

The American Revolution

In the early 1700s, America was not a free country. Great Britain was in control of the land, and the people who lived in America were called colonists. Great Britain had spent a great deal of money on the French and Indian War to stop France from taking control of land in the colonies that Britain said was hers. To help pay for that war, Britain decided to make the colonists pay extra money for things so Britain could use that tax money any way they wanted.

The taxes were very hard for the colonists to pay. Britain taxed many things people used every day. The colonists did not feel it was right to be taxed when they did not get to vote about the taxes. They wanted representation in Britain's government.

One of the taxes was on tea, and the colonists drank a lot of tea. There were laws about where the colonists could buy tea, and then, the tea they bought was taxed! The colonists wanted to do something to show Britain how they felt about these taxes. They tried talking to the government, but they wouldn't listen. One night, some of the people from Boston dressed up like Native Americans so no one would know who they were, and they dumped all the tea from ships in Boston Harbor into the water.

This made Britain very angry. They wanted to punish the colonists for ruining the tea, so they passed more new laws the colonists did not get to vote on. One law closed Boston Harbor and said it would only be opened when the colonists paid for the tea and were respectful of the British. Other laws made the governor of Massachusetts very powerful because he was part of the British army and would do the things the king wanted. There were many British troops in Boston and other areas.

The colonists tried to work out the problems, but Britain would not listen. When the British tried to find ammunition the colonists had been storing in case of a fight, Paul Revere and two other men rode to warn the people that the British were coming. Fighting started, and the colonists met to decide what to do. They finally signed a Declaration of Independence telling Britain they wanted to be a free country. When the Declaration of Independence was read to the people, the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was rung.

Britain tried to stop the people from being free. The war was long, and many people died, but in the end, the colonists won, and a new nation was born.



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