

Lesson 1: Trouble over Taxes

Vocabulary

Parliament Britain's law-making assembly

Stamp Act law that placed a tax on printed materials in the colonies

repeal cancel

Sons of Liberty group that led protests against the new tax

Townshend Acts laws that replaced a tax on imported goods from Britain

tariff tax on imported goods

boycott refusal to buy goods

Daughters of Liberty group formed to help with the boycott of British goods

Britain Taxes the Colonies

Britain decided to tax the colonies to help pay for defending the colonies. To do this, **Parliament**, the law-making assembly in Britain, passed the **Stamp Act** in 1765. The Stamp Act placed a tax on anything printed in the colonies. This tax made the colonists angry. The colonists had not voted for Parliament. Therefore they felt Parliament had no right to tax them. The colonists felt that they should not be taxed by a government that did not represent, or speak for, them.

Colonists Protest

Patrick Henry was one of the first colonists to speak out against the Stamp Act. He urged others to stand up against the new tax. A meeting called the Stamp Act Congress was held in New York City in October of 1765. Leaders from nine colonies tried to make Parliament **repeal**, or cancel, the Stamp Act.

Sons of Liberty

Samuel Adams formed a group called the **Sons of Liberty**. The Sons of Liberty protested against the new tax. These groups appeared in towns all through the colonies. The groups burned stamps. They frightened stamp agents.

It worked. Stamp agents were afraid to carry out the law.


The Townshend Acts

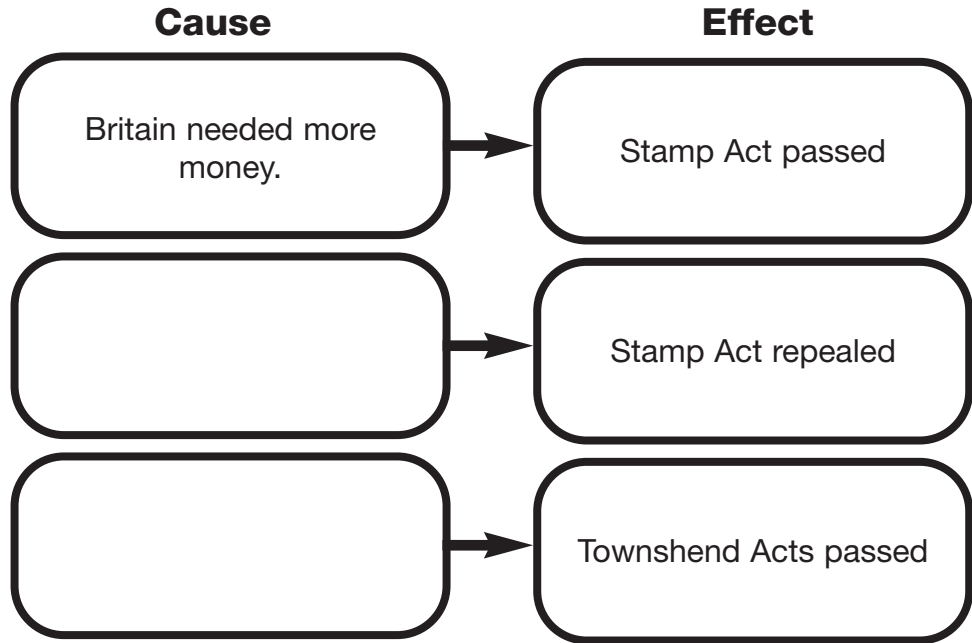
Parliament voted to end the Stamp Act in 1766. But Britain still needed money. The **Townshend Acts** were passed in 1767. These laws placed a **tariff** on goods such as paper, wool, and tea imported from Britain. Colonists decided to **boycott** these goods. They refused to buy British products.

Women Join the Boycott

A new group called the **Daughters of Liberty** was started to help with the boycott. Daughters of Liberty began weaving cloth that could be used instead of wool from Britain. They used herbs and berries to make tea. The boycott hurt British business. In 1768 British warships arrived in Boston Harbor in hopes of stopping the protests.

Lesson 1: Review

1.  **Cause and Effect** Fill in the missing causes of the major events from this lesson.



2. What was the Stamp Act?

3. Who were the Sons of Liberty and Daughters of Liberty?

4. How did the British taxes lead to greater cooperation among the colonies?

5. **Critical Thinking: Evaluate** Were the colonists' protests successful? Explain your answer.
