

Colonial Unrest

Saving Dr. Warren... “A True Patriot”

Before starting this lesson you will need to have read Ch. 20 (pg. 98-103) of *Saving Dr. Warren... “A True Patriot.”*

Key Historical Question:

What led to unrest in the colonies?

S.W.B.A.T:

- Correlate 3+ specific events, starting in 1764, with colonial unrest
- Provide evidence based reasoning for why colonists were upset by the Crown

Plan of Instruction:

Opening Question - What are things happening in our country today that upset you? What are you, or others, doing to try and change those things?

Intro - Today we will be discussing what was upsetting the colonists in the 1760s, and how that led to unrest as they tried to fix their problems.

**Note: If you have not already done so, read pages 98-103 in Saving Dr. Warren before continuing with the lesson*

Unrest In The Colonies Timeline - Read through the events in the timeline and have students fill out the *Timeline Questions* worksheet. Depending on the dynamics of your class you can do this all together, in groups or individually (generally works best in groups of 2-3).

Unrest In The Colonies Analysis - After students have a timeframe of the events, a short definition, and an understanding of their impact, help them dive in deeper by analyzing images surrounding the Stamp Act, quotes regarding the Sugar Act, and a modified primary source article on Christopher Seider’s funeral. Again, this can be done as a class, in groups or individually (generally works best in groups of 2-3). **If you do it in groups or individually make sure to come together and debrief as a class before moving on.*

Wrap It Up - Have students share the event they thought led to the most unrest, what the colonists did to try and fix it, and if they personally would have done anything different if they were alive back then. **They can do this as an exit slip, group discussion, or classroom discussion.*

Unrest In The Colonies Timeline

1764 - Sugar Act

Parliament, desiring revenue from its North American colonies, passed the first law specifically aimed at raising colonial money for the Crown. The act increased duties on non-British goods shipped to the colonies.

Currency Act

This act prohibited American colonies from making their own currency (money), angering many American colonists.

Beginnings of Colonial Unrest

American colonists responded to the Sugar Act and the Currency Act with protest. In Massachusetts, participants in a town meeting cried out against taxation without proper representation in Parliament, and suggested some form of united protest throughout the colonies. By the end of the year, many colonies were practicing nonimportation, a refusal to use imported English goods.

1765 - Quartering Act

The British further angered American colonists with the Quartering Act, which required the colonies to provide housing and supplies to British troops.

Stamp Act

Parliament's first direct tax on the American colonies, this act, like those passed in 1764, was enacted to raise money for Britain. It taxed newspapers, almanacs, pamphlets, legal documents, dice, and playing cards. Issued by Britain, the stamps were placed on documents or packages to show that the tax had been paid.

Organized Colonial Protest

American colonists responded to Parliament's acts with organized protest. Throughout the colonies, a network of secret organizations known as the Sons of Liberty was created, aimed at intimidating those who collected Parliament's taxes. The Massachusetts Assembly suggested a meeting of all the colonies to work for the repeal of the Stamp Act. All but four colonies were represented. American colonists wrote a "Declaration of Rights and Grievances," which claimed that American colonists were equal to all other British citizens, protested taxation without representation, and stated that, without colonial representation in Parliament, Parliament could not tax colonists. In addition, the colonists increased their nonimportation efforts.

1766 - Repeal of the Stamp Act

Although some in Parliament thought the British army should be used to enforce the Stamp Act (1765), other British citizens supported the American colonists for resisting a tax passed by a legislative body in which they were not represented. The act was repealed, and the colonies abandoned their ban on imported British goods.

Declaratory Act

The repeal of the Stamp Act did not mean that Great Britain was surrendering its control over its American colonies. The Declaratory Act, passed by Parliament on the same day the Stamp Act was repealed, stated that Parliament could make laws binding the American colonies "in all cases whatsoever."

1767 - Townshend Acts

To help pay the expenses involved in governing the unruly American colonies, Parliament passed the Townshend Acts, which initiated taxes on glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea.

1768 - Massachusetts Circular Letter

Samuel Adams wrote a letter, approved by the Massachusetts House of Representatives (colony of Massachusetts's government), which attacked Parliament for taxing the colonies without proper representation, and which called for unified resistance by all the colonies. Many colonies issued similar statements. In response, the British governor of Massachusetts dissolved the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

British Troops Arrive in Boston, Massachusetts

Although the Sons of Liberty threatened armed resistance to arriving British troops, they did nothing when the troops stationed themselves in Boston.

1769 - Virginia's Resolutions

The Virginia House of Burgesses (colony of Virginia's government) condemned Britain's actions against Massachusetts, and stated that only Virginia's governor and legislature could tax its citizens, not the British Parliament. The colonists in Virginia also drafted a formal letter to the King, completing it just before the colony's government was dissolved by Virginia's royal governor (royal governor means he was chosen by the King of England).

1770 - Death of Christopher Seider

On February 22, 1770, Christopher joined a crowd outside the house of Ebenezer Richardson in the North End of Boston. Richardson was viewed by the Sons of Liberty as a tory, and traitor to his countrymen. The crowd threw stones which broke Richardson's windows and struck his wife.

Richardson fired a gun into the crowd, wounding Christopher in the arm and the chest. The boy died that evening. Samuel Adams arranged his funeral, which was attended by more than 2,000 people. Seider's killing and large public funeral fueled the public.

Name:

Period:

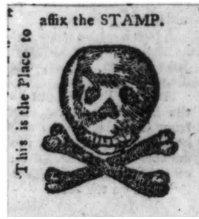
Timeline Questions

1. In 1764 the English Parliament passed the Sugar Act so that they could get more money from the American colonists (*that makes sense*), but they also passed the Currency Act that same year. **What do you think Parliament's purpose was in passing the Currency Act?**
2. In 1765 we read about the organization called **The Sons of Liberty**. According to the timeline, **why was it created?**
3. In 1765 the colonists sent Parliament a document titled, Declaration of Rights and Grievances. **What did the declaration say?**
4. In 1766 the Declaratory Act was passed. **If you were an American colonist why would you find this upsetting?**
5. The events described in the year 1769 mention a royal governor. Please brainstorm and **think of one reason why having a royal governor could be good and one reason why it could be bad.**
 - a. Good:
 - b. Bad:
6. Of the different events mentioned in the timeline, **which event would upset you the most if you were an American Colonist?**

Name:
Period:

Unrest In The Colonies Analysis

Stamp Act:



To the left are two images representing the Stamp Act. On the far left is the stamp that was placed on newspapers, cards, documents, etc. to prove the colonist had paid the Stamp Act when purchasing the items. The image on the right is a drawing the Sons of Liberty used in reference to the Stamp Act (similar to a political).

1. Why would the Sons of Liberty make a drawing that had a skull and crossbones when referencing the Stamp Act?

Sugar Act:

James Otis responds to the Sugar Act, and the colonists lack of representation in Parliament, with the following quote: **"If we are not represented, we are slaves."**

2. What does it mean to be represented?

3. What does it mean to be a slave?

4. Do you agree with James Otis? Circle your answer: YES NO
Explain why:

5. At the top of page 102 in *Saving Dr. Warren...* "A True Patriot" the author alludes to James Otis thinking in a similar way as Sam Adams. **If this is true, would Sam Adams be more likely to support the King or the Sons of Liberty?**

Death of Christopher Seider

Document Type: Newspaper Article

Date Printed: March 5, 1770

Written By: The Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal

The Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal Article (Modified)

The remains of *young Seider*, the unfortunate boy who was barbarously murdered the 22nd of February were recently buried. His tragic death & the circumstances surrounding it have touched the hearts of all with the tenderest sympathy. The little corpse was set down under the Tree of Liberty, from whence the funeral procession began. About five hundred school boys preceded; and a very numerous train of citizens followed, in the estimated to be about two thousand.

Upon the head of the coffin was an inscription in Latin that said, *Innocentia nusquam tuta!* Denoting that we have fallen into the most unhappy times, when even innocence itself is not safe! Upon this very mournful occasion, and during the solemnity, the Sons of Liberty ordered a board to be affixed to the Liberty Tree, inscribed with the following

Thou shall take no satisfaction for the life of a MURDERER ; -- He shall surely be put to death. The wicked shall not pass unpunished.

The parents of the unfortunate youth who was recently murdered, have desired in this way to acknowledge with gratitude the respect shown to their son, Christopher, by the attendance of so great a number of the friends of liberty, at his funeral on Monday last.

We can assure the public that a monument will be erected over the grave of *young Seider*, with an inscription, to perpetuate his memory. A number of patriotic gentlemen have generously donated for that purpose. It is said that the surplus of money, if any, will be given to the parents of Christopher Seider.

Name:

Period:

Christopher Seider Analysis:

1. **Why do you think thousands of people who had probably never met Christopher Seider attend his funeral?**
2. In the second paragraph of the article it mentions a Latin phrase carved on Seider's coffin. The phrase is, *Innocentia nusquam tuta* (Innocence is nowhere safe). **Why do you think they chose to have this phrase carved on the coffin?**
3. **According to the newspaper article, who is going to raise money for a monument to Christopher Seider? Why is it important that this particular group is erecting a monument to the eleven-year-old boy?**
4. At the bottom of page 102 in *Saving Dr. Warren...* "A True Patriot" John Adams & Joseph Warren are discussing the unrest in the colonies. **Why do you think at the end of the second to last paragraph John Adams says, "Since Christopher Seider's death all of Boston seems positioned on a powder keg"?**

**The article about Christopher Seider's death was published in the newspaper on March 5th 1770. Later that night is the Boston Massacre. As you read about Steve's experience in the Boston Massacre think about how this article might have impacted what happened that night.*