



Conflict in the Colonies Timeline

Event Date:

Event Title:

Event Description:

7th Oct, 1763

The Proclamation of 1763

Proclamation from King George III that told the colonists they could NOT settle in any land west of the Appalachian Mountains, and any settlers already there needed to return home. This was done to avoid further conflict between the Indians and colonists. Many colonists saw the Proclamation as a form of tyranny and ignored it.

5th Apr, 1764

The Sugar Act

An Act that placed a new tax on sugar imported into the colonies. This tax was meant to help pay for the war debt incurred from the French and Indian War. Many colonists didn't notice the tax, because it was an import duty. Those who did notice, spoke out against it.

2nd Feb, 1765

The Stamp Act

An act that said the colonists had to buy a stamp for every paper good they bought. This was Britain's way of trying to pay for the war debt they incurred from helping the colonists win the French and Indian War. Many colonists protested through boycotts and violence.

24th Mar, 1765

The Quartering Act

An act that forced colonists to provide housing, food and clothing for British troops.

26th Jun, 1767

The Townshend Acts and the boycott of British goods

An act created by Charles Townshend that placed a tax on popular British imports, including tea, glass, paper, paint and lead. Many colonists chose to boycott these goods in protest of the law. The boycott proved successful and Parliament eventually repealed all of the Townshend Acts, except for the tax on tea.

5th Mar, 1770

The Boston Massacre

An event where rioting colonists, taunting British soldiers ended in a "bloody massacre". The soldiers opened fire into the crowd, killing five. Though the soldiers were found to have acted in self-defense, the event increased tensions between patriots and loyalists.

10th May, 1773

The Tea Act

In an attempt to save the British East India Company, Parliament passed the Tea Act. This law gave the British East India Company a complete monopoly on the tea market in the colonies. Though the tea was cheaper, it forced colonists to buy taxed tea.

16th Dec, 1773

The Boston Tea Party

In protest to the Tea Act, 50 colonists, associated with the Sons of Liberty, dressed up as Mohawk Indians, boarded British tea ships and threw 90,000 pounds of tea over board and into the Boston Harbor.

18th Mar, 1774

The Intolerable

Also known as the Coercive Acts, this was Britain's response to the Boston Tea Party. It shut down Boston Harbor until the colonists paid for the dumped tea, cancelled Massachusetts's charter, sent the British troops tried for the Boston Massacre back to Britain for a new trial, forced colonists to quarter British troops and named General Thomas Gage the governor of Massachusetts.

19th Apr, 1775

Battles at Lexington and Concord

General Gage found out that the colonists were hiding weapons and gunpowder in Concord and organized a surprise attack to get the weapons back. However, the plan was leaked and Paul Revere and Williams Dawes spread the word to the colonists. Militias came together at Lexington and Concord and once both battles were done, the British knew the colonists were ready to fight for their rights.

9th Jan, 1776

Thomas Paine Publishes "Common Sense"

On this day in 1776, writer Thomas Paine publishes his pamphlet "Common Sense," setting forth his arguments in favor of American independence. Considered one of the most influential pamphlets in American history "Common Sense" is credited with uniting average citizens and political leaders behind the idea of independence.

4th Jul, 1776

Signing of the Declaration of Independence

More than a year into the war, the 2nd Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia, voted to declare independence from Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence was signed and the United States of America was officially born.