

DBQ 3: THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

Name _____

Period _____

DBQ Title: **Road to Independence**

Historical Setting: The colonists had many reasons to desire independence from England. The road to independence was paved with many problems and great risks. The laws and actions of England, and the reactions of the colonists, helped lead to the American Revolution.

Tasks:

1. Identify and discuss **two or more** British laws or actions that caused problems for the colonists.
2. Describe the reaction of the colonists to these British laws and actions.
3. Explain how the British laws or actions, *along with* the reactions of the colonists, led to the American Revolution.

DBQ 3: THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

Document 1: Diary entries of John Adams

John Adams, diary entry (December 18, 1765)

...The Year 1765 has been the most remarkable Year of my Life. That enormous Engine, fabricated by the British Parliament, for battering down all the Rights and Liberties of America, I mean the Stamp Act, has raised and spread, thro the whole Continent, a Spirit that will be recorded to our Honour, with all future Generations. In every Colony, from Georgia to New-Hampshire inclusively, the Stamp Distributors and Inspectors have been compelled, by the unconquerable Rage of the People, to renounce their offices. Such and so universal has been the Resentment of the People, that every Man who has dared to speak in favour of the Stamps, or to soften the detestation in which they are held, how great soever his Abilities and Virtues had been esteemed before, or whatever his fortune, Connections and Influence had been, has been seen to sink into universal Contempt and Ignominy.

The People, even to the lowest Ranks, have become more attentive to their Liberties, more inquisitive about them, and more determined to defend them, than they were ever before known or had occasion to be. Innumerable have been the Monuments of Wit, Humour, Sense, Learning, Spirit, Patriotism, and Heroism, erected in the several Colonies and Provinces, in the Course of this Year. Our Presses have groaned, our Pulpits have thundered, our Legislatures have resolved, our Towns have voted, The Crown Officers have every where trembled, and all their little Tools and Creatures, been afraid to Speak and ashamed to be seen....

(January 2, 1766.) At Philadelphia, the Heart-and-Hand Fire Company has expelled Mr. Hughes, the stamp man for that colony. The freemen of Talbot county, in Maryland, have erected a gibbet before the door of the court-house, twenty feet high, and have hanged on it the effigies of a stamp informer in chains, *in terrorem* till the Stamp Act shall be repealed; and have resolved, unanimously, to hold in utter contempt and abhorrence every stamp officer, and every favorer of the Stamp Act, and to "have no communication with any such person, not even to speak to him, unless to upbraid him with his baseness." So triumphant is the spirit of liberty everywhere. Such a union was never before known in America.

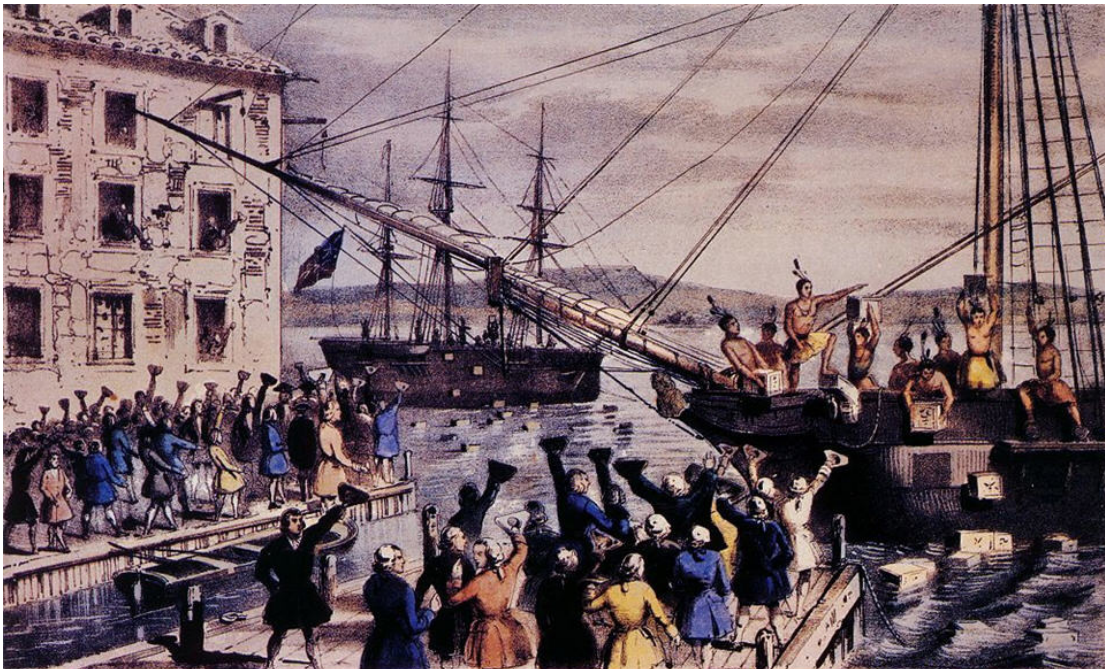


In 1765, John Adams wrote a series of articles in the *Boston Gazette* attacking the Stamp Act, a law passed by the British Parliament that imposed a tax on printed documents. The tax fell on all Americans. At the year's end, he reflected on the events in his diary.

1. Why was the Stamp Act considered to be unjust by the colonists?

DBQ 3: THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

Document 2: Painting of the "Boston Tea Party"



The British looked to the prosperous colonies for help in paying their massive war debts.

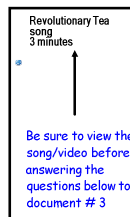
1. What were the colonists taking off the boat in the painting above?

2. What risks did the colonists face as a result of the Boston Tea Party?

DBQ 3: THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

Document 3: Song "Revolutionary Tea"

"Revolutionary Tea" lyrics



There was a rich lady lived over the sea,
And she was an island queen.
Her daughter lived off in the new country,
With an ocean of water between
With an ocean of water between, with an ocean of water between.

The old lady's pockets were filled with gold,
Yet never contented was she
So she ordered her daughter to pay her a tax,
Of thrupence a pound on the tea.
Of thrupence a pound on the tea, of thrupence a pound on the tea.

"Oh mother, dear mother," the daughter replied.
"I'll not do the thing that you ask.
"I'm willing to pay a fair price for the tea,
But never a thrupenny tax,
But never a thrupenny tax, but never a thrupenny tax,

"You shall!" cried the mother, and reddened with rage.
"For you're my own daughter you see.
"And it's only proper that daughter should pay
Her mother a tax on the tea,
Her mother a tax on the tea, her mother a tax on the tea.

She ordered her servant to come up to her
And to wrap up a package of tea.
And eager for threepence a pound she put in
Enough for a large family,
Enough for a large family, enough for a large family

The tea was conveyed to her daughter's own door,
All down by the Oceanside.
But the bouncing girl poured out every pound
On the dark and the boiling tide,
On the dark and the boiling tide, on the dark and the boiling tide.

And then she called out to the island queen
"Oh mother, dear mother," called she.
"Your tea you may have when 'tis steeped enough.
But NEVER a tax from me,
But NEVER a tax from me, but NEVER a tax from me.

Source: Father Kemp's Old Folks Concert Music, Boston
Boston's violent resistance against the Tea Act met with varied reactions among the colonists. The destruction of private property was condemned by many Americans, but most of them supported the principle, if not the practice, of Boston's position. "Revolutionary Tea" is a song that expressed the feelings of many of the patriots.

1. Figuratively speaking, the island queen represents what country?

2. What country does her daughter represent?

3. What was the daughter's reaction when told to pay the tax?

DBQ 3: THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

Document 4: *Boston Massacre* engraving by Paul Revere



The British soldiers stationed in Boston to preserve order found little to do; the Bostonians practiced a form of passive resistance, often taunting the Redcoats, but rarely causing violence. An exception was the "Boston Massacre", in which beleaguered soldiers fired into a threatening mob. The incident was publicly attacked by Paul Revere and Samuel Adams as wanton British brutality, but the soldiers were defended by John Adams and Robert Auchmuty and were eventually acquitted.

1. What happened at the Boston Massacre?

DBQ 3: THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

Document 5: Excerpt from the Proclamation of 1763

"It is just and reasonable and essential to our interest and the security of our colonies that the several nations or tribes of Indians with whom we are connected, and who live under our protection should not be.....attacked or disturbed."
Source: Library of Congress



King George III signed the Proclamation of 1763, which banned British colonial settlements west of the Appalachian Mountains. This created a dividing line between colonial and Indian lands.

1. What was the purpose of the Proclamation of 1763?

2. How did most colonists react to the Proclamation of 1763?

DBQ 3: THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

Document Based Essay: The Road to Independence

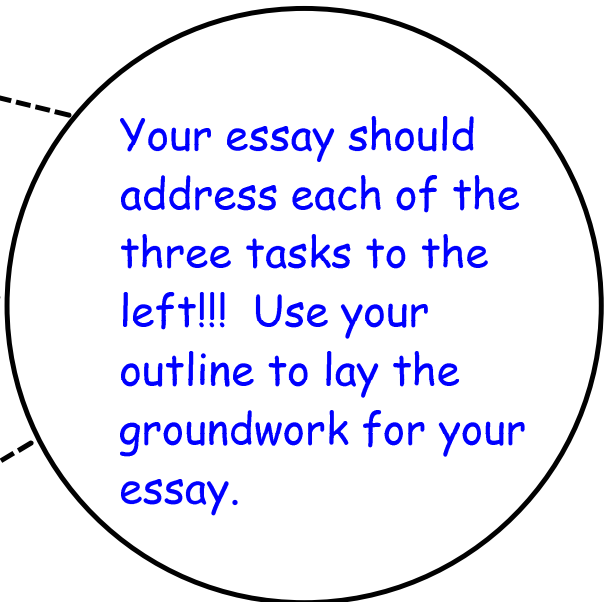
Using the documents, your answers to your document questions, and using your knowledge of Social Studies:

Write a well organized essay that includes an introduction, supporting paragraphs and a conclusion on the following:

1. Identify and discuss **two or more** British laws or actions that caused problems for the colonists.

2. Describe the reaction of the colonists to these British laws and actions.

3. Explain how the British laws or actions, *along with* the reactions of the colonists, led to the American Revolution.



Your essay should address each of the three tasks to the left!!! Use your outline to lay the groundwork for your essay.

Be sure to check spelling, grammar and vocabulary words before submitting!!! And make sure you cite your documents in your essay!!!