Causes of the American Revolution

Mrs. Ponder
SSUSH3 The student will explain the primary causes of the American Revolution.

a. Explain how the end of Anglo-French imperial competition as seen in the French and Indian War and the 1763 Treaty of Paris laid the groundwork for the American Revolution.

b. Explain colonial response to such British actions as the Proclamation of 1763, the Stamp Act, and the Intolerable Acts as seen in Sons and Daughters of Liberty and Committees of Correspondence.

c. Explain the importance of Thomas Paine’s Common Sense to the movement for independence.
a. Explain how the end of Anglo-French imperial competition as seen in the French and Indian War and the 1763 Treaty of Paris laid the groundwork for the American Revolution.
Anglo-French Imperial Competition

- Background
  - History
  - Rivalry
French Forts

- Settled in Ohio Valley
- Sought to keep British from moving west
Early Conflicts

• King William’s War (1689-1697)
• Queen Anne’s War (1702-1713)
• King George’s War (1744-1748)

• Albany Plan of Union (1754)
  – Proposed by Benjamin Franklin
  – Confederation, focused on defense
  – Rejected by Parliament and colonial legislatures
French and Indian War (1754-1763)

- Fought over:
  - Control of North America
  - Land
  - Fur Trade

DID YOU KNOW: In Europe, the French and Indian War is known as the Seven Year’s War.
French and Indian War (1754-1763)

- Major Battles:
  - Ft. Duquesne
    - Originally founded by Virginia farmers, completed by the French
  - VA sent George Washington w/ troops
    - Loses
  - Many other British expeditions sent
    - Fort never falls to the British
French and Indian War (1754-1763)

- Major Battles:
  - Louisburg (1758)
    - Prevents French supplies from reaching Canada
  - Quebec (1759)
    - Conquered by the British
Treaty of Paris (1763)

- Ends French and Indian War

- Gives Britain control of all territory east of the Mississippi River & Canada

– Mississippi River was to be open for trade
b. Explain colonial response to such British actions as the Proclamation of 1763, the Stamp Act, and the Intolerable Acts as seen in Sons and Daughters of Liberty and Committees of Correspondence.
Proclamation of 1763

• Banned colonization west of Appalachian Mountains
  – Those who already lived there must move east

The king says you have to come back!
Review Questions:

1. What was the cause of the French and Indian War?

2. Who won the French and Indian War?

3. Name two territorial gains for the British given by the Treaty of Paris, 1763.

4. Why did the British government issue the Proclamation of 1763?
Sugar Act (1764)

• All sugar and molasses coming into the colonies would be taxed

• Why?
  – Pay for British troops used during the French and Indian War
The Stamp Act (1765)

• Printed items required to have a stamp saying tax had been paid

• Items taxed:
  – Newspapers
  – Pamphlets
  – Licenses
  – Legal Documents
  – Playing Cards

Many Americans boycotted stamped goods.
"There is not gold and silver enough in the colonies to pay the stamp duty for one year."

– Benjamin Franklin

"Such another Experiment as the Stamp-Act wou'd produce a general Revolt in America."

- George Mason, 1766.

Why?

Colonial petitions and protests

Franklin presented colonial protests before House of Commons

"Q. What used to be the pride of Americans?
A. To indulge in the fashions and manufactures of Great-Britain.

Q. What now is their pride?
A. To wear their old cloaths over again, till they can make new ones."
Townshend Acts (1767)

- Taxed more items:
  - Imported glass
  - Lead
  - Paint
  - Paper
  - Tea

DID YOU KNOW: The British used “writs of assistance” to search and seize any home or ship that was suspected of having illegal (untaxed) items.

- How do you think the colonists felt about these taxes?
“Taxation Without Representation”

- Colonies had no direct representation in Parliament

**What made the colonists mad?**

**Salutary Neglect:**
British policy – ~1607-1763
British did not enforce laws placed on the colonies

**DID YOU KNOW:** Some in the District of Columbia use this as their slogan. Why do you think that is the case?
The Intolerable Acts (1765-1774)

- Quartering Act (1765)
  - Colonies must supply and house British troops
- Boston Port Bill (1774)
  - Closes Boston Harbor until tea is paid for
- Administration of Justice Act (1774)
  - British officials could not be charged w/ a crime
- Massachusetts Government Act (1774)
  - Massachusetts charter is revoked
- Quebec Act (1774)
  - Canada given more territory, taken away from VA, CT & MA
Trouble in Boston

• Ship, *Liberty*, seized in 1768 for having illegal goods
  – Owned by John Hancock

• Violence in Boston in protest to the taxes & to the seizure of ships
  – British troops occupy city in response
Sons of Liberty

• Formed by Samuel Adams
  – Original purpose: to protest the Stamp Act

• Protested against taxes

• Sometimes used intimidation and physical violence to achieve their goals
Boston Massacre

- March 5\(^{th}\), 1770

- Argument between soldiers guarding custom house and crowd
  - Result: 5 killed
    - Includes Crispus Attucks

- Used as propaganda to increase hatred of British soldiers
Engraving showing the Boston Massacre by Paul Revere (1770)
Tea Act (1773)

• New act, lowered price of tea but required colonists to buy it from the East India Company

• Why do you think colonists preferred to buy more expensive tea on the black market?
Boston Tea Party (1773)

• 3 Ships were anchored in Boston Harbor
  – Ordered by governor to unload cargo of tea
  – Threatened by colonists – told not to unload

• December 16th – at night, patriots dressed as Native Americans boarded the ships & threw 90,000 lbs. of tea overboard

DID YOU KNOW: Formed following widespread government intervention in failing banks and other businesses, the modern “Tea Party” movement takes its name from this famous event. What do you think the modern “Tea Party” is against?
British Response to Boston Tea Party

The "Intolerable Acts"
The Intolerable Acts (1765-1774)

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Committees of Correspondence

• Formed to allow the colonies to communicate with each other

• Spread revolutionary actions
  – Often quicker than other methods of communication
  – Writings would be read aloud or published in other colonies

Broadsides, like the one above, were often used to spread information.
YE GLORIOUS SONS OF FREEDOM, brave and bold,
That has stood forth———fair LIBERTY to hold;
Though you were INDIANS, come from distant shores,
Like MEN you acted———not like savage Moors.

CHORUS.

Boston's SONS keep up your Courage good,
Or Dye, like Martyrs, in fair Free-born Blood.
Our LIBERTY, and LIFE is now invaded,
And FREEDOM's bright Charms are darkly shad'd:
But, we will STAND———and think it noble mirth,
To DART the man that dare oppress the Earth.
Boston's SONS keep up your Courage good,
Or Dye, like Martyrs, in fair Free-born Blood.

How grand the Scene!———(No Tyrant shall oppose)
The T E A is funk in spite of all our foes.
A NOBLE SIGHT———to see 'th accursed T E A
Mingled with MUD———and ever for to be;

For KING and PRINCE shall know that we are FREE.

Boston's SONS keep up your Courage good,
Or Dye, like Martyrs, in fair Free-born Blood.

Must we be fill'd———live on Blood-bought Ground,
And not oppose the Tyrants curst sound?
We scorn the thought———our views are well refin'd
We scorn those flavius shackles of the Mind,
"We've Souls that were not made to be confin'd."

Boston's SONS keep up your Courage good,
Or Dye, like Martyrs, in fair Free-born Blood.

Could our Fore-fathers rise from their cold Graves,
And view their Land, with all their Children SLAVES;
What would they say! how would their Spirits read,
And, Thunder-frucken, to their Graves descend.

Boston's SONS keep up your Courage good,
Or Dye, like Martyrs, in fair Free-born Blood.

Let us with hearts of steel now stand the task,
Throw off all darklime ways, nor wear a Mask.
Oh! may our noble Zeal support our frame,
And brand all Tyrants in their GUILTY BLOOD.

TO THE TRADESMEN, MECHANICS, &c.

OF THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

My dear and much respected Brethren,

A time when a corrupt and profligate Ministry are pointing their destructive Machines against the sacred Liberties of the Americans, the Eyes of all Europe are upon us; and much is expected from the known Resolution and Conduct of the American Communities, among whom the industrious and respectable body of TRADERS and MECHANICS bear a very great and very material part. It is for our Interest, whether we have Property of our own, or not, whether our Property, and the trained Forces of our Labour, are at our own Disposal, or shall be wantonly wrested from us, by a set of luxurious, abandoned, and exorbitant Rulers, to be appropriated by them to increase the Number of such infamous Penitentiaries, and support their unlimited Extravagance. The Relief depends on our determined Virtue and Integrity, as so important a Crisis.

This Nature of the defable TRA-SCHME, and the pernicious Consequences of suffering to receive amounts to, Subject to a Duty payable here, and lev'd on us without our Consent, have been so judiciously forborne, and demonstrated by Sir Pensa, as to leave no Room for one of my Capacity to undertake it; and, if the taxing Duty of Three Pence were only to be considered, it would not be worth our while to oppose it; nor worth while for the Ministry to forego it, and take off, as it would be to the Interest of our People, and our Branch of Industry. But, that by the present Act, such a large Sum will be found in the hands of our friends, and still will never suffice, till they have a Compell of the Whole.

These arbitrary Measures we have virtuously opposed him.
Let us for our own Sakes, for our Country's Sake, for our Country's Sake, for our Country's Sake, for our Country's Sake, for our Country's Sake, for our Country's Sake.

Boston's SONS keep up your Courage good,
Or Dye, like Martyrs, in fair Free-born Blood.

But supposing the Act was repealed, and the Tea could be imported free of any Duty, Impost, or Custom, is it not a mild grief and lasting Dole to pluck the Teeth from the Americans, and lodge it in the Hands of the East India Company? Let us be prevailed upon to support that will affect the Merchants only———We need not concern ourselves with it; it will fall most forcibly affect the Merchants, and affect every Member of the Community. The East India Company at present have dispelled their desire Adventure in chartered Bounties; it was prudent in its to do, as possible to avoid the obnoxious Vellies and Georgias might become a Stab to the Reconciliation of a much injured and exasperated People. The trade Confederation might probably have induced them to appoint our Merchants their Agents to support the full heat of Affright, highly judicious if it would chafe our Friends with Whips, we should chafe our Friends with Sticks; but if they can once open the Channel of Trade to themselves, they will understand the very Teeth in their own laminate. They have pulled a good Af from upon our Merchants in the proper style, whom we respect, Commissaries. Hereafter, if they succeed, they will court their own Fathers and Creatures, establish Hoores amongst US, Ship US all other East India Goods; and in order to full freight their Ships, take in other Kind of Goods at under Freight, or (more probably) ship them on their own Accounts to their own Fathers, and under-sell our Merchants, till they monopolize the whole Trade. Thus our Merchants are ruined, Ship Building order. They will then sell Goods at any convenient Price. Our Artificers will be exempful, and every Tradesman will groan under the dire Oppression.

Two East India Companies, if once they be founded in this (once) happy Country, will leave no Stone unturned to become your Masters. They are opposent Body, and Money or Credit is not wanting amongst them. They have a designing, depraved, and delusive Ministry to support them. They themselves are well skilled in writing Letters, Money, Plunder, Oppression, and Blackmail. Whole Provinces labouring under the distresses of Oppression, to the very Tolerableness, the sword, are familiar to them. Thus they have enwrapt themselves——thus they become the most powerful Trade Company in the Universe. But therefore, my dear Fellow-Tradeemen, prudent———be much wiser than the former. The principles in favour of the antecedent Scheme. Rejected every Proposal, but a repugnin Act. Let not those baseless Consolations enter your heart to accept; and then what is your Advantage or Advantage with Ignorance, Content, &c. and you will wholly Depart from the World, " THAT WE WILL BE FREE INDEED.

A MECHANIC.

Philadelphia, December 4, 1773.
Independence is *Common Sense*?

c. Explain the importance of Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense* to the movement for independence.
Thomas Paine (1737-1809)

- British
  - Moved to America (1774)
  - Opponent of monarchy
- Called for republic

Plaque in England memorializing Paine
Published *Common Sense*, a pamphlet, in 1776

- Sold more than 150,000 copies
  - 75x more than average successful paper
Common Sense (1776)

• Talks about:
  – Problems of the monarchy
    “...monarchy and succession have laid (not this or that kingdom only) but the world in blood and ashes. 'Tis a form of government which the word of God bears testimony against...”
  – Why America should be independent
    …but from the errors of other nations, let us learn wisdom, and lay hold of the present opportunity — to begin government at the right end…
    ...independence is the only bond that can tie and keep us together...

"The cause of America is, in a great measure, the cause of all mankind."
Common Sense (1776)

“one of the most brilliant pamphlets ever written in the English language.”