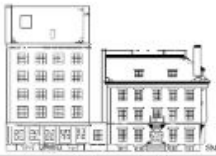


Fear & Force

New York City's Sons of Liberty

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Objectives

Students will learn about the New York City Sons of Liberty.

Students will explore specific actions taken by the Sons of Liberty in New York.

Students will apply what they have learned by making a poster supporting either the Sons of Liberty or the King.



Vocabulary

- **BOYCOTT** - to refuse to buy, use, or go to something as a form of protest.
- **LOYALIST**- a person who remains loyal to a ruler or government, especially in the case of a political revolt. In the Revolutionary War, those who supported the British rule.
- **PATRIOT** - those who rebelled against the British rule and fought for independence from the British empire to create the United States. A patriot also means a person who supports their country.

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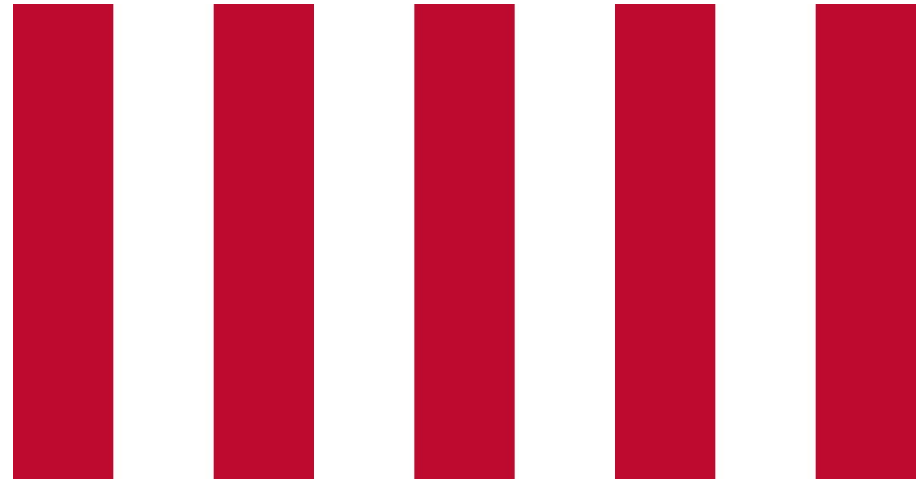
Vocabulary

- **PARLIAMENT** - a legislative part of government, like Congress in the United States. Parliament represents the people, makes laws, and oversees the functions of government. The Parliament works with the King and Queen to govern over their nation.
- **TAX** - money paid to the government, which the government uses to pay for services it provides

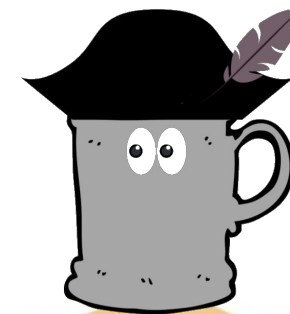


Who were the Sons of Liberty?

The Sons of Liberty were founded in 1765 in response to the **Stamp Act**. This act created a tax on many of the paper goods used in the American colonies. Some colonists thought this tax, and other taxes like it, were unfair. While the first Sons of Liberty group was started in Boston, more soon formed in other colonies.



The Sons of Liberty flag, also known as the Rebellious Stripes, represented the 9 colonies that participated in the Stamp Act Congress, a meeting held to organize colony-wide protests against the new British taxes.



Groups in different colonies worked together to protest British laws. How do you think they communicated?

Taxation Without Representation

The British government had spent a lot of money during the French and Indian War. To raise money, Parliament increased taxes on the American colonies. Since Britain was spending money to send soldiers to protect the American colonists, Parliament thought these taxes were fair. They taxed every day items like paper, sugar, tea, and glass.



Under the Stamp Act, paper products being taxed had to have stamps like the ones pictured here. Courtesy of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum.

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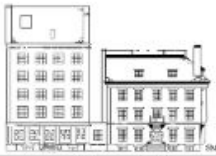




This ad against the Stamp Act was published in the *Pennsylvania Journal*. Courtesy of the New York Public Library

Why did the Sons of Liberty think the Stamp Act and other taxes like it were unfair? The colonists did not have any representation in Parliament, which meant that they did not have any say in what kinds of laws and taxes were passed. Because of this, many colonists saw these taxes as a violation of their rights as British citizens. The phrase **“no taxation without representation”** became a slogan of resistance.

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Protests

The Sons of Liberty engaged in many different kinds of protests. They would engage in **boycotts**, refusing to buy products that were subject to these taxes. They would publish **essays and letters** speaking out against Parliament, trying to convince other colonists to join them.



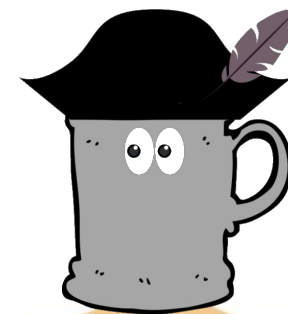
John Lamb, a member of the Sons of Liberty, reads the Tea Act to a crowd.

The Sons of Liberty also protested in more **violent, destructive ways**.

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Can you think of any examples of how people protest today? How they are similar or different?

Tar and Feathering

The Sons of Liberty sometimes engaged in a practice called tar and feathering. Hot or cold tar would be applied to a person's skin or clothes before covering them in feathers. The person would then be forced to walk around the streets while onlookers jeered. This tactic was used to intimidate and humiliate anyone who would speak out against the Sons of Liberty.



A New Method of Macarony Making, as practiced in Boston in North America.

There were 4 known instances of tar and feathering in New York City.

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The Tea Act

In 1773, Parliament passed the Tea Act. Created to help the struggling East India Company, this act allowed the Company to sell their tea directly to the American colonies, avoiding paying taxes to the British. This allowed the Company to sell their tea more cheaply, hoping to undercut the more popular, and illegally smuggled, Dutch tea.

This act angered many colonists. Although the East India Company did not have to pay taxes on the tea, the colonists did. Although many of Parliament's other taxes had been repealed due to the success of colonial protests, the Tea Act was seen as another case of taxation without representation.



The Boston Tea Party



Americans Throwing the Cargoes of the Tea Ships into the River, at Boston.

Engraving by W.D. Cooper.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

On December 16, 1773, the Boston Sons of Liberty took action to protest the Tea Act. Over the course of three hours, this group boarded ships in Boston harbor and dumped 342 chests of tea into the water. This protest cost the East India Company £9,659—around \$1,700,000 in today's money!

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The New York Tea Party

After hearing of the Boston Tea Party, the New York Sons of Liberty made an agreement with New York Governor Tryon that no British tea would be allowed to enter New York harbor. In April 1774, they would engage in a Tea Party of their own.

The *Nancy*, a ship carrying 698 chests of tea, arrived in New York on April 18. The Sons of Liberty took control of the ship, threatening Captain's life if he did not return to London with the tea. Locklear agreed, and the tea was not allowed to be brought into the city.

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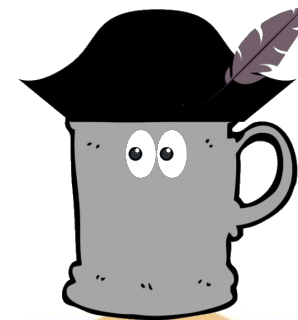
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The New York Tea Party

A few days later, the Sons of Liberty heard of another ship, the *London*, arriving in New York City carrying tea. The ship's Captain Chambers first denied having any tea, but after threats to search the ship, admitting to having 18 chests of tea on board.

While the Sons were deciding what should be done with Chambers and his tea, an angry mob of Patriots boarded the *London* and threw the tea into the harbor.



Why do you think the New York Tea Party is not as well-known as the Boston Tea Party?

Tearing Down the Statue of King George III

Destructive protests continued in New York City. The Declaration of Independence was read aloud at the Commons—what is today City Hall in Manhattan—on July 9, 1776. After, the Sons of Liberty celebrated by marching through the streets. As they made their way down Broadway, they began breaking windows of the homes and shops of known Loyalists.

When the group arrived at Bowling Green Park, they tore down the 4,000 pound statue of King George III. The statue was then sent to Connecticut, where it was melted down into 42,008 bullets for Patriot soldiers.





Pulling down the statue of King George III by the "Sons of Freedom," at the Bowling Green, City of New York, July 1776.

Painted by Johannes A. Oertel, engraved by John C. McRae.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

How do you think Patriots living in New York felt after hearing the Declaration of Independence and seeing the statue torn down? How do you think the Loyalists felt?



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Create your own poster!

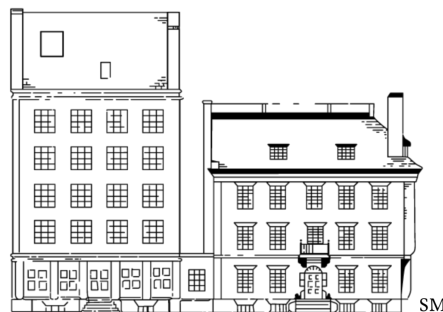
Imagine you are living in New York City at this time. Use the template on the next slide, or materials from your home, to create your own poster in support of the Sons of Liberty—or create a poster supporting the King!

What would you say to your fellow colonists to convince them to agree with you? What kind of images would you use?





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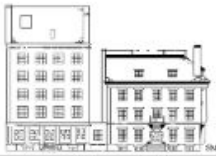
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