

The French and Indian War proved extremely expensive. In fact, Prime Minister William Pitt nearly bankrupted Parliament to pay for fighting a war overseas. Parliament enacted the Sugar Act in 1764. The Sugar Act imposed new duties (taxes) on American commodities such as sugar, molasses, textiles, coffee and indigo. Unlike previous taxes, this tax was enforced and accused smugglers were prosecuted. American colonists were enraged by the Sugar Act because they did not think they should be taxed in the same way British residents were. For the first time, as the Virginia House of Burgesses asserted, the famous words, “no taxation without representation” were uttered. American colonists argued that they should not be subjected to taxes unless they had elected representatives in Parliament. To make matters worse, Parliament passed the Stamp Act on March 22, 1765. The Stamp Act required Americans to purchase tax stamps for any printed documents including newspapers, legal documents, marriage licenses and more. On March 24th, Parliament passed the Quartering Act which required Americans to provide housing and provisions to British soldiers. Colonists wondered why troops were being sent to America after the French and Indian War. Many believed the troops were sent over to suppress freedoms Americans had enjoyed.

Opposition to the Stamp Act was universal. In 1765, the Massachusetts General Court organized opposition to the Stamp Act. Representatives from nine colonies drafted a petition calling for the repeal of the Stamp Act. Street mobs, calling themselves the Sons of Liberty, destroyed royal offices in Massachusetts and New York. When the Stamp Act was to be officially implemented, on November 1, 1765, all stamp agents sent over from England had been intimidated into resigning their posts. Meanwhile, Americans increasingly imported goods illegally which caused British merchants and manufacturers to lose business. Some, such as Samuel Adams, began to call for independence because Parliament had exceeded its authority. In March of 1766, Parliament agreed to repeal the Stamp Act, but passed the Declaratory Act which reaffirmed their right to pass any law in America.

1. Why did the British issue the Sugar Act?

- A. To pay for paper documents which were expensive to make
- B. To tax the Americans on tea, sugar, and molasses
- C. To make sure the colonists knew that Parliament was in charge
- D. To help recover money used to pay for the French and Indian War

- 2. What did “no taxation without representation” really mean?**
- A. That the colonists would not pay taxes unless they had someone in Parliament on their side
 - B. That the colonists would not be taxed unless Parliament moved to America
 - C. That citizens living in England should not be taxed
 - D. That the colonists would never pay taxes to Parliament because they lived in the colonies rather than in England.
- 3. Which of the following might a colonist have asked after the passage of the Quartering Act?**
- A. Will we have to provide clothing and food to soldiers?
 - B. Why do we keep getting taxed when we have no representative in Parliament?
 - C. Now that the French and Indian War is over, why are more soldiers being sent?
 - D. How will the Quartering Act affect the Stamp Act?
- 4. What could be a synonym for “universal” as used in the first sentence of the second paragraph?**
- A. Total
 - B. Partial
 - C. Severe
 - D. Serious
- 5. What was the role of the Sons of Liberty?**
- A. To peacefully protest the various acts issued by Parliament
 - B. To violently protest the various acts issued by Parliament
 - C. To make the colonies independent from England
 - D. To compromise with Parliament
- 6. Although Parliament ultimately repealed the Stamp Act...**
- A. Parliament agreed that it has exceeded its authority and repealed all acts it had issued against the colonists.
 - B. it agreed that the colonies should become independent
 - C. it issued an act warning the colonists that it could make any law in America.
 - D. it waged war on the Sons of Liberty.
- 7. What question is not answered in the second paragraph?**
- A. What colonies signed the petition demanding repeal of the Stamp Act?
 - B. What was the Declaratory Act?
 - C. What happened to stamp agents in America?
 - D. Why did some Americans call for independence from England?