

Name: _____ Date: _____



Excise Taxes

Analysis

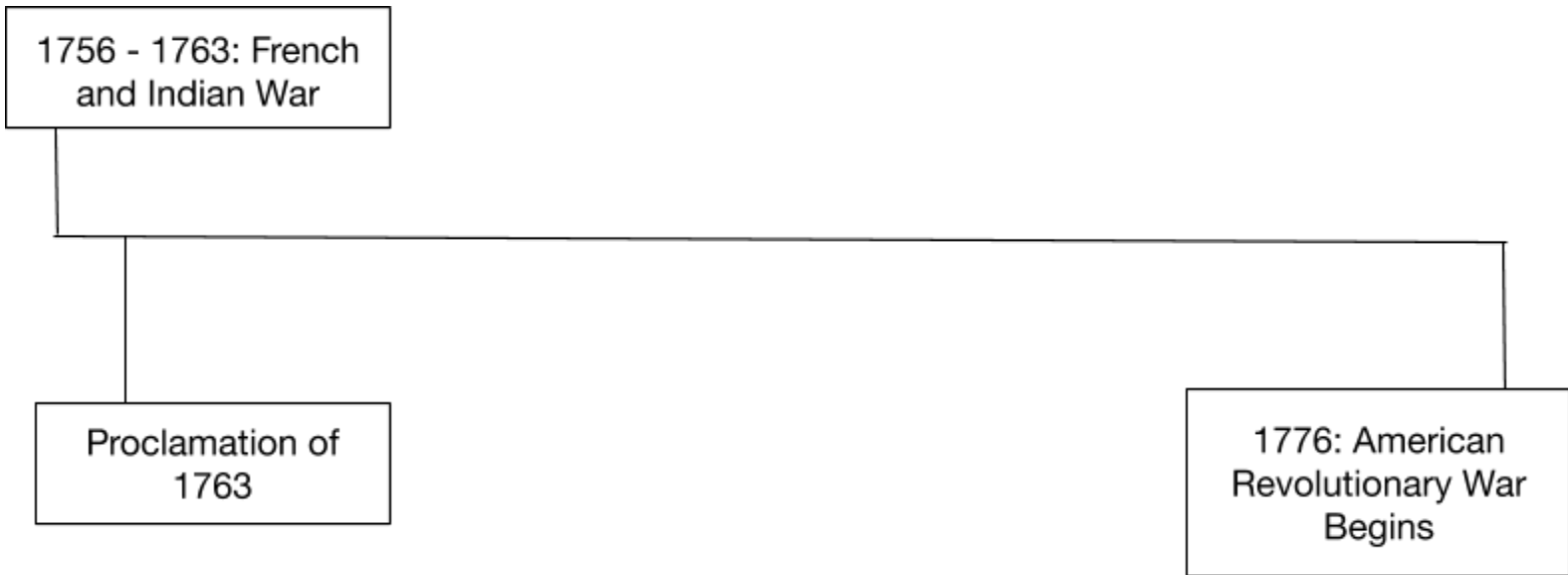
Aim

How did Britain become the colonists' enemy after the French and Indian War?

Directions: Each member of your group of 4 will be assigned to learn about EITHER the [Sugar Act](#), [Quartering Act](#), [Townshend Acts](#), or [Stamp Act](#). When your group is ready to share, present to your classmates what you have learned about your excise tax, and fill out the table below together. Finally, work together to put the excise taxes on the timeline on the next page.

<u>Excise Taxes</u>	What it Taxed	Colonial Reactions
Sugar Act		
Quartering Act		
Townshend Acts		
Stamp Act		

Timeline of Excise Taxes



Sugar Act - Document 2

Document Analysis: [RICHARD BLAND, The Colonel Dismounted, Thoughts from an American Citizen in Williamsburg, Virginia, 1764, EXCERPT](#)

Directions: Read the document below and answer the analysis questions that follow

1	If then the People of this Colony are free born and have a Right to the Liberties and Privileges of English Subjects, they must necessarily have a legal Constitution, that is, a government composed, in Part, of the Representatives of the People, who may enact laws for the INTERNAL Government of the Colony, and suitable to its various circumstances and Occasions; and without such a Representative, I am bold enough to say, no Law can be made. . . . if the Parliament should impose Laws upon us, we ought to have representation in that parliament... Part of our Birthright as Englishmen is being governed by Laws made with our own Consent, this is being violated at the present terms by a parliament we have no representation in.
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Analysis Questions:

1) *Sourcing:* Is this a primary source or a secondary source?

2) *Close Reading:* What reasons does the author provide for not agreeing with the recent British taxes imposed on the American colony?

Quartering Act - Document 3

Document Analysis: Benjamin Franklin, Letter to Henry Home, Lord Kames, 25 February 1767, excerpts on the Quartering Act and the resurgent “Tension between the two Countries”

Directions: Read the excerpt of the source below and answer the analysis questions.

1	I have mentioned that the tension between Britain and America is like to be revived. It is on this Occasion: In the same session of
2	Parliament with the Stamp Act, an Act was passed to regulate the Quartering of Soldiers in America. The bill passed with a clause
3	that empty houses, barns, etc. should be hired for them, and that the respective colonies, where they were located, should pay the
4	Expense and furnish heat, bedding, food, drink, and some other Articles to the Soldiers, for free. There is no way for any Colony to
5	do this but by the raising taxes. Pennsylvania has made such a Law raising taxes. New York Assembly has refused to do it.
6	
7	The Reasons given by the Governor of New York for their Refusal are: Firstly, That they understand the Act to mean the furnishing
8	such things to Soldiers only while war time and not to great regiments of Soldiers to be fixed as at present in the colony during
9	peacetime - the Burden in the second case being greater than the Inhabitants can bear for it is so costly. Secondly, that it would
10	put it in the Power of the Captain General of the British Army to oppress the colonists at pleasure...But there is supposed to be
11	another Reason, at bottom, which they suggest though they do not plainly express it, that it is of the nature of an internal tax laid on
12	them by Parliament, which has no right so to do without representation for the colonies in parliament.
13	
14	In the meantime, every Act of Oppression will sour their Tempers, ...and hasten their final Revolt: For the Seeds of Liberty are
15	universally sown there, and nothing can eradicate them...

[From: American In Class - National Humanities Center](#)

Analysis Questions:

- 1) *Sourcing:* Is this a primary source or a secondary source?
- 2) *Close Reading:* Did all of the colonies agree to pay for the quartering of soldiers? Cite textual evidence to support your claim.
- 3) *Close Reading:* What is the Benjamin Franklin warning will happen at the end of this excerpt?

Townshend Acts - Document 4

Document Analysis: [LETTER SEVEN, From a Farmer in Pennsylvania, by John Dickinson Pennsylvania Chronicle, January 4-11, 1768](#)

Directions: Read the document below and answer the analysis questions that follow.

1	THESE taxes, which will inevitably be levied upon us — which are now taxing upon us — are expressly laid FOR THE SOLE
2	PURPOSE OF TAKING MONEY. This is the true definition of “taxes.” They are therefore taxes. This money is to be taken from us. We
3	are therefore taxed. Those who are taxed without their own consent, expressed by themselves or their representatives, are slaves.
4	We are taxed without our own consent, expressed by ourselves or our representatives. We are therefore, I speak it with grief — I
5	speak it with indignation — we are SLAVES...

Analysis Questions:

- 1) *Sourcing:* Is this a primary or secondary source?

- 2) *Close Reading:* How would you describe the tone of this source?

Stamp Act - Document 5

Document Analysis: [A summary of the 1765 Stamp Act by Colonial Williamsburg Museum](#) (2017)

Directions: Read the document below and answer the analysis questions that follow.

1	The Stamp Act was passed by the British Parliament on March 22, 1765. The new tax was imposed on all American colonists and
2	required them to pay a tax on every piece of printed paper they used. Ship's papers, legal documents, licenses, newspapers, other
3	publications, and even playing cards were taxed. The money collected by the Stamp Act was to be used to help pay the costs of
4	defending and protecting the American frontier near the Appalachian Mountains (10,000 troops were to be stationed on the American
5	frontier for this purpose).
6	
7	The actual cost of the Stamp Act was relatively small. What made the law so offensive to the colonists was not so much its
8	immediate cost but the standard it seemed to set. In the past, taxes and duties on colonial trade had always been viewed as
9	measures to regulate commerce, not to raise money. The Stamp Act, however, was viewed as a direct attempt by England to raise
10	money in the colonies without the approval of the colonial legislatures. If this new tax were allowed to pass without resistance, the
11	colonists reasoned, the door would be open for far more troublesome taxation in the future.
12	
13	Few colonists believed that they could do anything more than grumble and buy the stamps until the Virginia House of Burgesses
14	adopted Patrick Henry's Stamp Act Resolves (series of resolutions passed by the Virginia House of Burgesses in response to the
15	Stamp Act). These resolves declared that Americans possessed the same rights as the English, especially the right to be taxed only
16	by their own representatives; that Virginians should pay no taxes except those voted by the Virginia House of Burgesses; and that
17	anyone supporting the right of Parliament to tax Virginians should be considered an enemy of the colony.

Analysis Questions:

- 1) *Sourcing:* Is this a primary or a secondary source?
- 2) *Contextualization:* According to this source, what motivated Great Britain to collect these taxes?
- 3) *Close Reading:* What did Patrick Henry's Stamp Act Resolves claim?

Stamp Act - Document 6

Document Analysis: [Thomas Hutchinson recounts the reaction to the Stamp Act in Boston \(1765\)](#)

Directions: Read the document below and answer the analysis questions that follow.

1	The distributor of stamps for the colony arrived in Boston from London; and, having been agent for that colony, and in other respects
2	of a very reputable character, received from many gentlemen of the town such civilities as were due to him... A few days after, early
3	in the morning, a stuffed image was hung upon a tree, called the great tree of the south part of Boston [subsequently called Liberty
4	Tree]. Labels affixed denoted it to be designed for the distributor of stamps...Before night, the image was taken down, and carried
5	through the townhouse, in the chamber whereof the governor and council were sitting. Forty or fifty tradesmen, decently dressed,
6	preceded; and some thousands of the mob followed down King street to Oliver's dock, near which Mr. Oliver ^A had lately erected a
7	building, which, it was conjectured, he designed for a stamp office. This was laid flat to the ground in a few minutes. From thence the
8	mob proceeded for Fort Hill, but Mr. Oliver's house being in the way, they endeavored to force themselves into it, and being
9	opposed, broke the windows, beat down the doors, entered, and destroyed part of his furniture, and continued in riot until midnight,
10	before they separated.
	A: Mr. Oliver was the distributor of Stamps for the Massachusetts Bay Colony

Analysis Questions:

- 1) *Sourcing:* Is this a primary or secondary source?
- 2) *Close Reading:* According to lines 2 - 4, how did the colonists initially react to the arrival of the Stamp distributor?
- 3) *Close Reading:* What did the mobs do the Stamp distributor's house?
- 4) *Close Reading:* What does this suggest to you about how colonists reacted to the Stamp Act?