**5th Grade**

**Informative/Explanatory Writing**

***The Causes and Effects of the American Revolution***

**STUDENT PACKET**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Directions:**

**1.** **Social Studies Notebook/Folder:** You may use information from your notes to include in your report.

**2.** **Read Article #1:** “***Colonization and the Revolutionary War”***

**3. Read Article #2:** “***A Taxing Poem”***

**4.** **Read Article #3:** “***The Declaration of Independence”***

**Your Writing Task:**

**Write an informative/explanatory report that examines the causes and effects of the American Revolution.** You may include a time line to illustrate the major events that led up to the American Revolution. Remember to explain what effect the American Revolution had on the formation of the United States constitution.

**Article #1:**

***Colonization and the Revolutionary War***

Retrieved from: www.readworks.com

 As the colonies took root, they grew used to mostly governing themselves. Great Britain decided it wanted more control. It began to force new taxes on the colonists. They wanted to raise money from the goods they were shipping to the colonies. In 1764, the British Parliament passed the Sugar Act to raise the tax on sugar. The next year, the British Parliament passed the Stamp Act. Colonists now had to pay taxes for newspapers, marriage licenses, and all other legal documents.

Many colonists were angered by these taxes. They hadn't agreed to them and felt they were illegal and unfair. Each new tax led to a bigger **protest** by the colonists. Besides taxes, many colonists were also unhappy about some of the rules the British were forcing on them. In 1765, the British Parliament passed the Quartering Act. The act stated that colonists had to agree to give British troops food and let them stay in their homes. Colonists who were unhappy with how the British were treating them decided to fight back peacefully.

In 1765, the Stamp Act Congress met in New York. The Congress was made up of representatives from many colonies. The representatives agreed to **boycott** British goods until the Stamp Act was **repealed**. That same year, the Sons of Liberty, a secret organization of colonists in favor of liberty, was formed.

Tensions grew between the Colonists and the British. In 1770, tensions erupted with the Boston Massacre. British troops in Boston found themselves confronted by a crowd of angry colonists. The crowd shouted at the troops and threw snowballs and other small objects at them. The soldiers panicked. One soldier started firing his gun. Then more soldiers fired into the unarmed crowd. Five colonists were killed and six were injured.

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**protest** – object strongly and publicly

**boycott** – to join together and refuse to buy or use a product or service

**repealed** – taken back

The British government was afraid of losing control over the colonies. They removed all the taxes on imports to try to make the colonists happy. They allowed, however, one tax to remain in place for tea. In 1773, Parliament passed the Tea Act to help get the East India Company out of financial trouble. This act enabled the British trading company to sell tea in America at a low price. Even with a tax on tea, the British company had a price advantage over American tea companies. The colonists were furious. They feared East India’s tea would put American tea companies out of business. In Boston, a leader of the resistance named Samuel Adams decided to protest. He spoke to a group of colonists on December 16, 1773 at the Old South Church in Boston. Shortly after he spoke, a large group of men boarded British ships and dumped thousands of pounds of East India’s tea into the harbor. Crowds of onlookers gathered to celebrate the **rebellious** act. They nicknamed the event the Boston Tea Party.

The British responded quickly and harshly. In 1774, they passed several measures known as the Intolerable Acts. They closed the Boston port and made it difficult for the major city to function. Other colonies, especially Maryland, helped Boston survive by sending food and supplies.

All of these events had two main consequences. First, they made the colonists resent Britain. Britain’s government seemed far away and out of touch with the colonists’ needs. Many colonists began to think about ruling themselves. Second, they helped unite the colonists. The colonists had come to the New World with very different backgrounds and lifestyles. They were **sprawled** across the East Coast of this big continent. But Britain’s acts gave them a single purpose and a common cause: justice and liberty.

In September 1774, the first meeting of the First Continental Congress took place. Representatives from 12 of the American colonies met to discuss how they would unite and defend their rights as men. Within months the Revolutionary War would begin. Less than two years later, on July 4, 1776, America would declare its independence.

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**rebellious –** defying authority, disobedient

**sprawled –** spread out all over the place

**Article #2:**

***A Taxing Poem***

Poor King George—the bills were mounting fast.

Funds had to come from somewhere, and they had to get there fast.

He’d spent quite a bit on the French and Indian War,

providing defense, a benefit, to the colonies across the distant shore.

So King George—a monarch and a king—

devised a mighty notion. Oh, what riches it would bring!

1

He’d call upon Americans to foot this costly bill.

So what if they objected? It was King George’s will.

Then King George—a tax he did decree.

Now every printed item was subject to a levy.

And to each pesky colonist who dared to be contrary,

he’d say, “It’s got advantages —it’s only temporary.”

Now King George was taken by surprise.

2

That the people were rebellious, he never did surmise;

Word would spread like fire, all across the nation.

“We will not pay these taxes without proper representation!”

So King George—who did not want a fight—

thought he’d repeal the tax, but still retain the right

to tax every American, the mighty and the small.

He’d bide his time, he’d wait awhile, and then he’d tax them all.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Sly King George—from far across the sea—

enacted other taxes on lead and paint and tea.

In Boston, angry colonists who did not like this notion

rounded up the tea and dumped it in the ocean.

Oh, King George felt like an angry dad

whose children needed punishment for making him so mad.

He closed the port of Boston with a firm and iron fist

and hoped to stop the movement that was growing in its midst.

Then King George, believing he was right,

at Bunker Hill did battle, at Lexington did fight.

But the colonists weren’t lambs, as previously thought,

and stating, “Independence!” against King George they fought.

But King George, seated on his throne,

gathered his advisors so he would not feel alone.

“Prohibit all their armies from taking all my land!

“The more they fight,” said George, “the taller I will stand.”

Old King George—defiant man was he.

Yet in the end George surrendered to a Patriot victory.

Each night brings him triumph—Yes, at last!

Or so it seems.

For people pay their taxes—if only in his dreams.

**Article #3:**

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| --- | --- |
| ***The Declaration of Independence*** | http://www.ducksters.com/history/declaration_of_independence_signing.jpg |

Retrieved from [www.ducksters.com](http://www.ducksters.com)

The thirteen colonies in the America's had been at war with Britain for around a year when the Second Continental Congress decided it was time for the colonies to officially declare their independence. This meant that they were breaking away from British rule. They would no longer be a part of the British Empire and would fight for their freedom.

**Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?**

On June 11, 1776 the Continental Congress appointed five leaders, called the Committee of Five, to write a document explaining why they were declaring their independence. The five members were Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Robert Livingston, Roger Sherman, and Thomas Jefferson. The members decided that Thomas Jefferson should write the first draft.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft over the next few weeks and, after some changes made by the rest of the committee, they presented it to Congress on June 28, 1776.

**Did everyone agree?**

Not everyone agreed at first on declaring independence. Some wanted to wait until the colonies had secured stronger alliances with foreign countries. In the first round of voting South Carolina and Pennsylvania voted "no" while New York and Delaware chose not to vote. The Congress wanted the vote to be unanimous, so they continued to discuss the issues. The next day, July 2nd, South Carolina and Pennsylvania reversed their votes. Delaware decided to vote "yes" as well. This meant that the agreement to declare independence passed with 12 yes votes and 1 abstention (meaning New York chose not to vote).

**July 4, 1776**

On July 4, 1776 the Congress officially adopted the final version of the Declaration of Independence. This day is still celebrated in the United States as Independence Day.



**Declaration of Independence**

After the signing, the document was sent to a printer to make copies. Copies were sent to all the colonies where the declaration was read aloud in public and published in newspapers. A copy was also sent to the British government.

**Famous Words**

The Declaration of Independence did more than just say the colonies wanted their freedom. It explained why they wanted their freedom. It listed all the bad things that the king had done to the colonies and that the colonies had rights which they felt they should fight for.

Perhaps one of the most famous statements in the history of the United States is in the Declaration of Independence:

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*

**Informative/Explanatory Report**

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You may use the space below to include an illustration.

**Be sure to revise and edit your work!**