

The Road to the American Revolution: 1763—1776**I. The Road to Revolution (1763-1776)**

A. The end of the French & Indian War (1763), marked the start of the road towards the American Revolution:

- 1763: Beginning of _____ & Proclamation Line
- 1765-67: Stamp & Townshend Acts
- 1773-75: Boston Tea Party, Intolerable Acts, Lexington & Concord
- 1776: _____

B. Key Events in the road to revolution

1. 1765 STAMP ACT

- British Action:** Britain passes the Stamp Act, a _____ law requiring colonists to purchase special stamps to prove payment of tax.
- Colonial Reaction:** Colonists _____ stamp distributors, _____ British goods, and prepare a Declaration of Rights and Grievances.
- The “_____” & “Daughters of Liberty” were formed to protest British restrictions & became the leaders of colonial resistance
- The colonial boycotts were _____ & Britain _____ the Stamp Act

2. 1767 TOWNSHEND ACTS

- British Action:** Britain taxes certain colonial imports and stations troops at major colonial ports to protect customs officers. There was a series of “_____” taxes on lead, glass, paper, tea, etc.
- Colonial Reaction:** Colonists protest “taxation without _____” and organize a new boycott of imported goods.
- Colonists created _____ of correspondence to communicate with each other

3. 1770 BOSTON MASSACRE

- British Action:** British troops stationed in Boston are taunted by an angry mob. The troops _____ into the crowd, _____ five colonists.
- Colonial Reaction:** Colonial agitators label the conflict a _____ and publish a dramatic engraving depicting the violence.

4. 1773 TEA ACT

- British Action:** Britain gives the _____ Company special concessions in the colonial tea business and shuts out colonial tea _____
- Colonial Reaction:** Colonists in Boston rebel, dumping _____ pounds of East India Company tea into Boston Harbor.

5. 1774 INTOLERABLE ACTS

- British Action:** King George III tightens _____ over Massachusetts by closing _____ Harbor and quartering troops.
- Colonial Reaction:** Colonial leaders form the First _____ and draw up a declaration of colonial rights.

6. 1775 LEXINGTON AND CONCORD

- British Action:** General Gage orders troops to march to Concord, Massachusetts, and seize colonial _____
- Colonial Reaction:** _____ intercept the British and engage in _____ — first at Lexington, and then at Concord.



C. Colonists used the ideas of the _____ to justify their protest

- John Locke wrote that people have _____ (life, liberty, & property) & should oppose _____
- Rousseau believed that citizens have a _____ with their gov't
- _____ argued that power should not be in the hands of a king, but separated among gov't branches

II. Conclusions

A. By December 1775, the British & American colonists were fighting an “_____ revolutionary war” ...but:

- Colonial leaders had not yet declared _____
- In 1776, Thomas Paine's _____ convinced many _____ colonists to support independence from Britain
- By _____, colonists drafted the *Declaration of Independence*

Matrix of Excerpts from *Common Sense*

Student Handout 4.1A

Directions: Use the matrix below to record your interpretation of the excerpt your pair has been assigned. Create an act-it-out of the excerpt. Then use this matrix to take notes during class presentations about the other excerpts.

Letter	Excerpt from <i>Common Sense</i>	What the excerpt means in our own words
A	"I have heard it asserted by some, that as America hath flourished under her former connection with Great Britain, the same connection is necessary towards her future happiness, and will always have the same effect. Nothing can be more fallacious than this kind of argument."	
B	"We have boasted the protection of Great Britain without considering that her motive was interest, not attachment; and that she did not protect us from our enemies on our account, but from her enemies on her own account. . . ."	
C	"But Britain is the parent country, say some. Then the more shame upon her conduct. Even brutes do not devour their young, nor savages make war upon their families. . . ."	
D	"I challenge the warmest advocate for reconciliation, to show a single advantage that this continent can reap, by being connected with Great Britain. I repeat the challenge; not a single advantage is derived."	
E	"Small islands, not capable of protecting themselves, are the proper objects for kingdoms to take under their care; but there is something absurd, in supposing a continent to be perpetually governed by an island. In no instance hath nature made the satellite larger than its primary planet."	
F	"Nothing but independence . . . can keep the peace of the continent. . . . A government of our own is our natural right: and when a man seriously reflects on the precariousness of human affairs, he will become convinced, that it is infinitely wiser and safer, to form a constitution of our own in a cool deliberate manner, while we have it in our power. . . ."	