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INTRODUCTION

In the busy city of Boston, men argued with the British king who was far away in Britain. They wanted to be free. But the king's men attacked. After the Boston Massacre of 1770, a new country was born.

On a calm Sunday morning in 1941, ships sat in Pearl Harbor. Men slept. They did not see the planes flying low. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor that day, our nation entered World War II.

At a college in Kent, Ohio, young people walked arm-in-arm and chanted, "No more war!" But the National Guard soldiers shot into the crowd. After the deaths of four students at Kent State University in 1970, new laws were passed.

In a far away land, people fought over religion and land. Soon, bombs fell in the streets. During the siege of Sarajevo in the 1990s, the United States tried to stop people from killing each other.

In the halls of the Pentagon, workers began their workday. They did not see the plane flying low. After the September 11 attack in 2001, our nation learned to deal with terror.

Could these attacks have been stopped?

Sadly, attacks do happen. Bombs fall. Fires rage. Guns fire. Homes are crushed. Cities are ruined. People are killed. No one is ever the same!

CHAPTER 1

The Boston Massacre

DATAFILE

Timeline

March 1770

British soldiers kill five people in Boston.

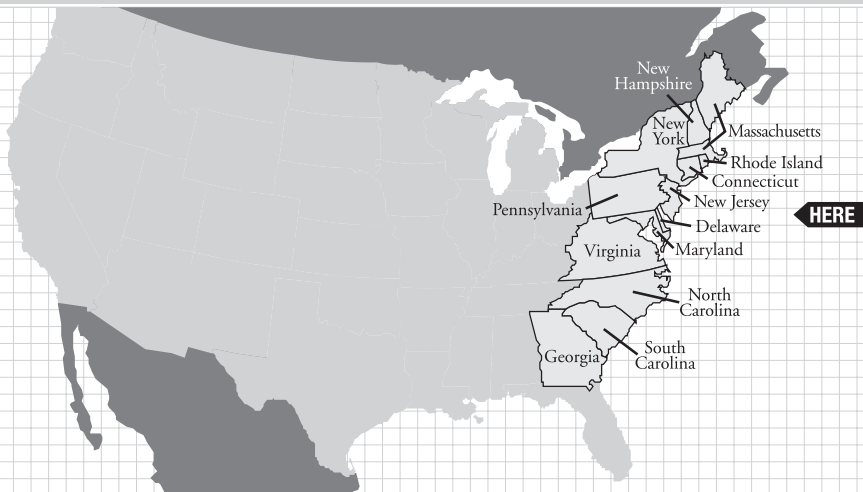
December 1773

Tea is dumped into Boston harbor to protest English taxes.

July 1776

The War of Independence begins.

Where were the 13 colonies?



Key Terms

Britain—also called England and the United Kingdom; a country in Europe

colonies—a region politically controlled by a distant country

colonists—people who live in colonies

Parliament—the place where laws are made in Britain; the national legislature of Great Britain

protest—to speak out against

represent—to stand in for



Did You Know?

In the 1700s and 1800s, the colonies of Britain covered nearly one quarter of Earth's surface.

CHAPTER 1

The Boston Massacre

If you lived in Britain in 1670, would you be brave enough to travel to the British colonies in a new world? This trip would take you 30 days or more!

At that time, the colonies in America were far away and unknown. It was a place to make a new life. Would you be afraid to leave your home and cross the ocean to the British colonies?

Thousands made the trip! Why? Many wanted to buy cheap land, and some wanted to start businesses.

The 13 British Colonies

Connecticut

Delaware

Georgia

Maryland

Massachusetts

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New York

North Carolina

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

South Carolina

Virginia

Still others wanted to celebrate their own religion. So these brave people took a risk and became colonists.

They had many troubles. Life was difficult in the British colonies, but that did not stop them!

By 1750, hundreds of thousands of people left Britain for the British colonies. They were far from home, but the king was still in charge.

Taxes and Laws

The king needed money. Britain had fought a war with France. The king had to pay his soldiers.

To get money, the king created a new tax in March 1765. It was called “The Stamp Act,” and it was a tax on legal and other papers. The colonists would start paying the tax in November that same year.

Riots Break Out in Boston

In the British colonies, people did not like paying taxes to the British king. In November 1765, people rioted in Boston. They destroyed a building and a home, and also set fires. Many colonists wanted to protest.

“We should have a vote in Parliament!”

— An unknown colonist

No one represented the colonists in Parliament. In fact, Parliament passed another law creating more taxes and more rules for the colonists to follow.

The king sent soldiers to the British colonies to make sure the people paid the taxes. The soldiers checked the ships, searched businesses, and even entered people’s homes. Would you stand for that? No one wanted soldiers in their homes.

Life in the Colonies

Colonial Times: 1600 - 1780

Clothing

breeches and petticoats

In the Kitchen

pipkins (earthenware pots)

pottage (stew), licorice, raisins

wooden dishes, no utensils

Homes

one or two rooms and no indoor water

Toys & Games

dolls, kites, hide and seek, races

Families

16+ children per family

people begin working at age 6+

Average Lifespan

less than 55 years

Population

1610 - 350 people

1780 - 2,780,400 people