. George: The American Revolution As Seen from Both Sides*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2007.

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Allen, Thomas B. *George Washington Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2007.

Aronson, Marc. *The Real Revolution: The Global Story of American Independence*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2005.

Avi. *The Fighting Ground*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1984.

Burgan, Michael. *Voices from Colonial America: Massachusetts 1620-1776*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2005.

Collier, James Lincoln. *My Brother Sam is Dead*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1974.

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Crispus Attucks, the First Martyr of the American Revolution, King (now State) Street, Boston, March 5th, 1770. Page 16.

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Liberty! The American Revolution (PBS) – http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty

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THE OLD SOUTH LEAFLETS

First printed in 1883 as companion pieces to a summer lecture series for young people, the Old South Leaflets continue to serve as valuable primary resources on American History. The lecture series was discontinued in the 1940's but Old South Meeting House continues to reprint more than 200 Leaflet titles. The following is a listing of the titles specific to Colonial Boston and the American Revolution. For the full list of leaflets, please contact Old South Meeting House.

SERIES I

#1 – The Constitution of the United States
#3 – The Declaration of Independence
#4 – Washington's Farewell Address
#10 – Washington's Inaugurals
#47 – Washington at Cambridge
#68 – The Boston Tea Party from Thomas Hutchinson's *History of the American Revolution*
#86 – Washington's Capture of Boston
#126 – Boston in 1788
#136 – Boston at the Beginning of the 19th Century
#156 – Lexington Town Meetings from 1765-1775
#161 – Franklin's Boyhood in Boston from his *Autobiography*
#173 – The Rights of the Colonists by Samuel Adams
#179 – James Otis, Samuel Adams, and John Hancock
#199 – Lord Chatham's Speeches on the America Revolution
#206 – A Constitution or Form of Government for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
#222 – Paul Revere's Own Account of his Midnight Ride, April 18-19, 1775
#223 – Stamp Act Congress Declarations and Petitions, October 1765
#226 – Observations on the New Constitution, and on the Federal and State Conventions by a Columbian Patriot (Mercy Otis Warren)
#228/229 – Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union

SERIES II

#3 – Town Meeting Politics in Colonial and Revolutionary Boston

Mrs. Mary Tileston Hemenway (pictured left) was a great patriot, and Boston was her muse. In 1876, our nation's centennial year, Mary Hemenway donated a considerable sum for the preservation of Old South Meeting House. Her gift included monies earmarked for a pioneering, new educational program in American History. The Old South Leaflets were created in conjunction with this innovative programming.

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About the Historic Sites

About Old South Meeting House

Boston's "Sanctuary of Freedom"

Old South Meeting House was built in 1729 as a Puritan meeting house. The congregation included famous colonists such as inventor Benjamin Franklin, patriot Samuel Adams, and poet Phillis Wheatley. Old South Meeting House was the largest building in colonial Boston. In the years leading to the American Revolution, colonists gathered at Old South Meeting House to challenge British rule.

Old South's Role in the Revolution
In March of 1770, after the Boston Massacre, where five colonists were accidentally killed by British soldiers, thousands of outraged citizens gathered at Old South Meeting House to protest. Samuel Adams led the meeting and succeeded in obtaining Governor Hutchinson's promise to withdraw all British troops from Boston. From 1771 to 1775, rousing speeches were given by notable patriots such as John Hancock and Dr. Joseph Warren, to commemorate the Boston Massacre.

December 16, 1773, is a date that sealed Old South Meeting House's place in history. On that cold December night, more than 5,000 colonists crowded into the Meeting House to participate in a fiery debate about the tax on tea. When final attempts at compromise failed, Samuel Adams cried, "This meeting can do nothing more to save our country!" Samuel Adams' cry served as a secret signal to the Sons of Liberty, who were sitting in the back of Old South Meeting House. They raced to Griffin's Wharf, and dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor. This event became known as the **Boston Tea Party.**

Old South Meeting House's reputation as a Patriot meeting place had dire consequences during the American Revolution. While the British occupied Boston in 1775, the "Redcoats" destroyed and vandalized visible symbols of the patriotic cause. The Meeting House was turned into a riding school—British soldiers tore out the pews, installed a bar in the upper gallery, and hauled in loads of dirt and practiced jumping their horses. Old South Meeting House was restored by patriot and mason Thomas Dawes, one of Boston's first architects, between 1782 and 1783.

Saved from Demolition
In 1872, Old South's congregation sold the building for the paltry sum of $1,350 and moved to a new location in Boston's Back Bay. The Old South Meeting House seemed doomed to destruction, but at the final hour, Bostonians campaigned to save the meeting house from the wrecking ball. It was the first successful historic preservation effort in New England. In 1877, Old South Meeting House was incorporated as a non-profit museum and historic site.

Carrying on a Revolutionary Tradition
In 1929, Old South Meeting House created a free speech policy, opening its doors to controversial speakers denied a platform elsewhere. Sustaining the building's tradition as a community meeting place for the free exchange of ideas lies at the very heart of Old South's mission. Today, the Old South Meeting House is a busy museum, a treasured National Historic Landmark and an active center for civic dialogue and free expression in the heart of downtown Boston.

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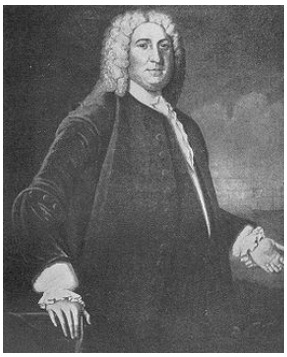
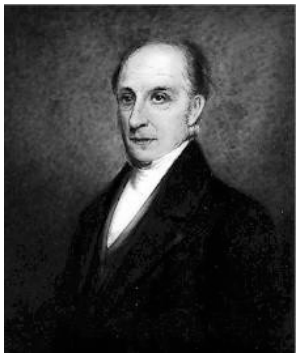
About the Historic Sites (continued)

About Faneuil Hall

Boston's "Cradle of Liberty"





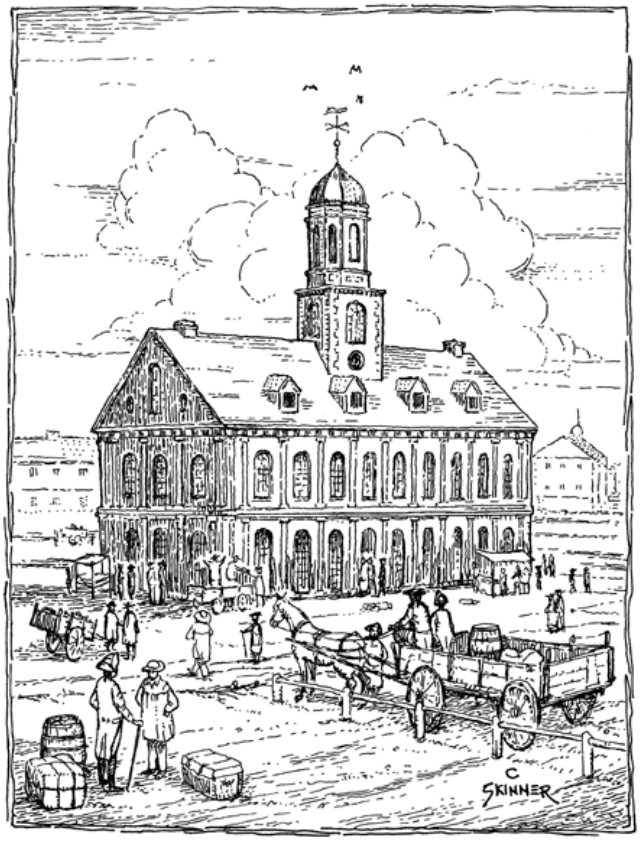
Faneuil Hall was built in 1742 by wealthy merchant Peter Faneuil to serve as both a public marketplace and Town Meeting hall. Upon completion of the building, Faneuil donated the building to the town of Boston and the town voted to name the building after him.

From 1742 on, Faneuil Hall was the site of the most direct and democratic institution for the conduct of civic affairs—the Town Meeting. It was in Faneuil Hall that citizens of Boston raised their voices against the oppressive authority of the British King and Parliament. Faneuil Hall is one of the most significant buildings associated with the struggle against British oppression prior to the Revolution.

Faneuil Hall was rebuilt in 1763 after a disastrous fire gutted the building. In 1806, Charles Bulfinch, Boston's most famous native architect, enlarged the hall to its present size.

Throughout the 19th century, Faneuil Hall was a favorite meeting place and a popular forum for the advocates of such reforms as the abolition of slavery and women's suffrage.

Today, while the city of Boston continues to own and maintain the building, the National Park Service provides interpretive talks in the main hall. Just as the Market still flourishes today, the Meeting Hall continues to serve as a place for the open exchange of ideas. Faneuil Hall stands today as a living memorial to the principles of freedom of speech and resistance to oppression.



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Old South Meeting House

Old South Meeting House is a Museum and National Historic Landmark on Boston's *Freedom Trail*. To learn more about our education programs or public events, please contact:

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