

Study Guide



Chapter 4, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 116–123

THE COLONIES FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS

KEY TERMS AND NAMES

Albany Plan of Union a proposal for the colonies to unite to form a federal government (page 117)

French and Indian War the war between France and Britain in America (page 118)

Treaty of Paris the treaty that ended the French and Indian War (page 118)

customs duty a tax on imports and exports (page 119)

inflation a decline in the value of money (page 120)

Quartering Act law that forced the colonists to pay more for their own defense (page 121)

nonimportation agreement an agreement by New York merchants not to buy any British goods until Parliament repealed the Stamp Act (page 121)

writs of assistance general search warrants (page 122)

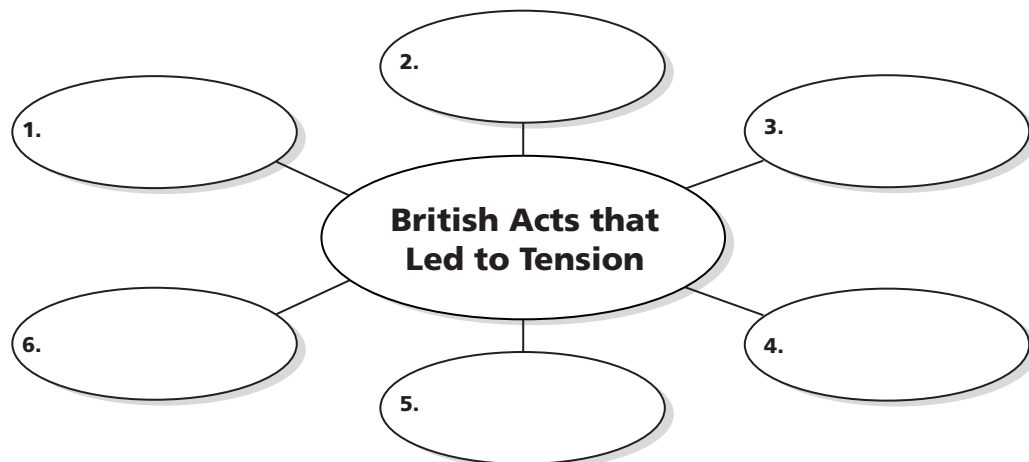
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Look at the title of this section. What kinds of rights do you think the colonists will be fighting for?

In this section, you will learn about the increasing tensions between Britain and the American colonies. You will also learn about the effect of the Stamp Act on Britain and the colonies.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. Several laws and declarations passed by the British Parliament led to tensions between the colonists and Britain. List these acts in the diagram.



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READ TO LEARN

- **The French and Indian War** (*page 116*)

The French and English had fought three major wars in Europe between 1689 and 1748. The conflict spilled over into America. In the 1740s, both the British and the French became interested in the Ohio River valley. The French found that they could cross from Lake Ontario to the Ohio River, and then to the Mississippi River south to Louisiana. British fur traders also came to the region, as well as people who bought land hoping to sell it to settlers for profit. To block British claims, France ordered forts to be built from Lake Ontario to the Ohio River. Then the British ordered a fort to be built in western Pennsylvania. The French seized it before it could be completed, and instead they built Fort Duquesne at the site. George Washington, an officer in the Virginia militia, was asked to raise a force and get rid of the French. In the spring of 1754, Washington's troops came upon a French force and a small battle occurred. Washington retreated, but the fighting that began there would grow into a war involving several European powers.

The British government had told the colonies to work together to prepare for the coming war. The government also told the colonies to negotiate an alliance with the Iroquois who controlled western New York. This was territory that the French had to go through to reach the Ohio River. Seven colonies sent representatives to meet with Iroquois leaders at Albany, New York, in June 1754. This meeting became known as the Albany Conference.

The Iroquois refused an alliance with the British. However, they agreed to remain neutral. The colonies agreed to appoint one commander of all British troops in the colonies. Finally, the conference issued the **Albany Plan of Union**. It proposed that the colonies unite to form a federal government. Many colonies rejected the plan, but it showed that many leaders were beginning to think about the colonies coming together for defense.

In 1755 George Braddock, the British commander-in-chief, arrived in Virginia with British troops. He connected with local militia troops and made Lieutenant Colonel George Washington his aide. Braddock was not worried about Native American allies of the French. He believed that the British would be able to defend against the Native Americans. Yet Native American and French forces did ambush the British troops near Fort Duquesne. Braddock was killed. Washington rallied the British troops and organized a retreat. The Native Americans of western Pennsylvania now realized that they could beat the British. As a result, they began attacking British settlers in their territory.

The **French and Indian War** took place along the frontier. Both sides raided each other's territory. In 1756 the fighting between England and France then spread to Europe, where it became known as the Seven Years' War. The British allies fought the French in Europe. Britain sent troops and a fleet to North America to attack the French. The British cut off French supplies to North America. Knowing that the British were gaining the upper hand, the Iroquois

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pressured the Native Americans in Pennsylvania to end their attacks on the British. The French were now outnumbered. The British defeated the French at a battle at Quebec. Spain entered the war on the side of the French, so Britain seized Spain's colonies in Cuba and the Philippines.

The **Treaty of Paris** finally ended the war in 1763. It also ended French power in North America. New France and all of Louisiana east of the Mississippi became part of the British Empire. Spain gave Florida to Britain in exchange for Cuba and the Philippines. The French signed a separate treaty with Spain, giving Spain control of New Orleans and the land west of the Mississippi.

7. What was the purpose of the Albany Plan of Union?

• The Colonies Grow Discontented (page 119)

The French and Indian War caused the British government to borrow a large amount of money to pay for the war. Many British officials believed that the colonies should pay for part of the war.

In the spring of 1763, Pontiac, the Ottawa chief, united several Native American groups and convinced them to attack forts along the frontier. The Native Americans were upset about British settlers moving into western Pennsylvania. The British did not want to pay for another war. So in October 1763, Britain issued the Royal Proclamation of 1763. It declared that colonists could not settle west of the Appalachian Mountains without the British government's permission. The proclamation upset many western farmers who wanted more land.

Merchants in the east were also upset about new British tax policies. In 1763 George Grenville, the prime minister and first lord of the Treasury, had to find a way to lower the British debt and to pay for the thousands of troops stationed in North America. As a result, he set up new tax policies. Grenville found out that British customs agents in America were collecting very little money. Merchants were smuggling goods in and out of the colonies without paying **customs duties**, or taxes on imports and exports. Britain passed a law that said those accused of smuggling would be tried at a British court in Nova Scotia instead of colonial courts. Colonial courts were more sympathetic to smugglers.

Grenville also introduced the Sugar Act in 1764. It changed the tax rates for sugar and molasses imported from foreign colonies. Colonial merchants complained to Parliament that the Sugar Act hurt trade. The act also went against English rights because merchants accused of smuggling were presumed guilty

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until proven innocent. The act also allowed British officials to seize goods without proper court procedures. Parliament did not pay attention to the merchants' concerns.

Many pamphlets began circulating in colonial cities. They condemned the Sugar Act. One pamphlet argued that because the colonists had no representatives in Parliament, they could not be taxed. The Sugar Act, however, remained in force. Grenville introduced new policies. To slow **inflation**, which happens when money loses its value over time, Parliament passed the Currency Act of 1764. The act banned the use of paper money because it tended to lose its value quickly. This angered colonial farmers and artisans. They liked paper money because it could be used to pay back loans. Because the money was not worth as much as when they borrowed it, the loans were easy to pay back.

8. Why did some colonists believe that they should not be taxed?

• The Stamp Act Crisis (page 120)

In March 1765, Parliament passed the Stamp Act to raise more money. It called for stamps to be placed on most printed materials, such as newspapers, pamphlets, wills, dice, and playing cards. The Stamp Act was the first direct tax that Britain had placed on the colonists. Parliament then passed the **Quartering Act**. It called for colonies to provide shelter for British troops or to pay their rent. Protests to the Stamp Act spread throughout the colonies. In Virginia, the House of Burgesses passed resolutions declaring that Virginians should be granted the rights of British people and could only be taxed by their own representatives. Other assemblies passed similar resolutions. In Connecticut, a group called the Sons of Liberty was organized. The group spread quickly throughout the colonies. The Sons of Liberty organized meetings and demonstrations.

In October 1765, representatives from nine colonies met for the Stamp Act Congress and issued the Declaration of Rights and Grievances. It said that only colonial political representatives and not Parliament had the right to tax the colonists. When the Stamp Act took effect in November 1765, the colonists ignored it. Colonists boycotted British goods. In New York, 200 merchants signed a **nonimportation agreement**. They promised not to buy British goods until Parliament repealed the Stamp Act.

The boycott had an effect on Britain. Thousands of British workers lost their jobs. The British could not collect money that the colonists owed them. The British repealed the Stamp Act in 1766. Parliament then passed the Declaratory Act. It said that Parliament had the power to make laws for the colonies.

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9. How did the colonists respond to the Stamp Act?

- **The Townshend Acts** (page 122)

Britain continued to have financial problems. In 1767 Charles Townshend, the new finance officer, set up new laws and taxes. They were called the Townshend Acts. One of the acts was the Revenue Act of 1767. It placed taxes on glass, lead, paper, and tea imported into the colonies. The Revenue Act legalized the use of **writs of assistance**. Writs were general search warrants. They were used to help customs officers arrest smugglers.

The Townshend Acts angered many colonists. The Massachusetts assembly started organizing resistance against Britain. One of the leaders of the resistance was Sam Adams. He and James Otis wrote a letter for the assembly to pass and to send to other colonies. The letter said that the taxes in the Townshend Acts would be used to pay the salaries of government officials. This was a power that the colonial assemblies had. Taking this power away would weaken the assemblies. The British government responded by ordering the Massachusetts assembly to dissolve. The merchants of Boston and New York and then those in Philadelphia signed nonimportation agreements.

In May 1769, the Virginia House of Burgesses passed the Virginia Resolves. It said that only the House of Burgesses had the right to tax Virginians. Britain ordered the Virginia governor to dissolve the House of Burgesses. The leaders of the House called members to a convention. The convention passed a law that blocked the sale of British goods in Virginia.

The boycott spread through the colonies. Americans stopped drinking British tea and buying British cloth. The Sons of Liberty encouraged people to support the boycott. In the fall of 1768, violence against customs officers in Boston increased. The British sent 1,000 troops to keep order. Colonists began harassing the troops. On March 5, 1770, colonists began throwing snowballs at a British soldier guarding a customs house. In the commotion that followed, the British troops began firing into the crowd. Five people were killed and six were wounded. The shootings became known as the Boston Massacre. News of the violence raced throughout the colonies. A few weeks later, news arrived that the British had repealed almost all of the Townshend Acts. Parliament, however, kept a tax on tea to show it had a right to tax the colonies. The repeal of the Townshend Acts brought a temporary peace to the colonies.