

# *Causes of the American Revolution*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Background:** After fighting the costly French & Indian War to secure the territory of North America, the British government sought repayment from the American Colonies through various forms of taxation. Many in America saw this as a threat to their liberties. The American resistance to pay taxes led to the American Revolution.

**Myth: All colonists are united against England.**  
 • Fact: Not all American Colonists were united in favor of declaring independence from Britain.  
 • Only about 30-40% of the colonists were in favor of independence. About 20% remained loyal to England. The rest were undecided.

**Myth: The colonists went to war over taxes.**  
 • Fact: Even though Parliament increased taxes on the colonies, were still lower than on English living in England. Colonists were most opposed to being taxed without having direct representation in Parliament.

**Focus Questions:** 1. How did the British view of the American colonies differ from American colonists? 2. Why did the American Colonists declare independence from England? 3. Who do you think was more justified in their actions, the American revolutionaries or Great Britain? Support your answer with specific examples.

Source of Conflict	O P P O S I N G V I E W S	
	<u>British - Loyalists</u>	<u>American Colonists - Patriots</u>
<b>Status of the 13 British Colonies in North America</b>		
<b>Stamp Act 1765</b> • tax on newspapers and documents in colonies • had to be paid in British currency		

Source of Conflict	Loyalists	Patriots
<p><b>“No Taxation without Representation.”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American colonists wanted a representative from the Colonies in Parliament</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Boston Massacre</b> 1770</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riots in Boston</li> <li>• British guards kill several colonists</li> <li>• British guards are tried in court</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Boston Tea Party</b> 1773</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protest tea tax</li> <li>• Boston merchants dress up as Native American</li> <li>• destroy more than \$70,000 of tea from British Ships</li> </ul>		

**Assignment:** Citing specific examples from events on this graphic organizer, respond to the two focus questions on a separate piece of paper:

1. How did the British view of the American colonies differ from American colonists?
2. Why did the American Colonists declare independence from England?
3. Who do you think was more justified in their actions, the American revolutionaries or Great Britain? Support your answer with specific examples.