

# moment in HISTORY

## Tea Act

In the game “Monopoly”, the goal is to own as much of the game board as you can. If a player buys most of the game board, that player can make the other players run out of money. This is called a **monopoly**! Monopolies happen in real life. When a company has a monopoly, it does not have to worry about making low prices or making really nice products. It is not competing with other companies anymore.

### British East India Company

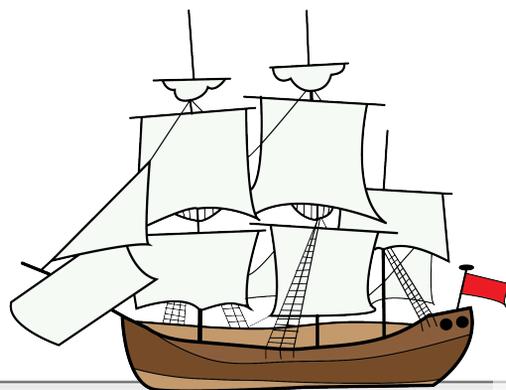
In the 1700s, everything sold in America passed through Great Britain and was taxed. Great Britain wanted to set up a monopoly for the British East India Company. The British government lowered the taxes that the company had to pay. Lower taxes let the company sell their tea for less money. The British hoped the colonists would buy only British tea. This was called the Tea Act of 1773.

The American colonists were not happy about the Tea Act. They were already mad about other taxes from the British like the Stamp Act and the Townshend Acts. Americans thought the tax break for the British East India Company was not fair. All other tea companies still had to pay full taxes. Buying tea from anywhere else cost so much more than buying from the British East India Company. Even Dutch tea that was snuck into the colonies cost more!

### Boycott the British

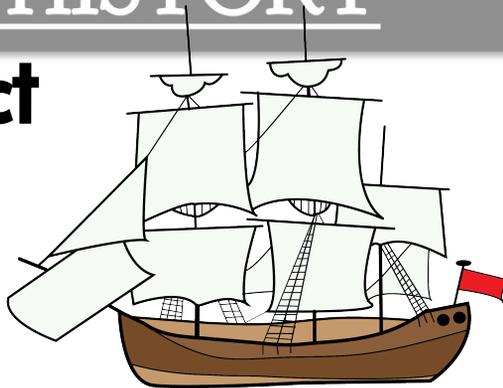
Instead of buying the cheap British tea, American colonists boycotted. They stopped buying British tea. The boycott helped local tea sellers. It also stopped Great Britain from making more money. The colonists thought the Tea Act was another example of “taxation without representation.” Americans did not even want the British tea brought into the colonies. Some ships carrying tea were sent back to Britain. Others were left at sea until the tea went bad.

The Tea Act of 1773 is famous for the event it caused - the Boston Tea Party. On December 16, 1773, a group of American colonists jumped onto three British ships in Boston. They were dressed like Indians. They dumped 340 chests of British East India Company Tea into the Boston Harbor. They dumped \$1 million worth of tea. The British were so angry. They came up with even more rules for the colonists to follow. This just made the Americans even angrier! Things were really heating up between the British and the Americans!



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## Tea Act



In the game “Monopoly”, the goal is to own as much of the game board as possible. If one player buys most of the game board, that player can make the other players run out of money. This is called a **monopoly!** In history, there have been real-life monopolies. Some companies have owned enough of one industry to put all the other companies out of business. When a company has a monopoly, it does not have to worry about making low prices or making really nice products because it is not competing with other companies anymore.

### British East India Company

The British East India Company was not doing very well in the late 1700s. Great Britain wanted to create a monopoly for the company. Everything being sold in America had to pass through Great Britain to be taxed. The British government lowered the taxes that the British East India Company had to pay. Lower taxes meant they could sell their tea for less money. The British were sure this would make the colonists want to buy the tea. This was called the Tea Act of 1773.

The American colonists were not happy about the Tea Act. The colonists were already mad about other taxes from the British. A year after the Stamp Act was removed, the government put a new tax on trade through the Townshend Acts. Americans thought the Tea Act was not fair. The Tea Act only got rid of the tea tax for the British East India Tea company. All other tea companies still had to pay regular taxes. Buying tea from any other company cost so much more than buying from the British East

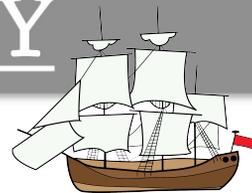
India Company. Even Dutch tea that was snuck into the colonies cost more than the British tea!

### Boycott the British

Instead of buying the cheap British East India Company tea, American colonists boycotted. They refused to buy the tea. Colonists knew the boycott helped local tea sellers and kept Great Britain from making more money. The colonists thought the Tea Act was another example of “taxation without representation.” They decided that they did not even want the tea brought into the colonies. Some ships carrying tea were sent back to Britain. Others were left at sea until the tea went bad.

The Tea Act of 1773 is famous for the event it led to - the Boston Tea Party. On December 16, 1773, a group of American colonists known as the Sons of Liberty jumped onto three British ships in Boston. The Sons of Liberty were dressed like Indians. They dumped 340 chests of British East India Company Tea into the Boston Harbor. The amount of tea the patriots destroyed would be worth \$1 million today. The British were so angry they came up with even more rules for the colonists to follow. This just made the Americans even angrier! Things were really heating up between the British and the Americans!

# moment in HISTORY



## Tea Act

In the game “Monopoly”, the goal is to own as much of the game board as possible. A player that is able to purchase and own a majority of the game board is eventually able to force opponents into bankruptcy. Throughout history, real-life **monopolies** have existed in the business world. Certain companies have owned large enough portions of one industry to force all the competing companies out of business. When a company achieves a monopoly, it no longer has to worry about setting low prices or creating high-quality products because it is not competing with other companies.

### British East India Company

Great Britain passed the **Tea Act in 1773** in order to create a monopoly for the British East India Company. The British East India Company was struggling at the time and the British government thought that passing this law would force American colonists to do more business with the tea company. In order to convince colonists to only buy tea from the British East India Company, the British government lowered the price of the company's tea so much that it was considerably cheaper than that of any other tea supplier. The British were able to do this because all legal tea had to pass through England. The British East India Company paid little to no taxes on its tea as it passed through England to America.

The American colonists did not receive the Tea Act well. The issue of unfair taxation by the British government was already a source of conflict. Just after the unfavorable Stamp Act was repealed, the British government had placed an unfair

tax on trade as a part of the Townshend Acts. Americans viewed the Tea Act as unfair because it only removed the tea tax for the British East India Tea company. All other companies were still heavily taxed. Buying tea from any other supplier was so much more expensive than buying from the British East India Company. Even Dutch tea that was illegally smuggled into the colonies was more expensive than the British tea.

### Boycott the British

Instead of purchasing the British East India Company tea at cheap prices, American colonists boycotted, or refused to buy, tea. Colonists knew that by boycotting tea they were helping local tea merchants and preventing Great Britain from collecting taxes on the sale of tea. They saw the Tea Act as an example of “taxation without representation” and decided that they would not even allow the tea to be unloaded from the ships. Some ships carrying tea were sent back to Britain and others were left at sea where the tea eventually spoiled.

The Tea Act of 1773 is most famous for the event that it eventually caused - the Boston Tea Party. On December 16, 1773, a group of American colonists known as the Sons of Liberty jumped on board three British ships in Boston disguised as Mohawk Indians. They dumped 340 chests of British East India Company Tea into the Boston Harbor. The amount of tea the patriots destroyed would be worth almost \$1 million today. The British responded by putting harsher rules in place in the colonies, which caused even greater resistance from the Americans.

# close READING & responding

## Tea Act

**Directions:** Answer like an A.P.E! Restate part of the question, use complete sentences, cite evidence, and explain.

### KEY IDEAS & DETAILS

1. What are some examples from this passage that show the role of the Tea Act in the American Revolution? Cite evidence from the text. (RI.1)  
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\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Explain why the British came up with the idea for the Tea Act. (RI.3)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Explain the relationship between the Stamp Act, the Townshend Acts, and the Tea Act. (RI.3)  
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4. Explain how the colonists responded to the Tea Act. (RI.3)  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# close READING & responding

## Tea Act

**Directions:** Answer like an A.P.E! Restate part of the question, use complete sentences, cite evidence, and explain.

5. Summarize the main idea of the section “British East India Company” in one sentence. (RI.2)

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### CRAFT & STRUCTURE

6. Explain the meaning of the word “monopoly” in the context of this article. (RI.4)

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7. How is the text organized? Describe the text’s organizational structure (chronological, cause/effect, comparison/contrast, description, problem/solution). Explain your reasoning. (RI.5)

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### INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE & IDEAS

8. What is the author’s overall message of the text? What evidence did the author use to support her thinking? (RI.8)

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# close READING & responding

## Tea Act

**Directions:** Answer like an A.P.E! Restate part of the question, use complete sentences, cite evidence, and explain.

### KEY IDEAS & DETAILS

1. What are some examples from this passage that show the role of the Tea Act in the American Revolution? Cite evidence from the text. (RI.1)
2. Explain why the British came up with the idea for the Tea Act. (RI.3)
3. Explain the relationship between the Stamp Act, the Townshend Acts, and the Tea Act. (RI.3)
4. Explain how the colonists responded to the Tea Act. (RI.3)
5. Summarize the main idea of the section “British East India Company” in one sentence. (RI.2)

### CRAFT & STRUCTURE

6. Explain the meaning of the word “monopoly” in the context of this article. (RI.4)
7. How is the text organized? Describe the text’s organizational structure (chronological, cause/effect, comparison/contrast, description, problem/solution). Explain your reasoning. (RI.5)

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# close READING & responding

## Tea Act

**Directions:** Answer like an A.P.E! Restate part of the question, use complete sentences, cite evidence, and explain.

### KEY IDEAS & DETAILS

- 1. What are some examples from this passage that show the role of the Tea Act in the American Revolution? Cite evidence from the text. (RI.1)**

The Tea Act of 1773 is famous for the event it caused - the Boston Tea Party. The British were so angry about the wasted tea that they came up with even more rules for the colonists to follow. This just made the Americans even angrier! Things really heated up between the British and the Americans!
- 2. Explain why the British came up with the idea for the Tea Act. (RI.3)**

In the 1700s, everything sold in America passed through Great Britain and was taxed. Great Britain wanted to set up a monopoly for the British East India Company. The British government lowered the taxes that the company had to pay. Lower taxes let the company sell their tea for less money. The British hoped the colonists would only buy British tea.
- 3. Explain the relationship between the Stamp Act, the Townshend Acts, and the Tea Act. (RI.3)**

The American colonists were not happy about the Tea Act. They were already mad about other taxes from the British like the Stamp Act and the Townshend Acts. The colonists thought the Tea Act was another example of “taxation without representation.”
- 4. Explain how the colonists responded to the Tea Act. (RI.3)**

The Tea Act of 1773 led to the Boston Tea Party. On December 16, 1773, a group of American colonists jumped onto three British ships in Boston. They were dressed like Indians. They dumped 340 chests of British East India Company tea into the Boston Harbor. They dumped \$1 million worth of tea!
- 5. Summarize the main idea of the section “British East India Company” in one sentence. (RI.2)**

Great Britain lowered taxes in order to set up a monopoly for the British East India Company, which infuriated the colonists who felt it was just one more instance of the results of the lack of American representation in the British government.

### CRAFT & STRUCTURE

- 6. Explain the meaning of the word “monopoly” in the context of this article. (RI.4)**

A monopoly is when a company owns a large enough portion of one industry to force all the competing companies out of business. When a company achieves a monopoly, it no longer has to worry about setting low prices or creating high-quality products because does not have to compete with other companies.

# close READING & responding

## Tea Act

**Directions:** Answer like an A.P.E! Restate part of the question, use complete sentences, cite evidence, and explain.

7. How is the text organized? Describe the text's organizational structure (chronological, cause/effect, comparison/contrast, description, problem/solution). Explain your reasoning. (RI.5)  
The text is organized chronologically. It describes the events leading up to the Tea Act (such as the previous taxes imposed by the British government) and the results of the Tea Act in the order in which they occurred.

### INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE & IDEAS

8. What is the author's overall message of the text? What evidence did the author use to support her thinking? (RI.8)  
The British unfairly gave preferential treatment to a British tea company. The colonists were angry again about a tax and the fact that they had no say in the British government. This disagreement led the colonists to lash out against the British in the Boston Tea Party, which infuriated the British.