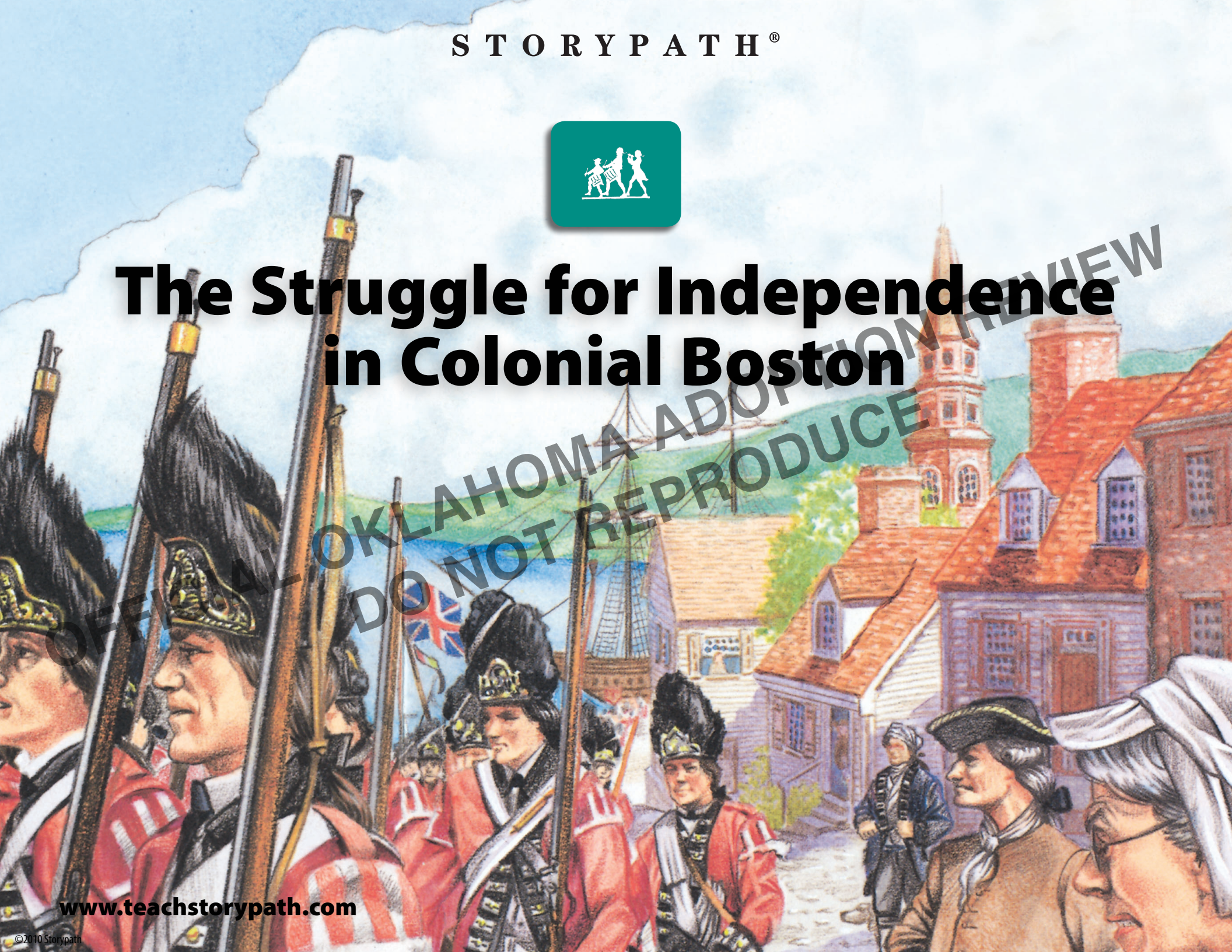




# The Struggle for Independence in Colonial Boston





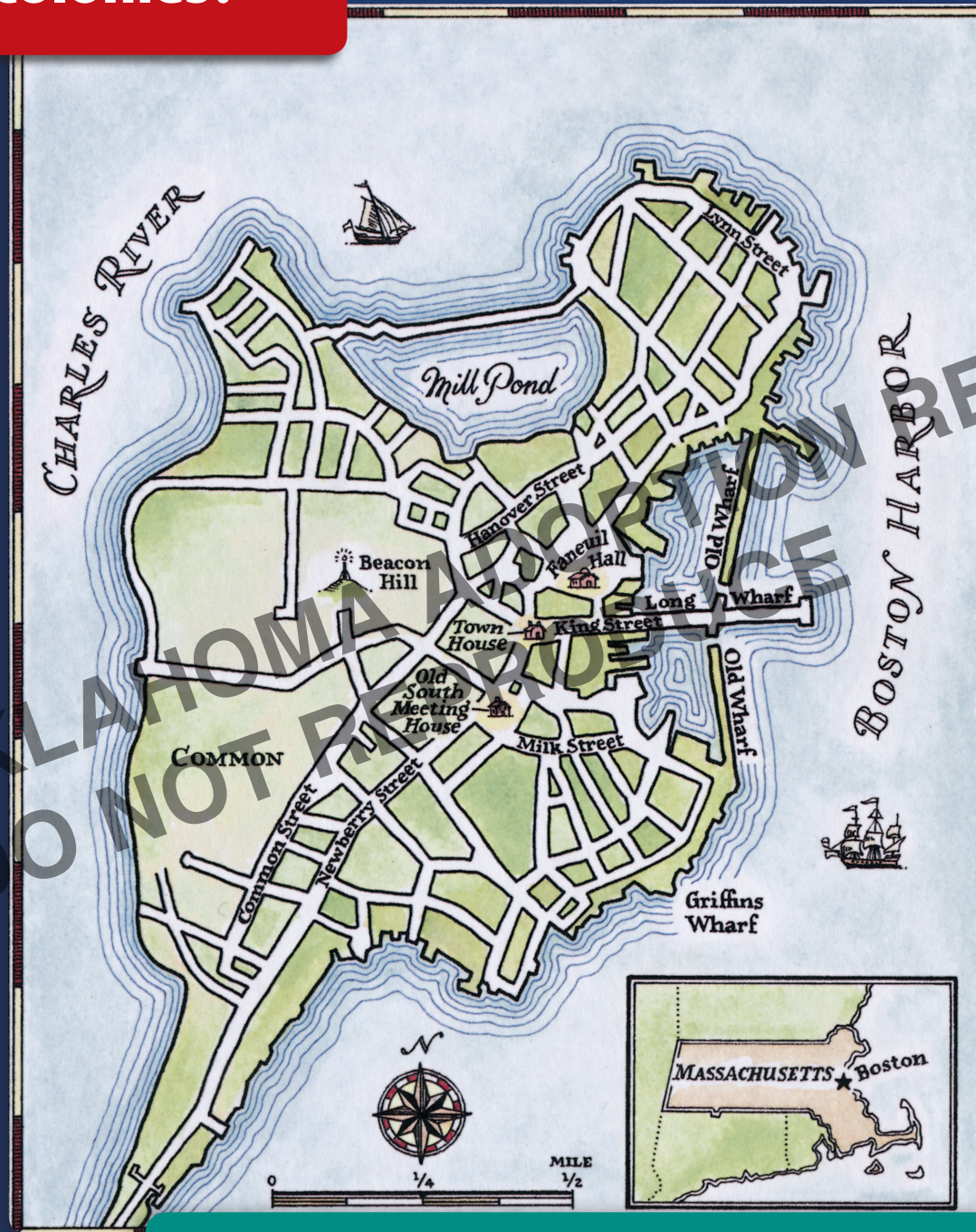
# Who governed the colonies?

In the 1600s and 1700s, many Europeans crossed the ocean in search of a better life.



SET 1

SLIDE 1



**1. Look at the map of Boston. Why do you think Boston became a center of trade?** *(understanding visuals)*



# Colonial Government

In 1765, British citizens had the right to elect the people who governed them. British citizens living in England voted for members of Parliament. In the colonies, British citizens voted for an assembly.



SET 1

SLIDE 2



## British Colonies in North America, 1765

The British colonies were divided into three regions.

1. **New England:** Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire
2. **Middle Colonies:** New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware
3. **Southern Colonies:** Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia

2. What rights did colonists have as British citizens? (*scanning*)

3. How was the assembly like Parliament? How was it different? (*comparing and contrasting*)



# Why was Boston called a trading community?

If you could go back in time to visit the colonial world, it would be difficult to find a more exciting place than Boston. This bustling city was an important trading center.

Boston had all kinds of businesses, including pubs, print shops, tailor shops, law offices, and grocery stores.



SET 2

SLIDE 1

1. Why do you think trade would be important to colonial Boston? *(making inferences)*
2. What were some jobs related to trade that people had in colonial Boston? *(scanning)*

Goods of all kinds were imported into the colonies.

Merchants in Boston were some of the wealthiest.





SET 3

SLIDE 1

Teatime in the afternoon gave families and friends a chance to visit, relax and share the news.

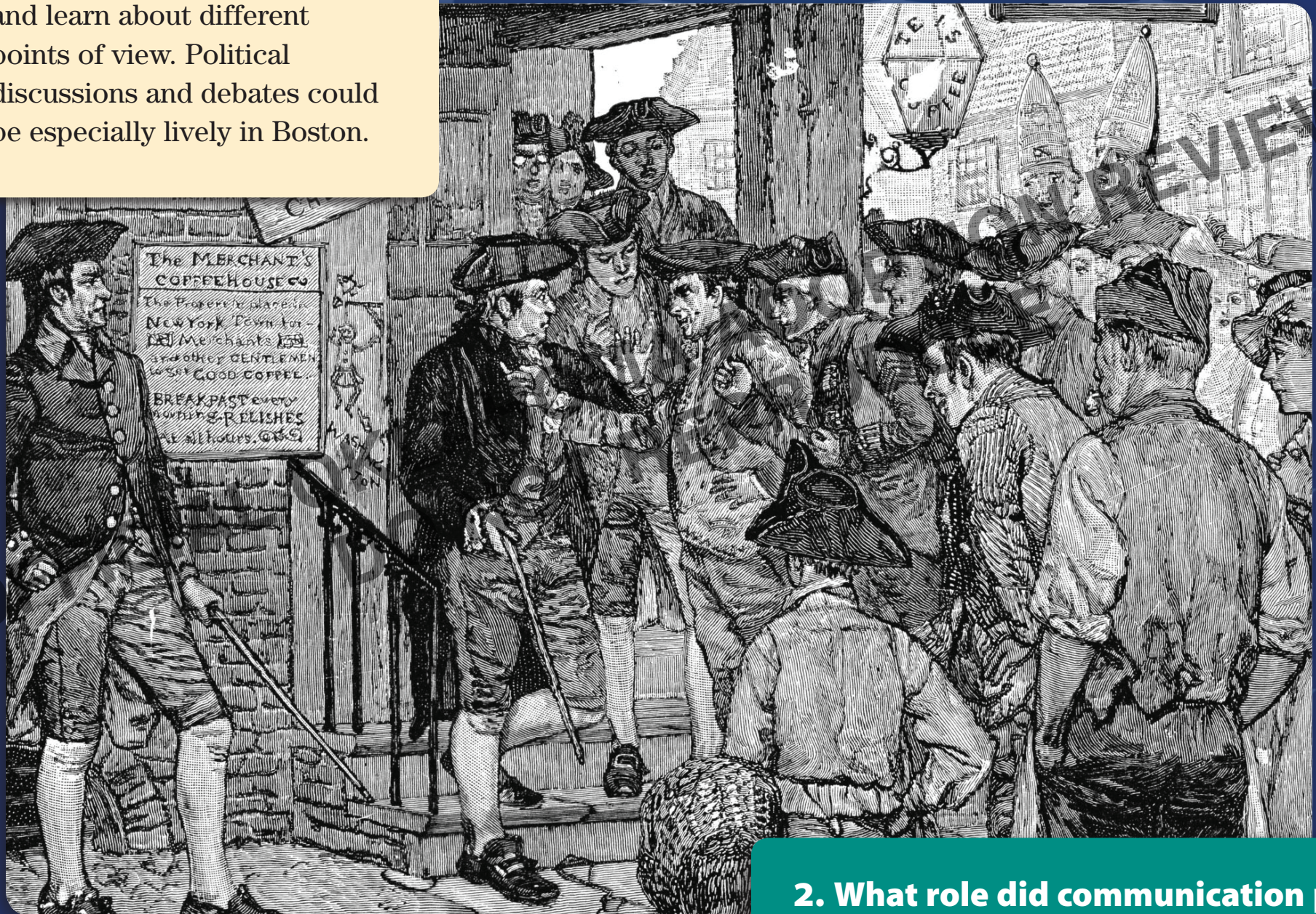
## How did Colonists communicate?

News from Britain reached Boston before most other places in the colonies. People communicated by sending mail, reading newspapers, or discussing issues with friends at a local pub.

**1. How did the colonists communicate news and opinions?** (*scanning*)



Discussions about business and politics gave people a chance to voice their opinions and learn about different points of view. Political discussions and debates could be especially lively in Boston.



## 2. What role did communication play in colonial politics? *(making inferences)*





## Places to Meet

### Faneuil Hall and Old South Meeting House

Throughout Boston, bells rang to announce a town meeting. All citizens were invited to discuss the needs of the community. Meetings were usually held in Faneuil Hall or Old South Meeting House.



### Pubs and Taverns

An evening might be spent at a pub such as the Lamb Tavern. For men, pubs were the social centers of town, offering a place to meet with friends and enjoy good conversation.





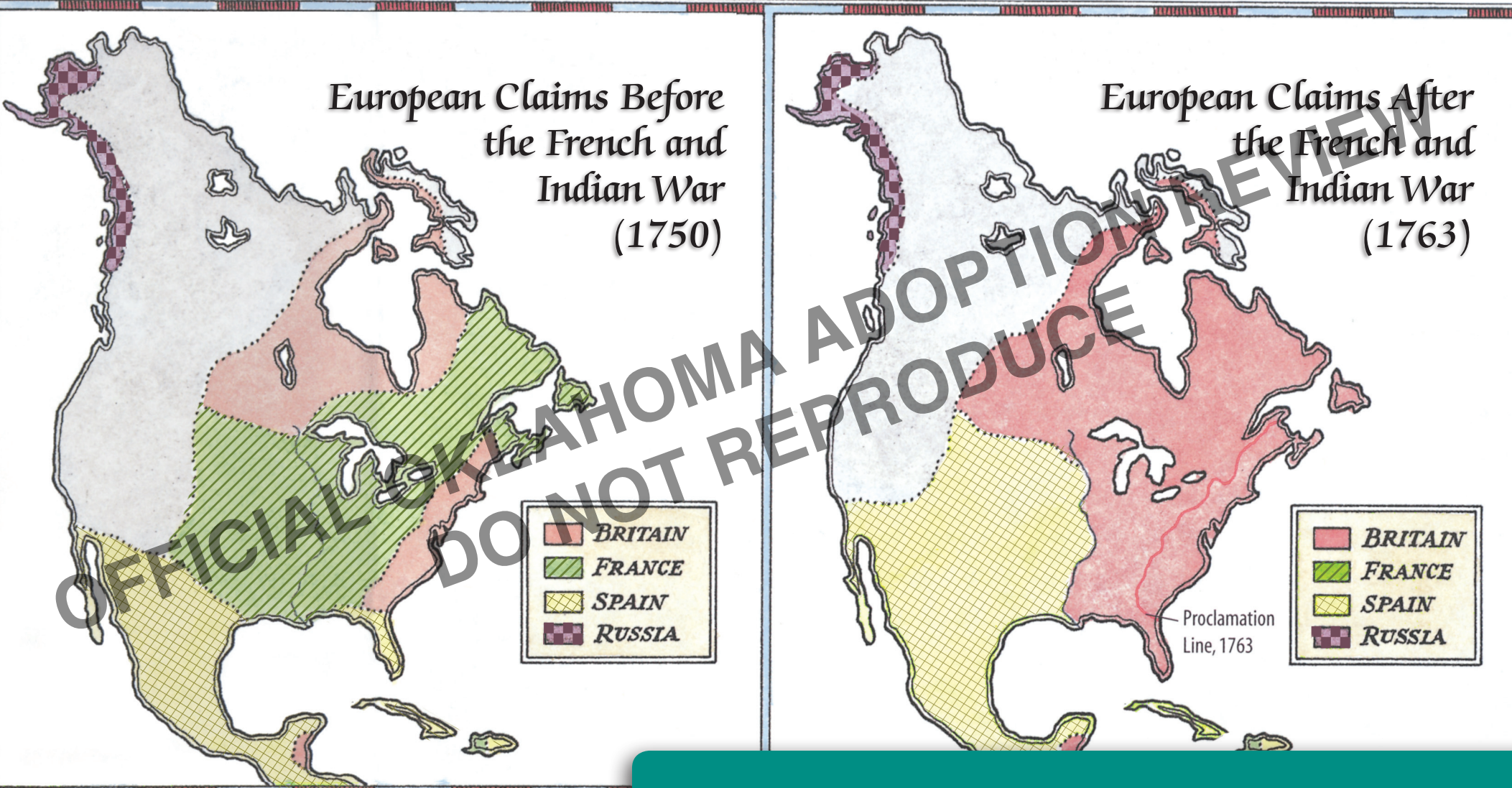


## Why were colonial citizens taxed?

In 1763, British soldiers and American colonists won a war against France and its Indian allies. The war had cost the British government a lot of money. How could Britain rebuild its treasury? To Parliament, the answer was simple: tax the American colonies. Parliament felt the colonists benefited from the war and should pay for it. Some colonists didn't like the way in which Britain was trying to increase its control over the colonies.

- 1. Compare how Parliament viewed taxes in the colonies to how some colonists viewed them.**  
*(comparing and contrasting)*





- 2. Look at the maps. How did the change in Britain's claims relate to British taxes on the colonies?**  
(understanding visuals)





## What events caused conflict between Britain and colonists?

### Dateline

*continued***1754–1763****French and Indian War**

The British and French are battling to expand their empires. Britain wins and doubles the size of its lands in America. But the cost of ships, supplies, and soldiers' salaries drains the British treasury.

**1763 Proclamation Line**

Responding to harsh treatment by the British, an Ottawa Indian chief named Pontiac organizes raids on British forts in the Great Lakes region. To separate Indians and colonists, Parliament says colonists cannot settle west of the Appalachian Mountains. Colonists who were hoping to buy these western lands become angry.





## Dateline

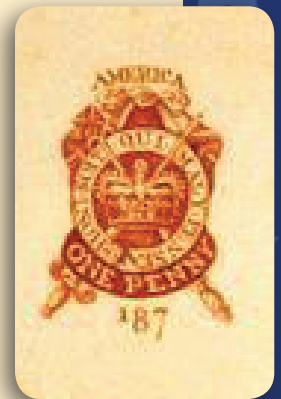
*continued*

### 1764 Sugar Act

Parliament passes the Sugar Act, which puts a tax on molasses imported into the colonies. Molasses is a common item in Boston, and now merchants have to pay a three-penny tax on every gallon of it. The law also gives customs officials the power to enter buildings to check for smuggled molasses. Colonists resent these “snoops and spies” as much as they resent the tax.

### 1765 Stamp Act

Parliament passes the Stamp Act. It requires colonists to buy stamps that must be attached to documents such as diplomas, contracts, wills, and bills of sale as well as to such common items as newspapers, playing cards, and books called almanacs. This tax affects almost every colonist.



▲ Stamps such as these were required on most printed documents in the colonies.

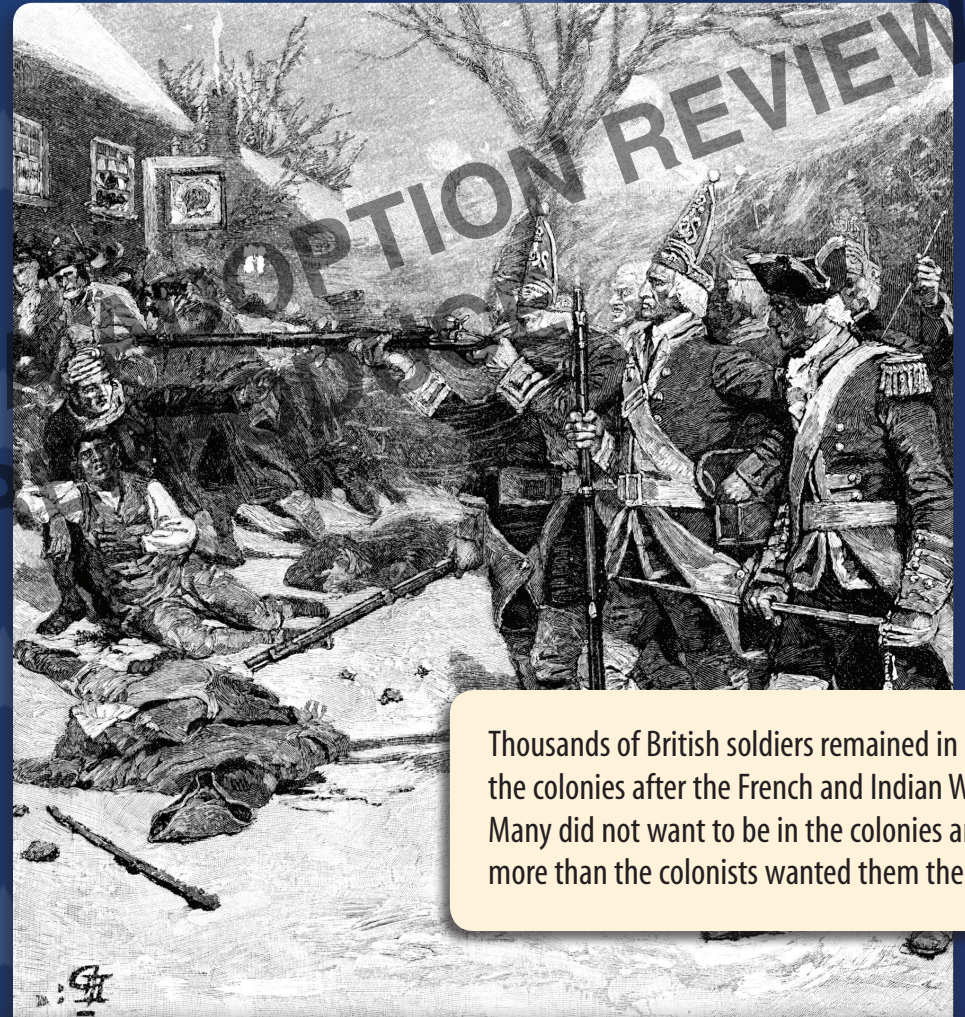




## Dateline

### 1765 Quartering Act

This law requires colonists to provide housing and food for the British soldiers stationed in America. Since the French and Indian War is over, the colonists no longer want the soldiers in America. Yet the soldiers stay and the colonists have to provide them with food and with places to sleep.



Thousands of British soldiers remained in the colonies after the French and Indian War. Many did not want to be in the colonies any more than the colonists wanted them there.

**3. According to Slides 3–5, what were the sources of conflict between Parliament and the colonists?** *(scanning)*





## What was the Stamp Act?

In 1763, Britain won the French and Indian War. Britain doubled the size of its claims in the America, but in the process Britain had also depleted its treasury. Now Parliament needed a way to build the treasury up again. Their solution to this problem was to tax the colonies. First Britain imposed the Sugar Act in 1764. Next Britain imposed the Stamp Act in 1765.

▲ Most colonists were angry when they first learned about the Stamp Act.





## Colonists' Point of View

Some colonists became furious over the Stamp Act. These colonists felt that, since they had no vote in the British government, they could not be taxed by the government. The colonists declared, "No taxation without representation!"

## Britain's Point of View

The British government was puzzled by the colonists' cry of "no taxation without representation." Members of Parliament considered it their duty to fairly represent all British citizen anywhere in the world. Therefore, Parliament felt that they represented the colonists, even if the colonists couldn't vote.

- 1. Compare how some colonists viewed the Stamp Act to how Parliament viewed it.** *(comparing and contrasting)*

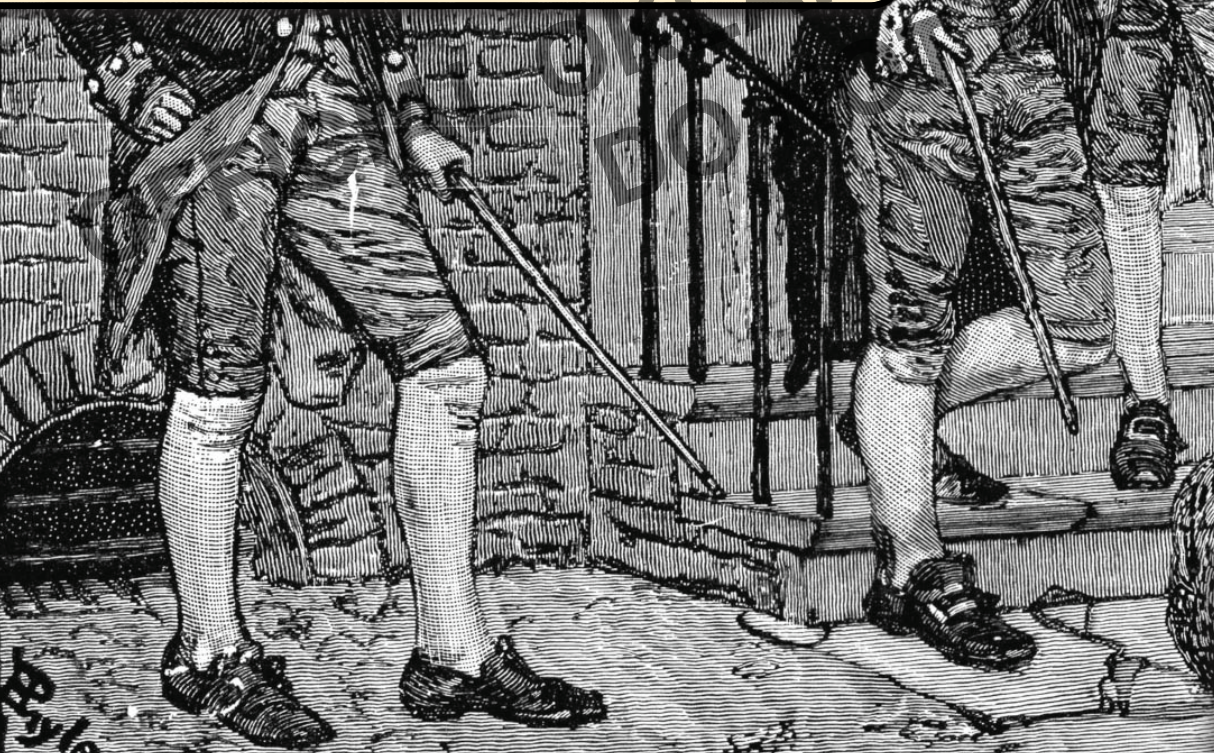


## Acts of Rebellion

**Sons of Liberty** In 1765, Samuel Adams started an organization in Boston called the Sons of Liberty.

**Daughters of Liberty** These groups of women worked together to help boycott British goods.

**Vigilantes** Vigilantes are citizens who decide to punish people they think are criminals. Vigilantes often turn into destructive mobs.



SET 5

SLIDE 3

2. How did some colonists rebel against British control? *(scanning)*





### Lessons from the Stamp Act

The Stamp Act, the protests, and the repeal taught the colonists two valuable lessons.

1. Britain needed the colonies at least as much as the colonies needed Britain. The boycott of British goods was the main reason Parliament repealed the act.
2. Cooperation among the colonies was necessary to protect their liberties. More and more colonists started thinking of themselves as Americans, united by a common cause.

**3. How might colonists have used what they learned from the Stamp Act?** *(making inferences)*





## Who benefited from the colonial system?

Although the colonies had their own governments, they were still connected to Britain in many ways. The British military protected the colonies from attack by American Indians and by the French and Spanish. Britain also controlled the colonists' trade. Finally, the British Parliament passed laws that affected all of Great Britain.

1. In the colonial system, what were some benefits for the colonies and for Britain? To be part of this system, what did each side give up? *(main idea/supporting details)*





## Navigation Acts

In the 1600s, Parliament passed the Navigation Acts. These laws were passed so that Britain could make more money from trade with the colonies. These laws had three basic points.

1. All goods shipped to and from the colonies had to be carried on British ships. This kept other shippers, such as the Dutch, from trading with the colonies.
2. The colonies could sell sugar, tobacco, furs, and forest products only to Britain, even if other countries offered a higher price.
3. All goods imported, or shipped in, to the colonies had to go through Britain first. In Britain, the goods were taxed and then shipped on to the colonies. This made the goods more expensive for colonists to buy than goods made in Britain. So colonists bought most of their finished goods from Britain.

**2. Why might the colonists be opposed to the Navigation Acts?** *(scanning, making inferences)*



## Colonial Exports

Most of the colonies' exports were natural resources, or useful things from the land. Imports from Great Britain were mostly manufactured goods, or useful things made by people. Britain also sent ships and soldiers to protect the colonies.

Most colonies imported more than they exported. This was good for Britain, which profited from what it sold to the colonies.



SET 6

SLIDE 3

Colony	Export
New England	fish, whale products, lumber, tar
Middle colonies	grain, iron
Southern colonies	cotton, tobacco, rice, indigo (a plant that produces a blue dye for coloring fabric)



**3. Identify items exported to Britain and imported to the colonies. How are these items different?** (*understanding visuals*)



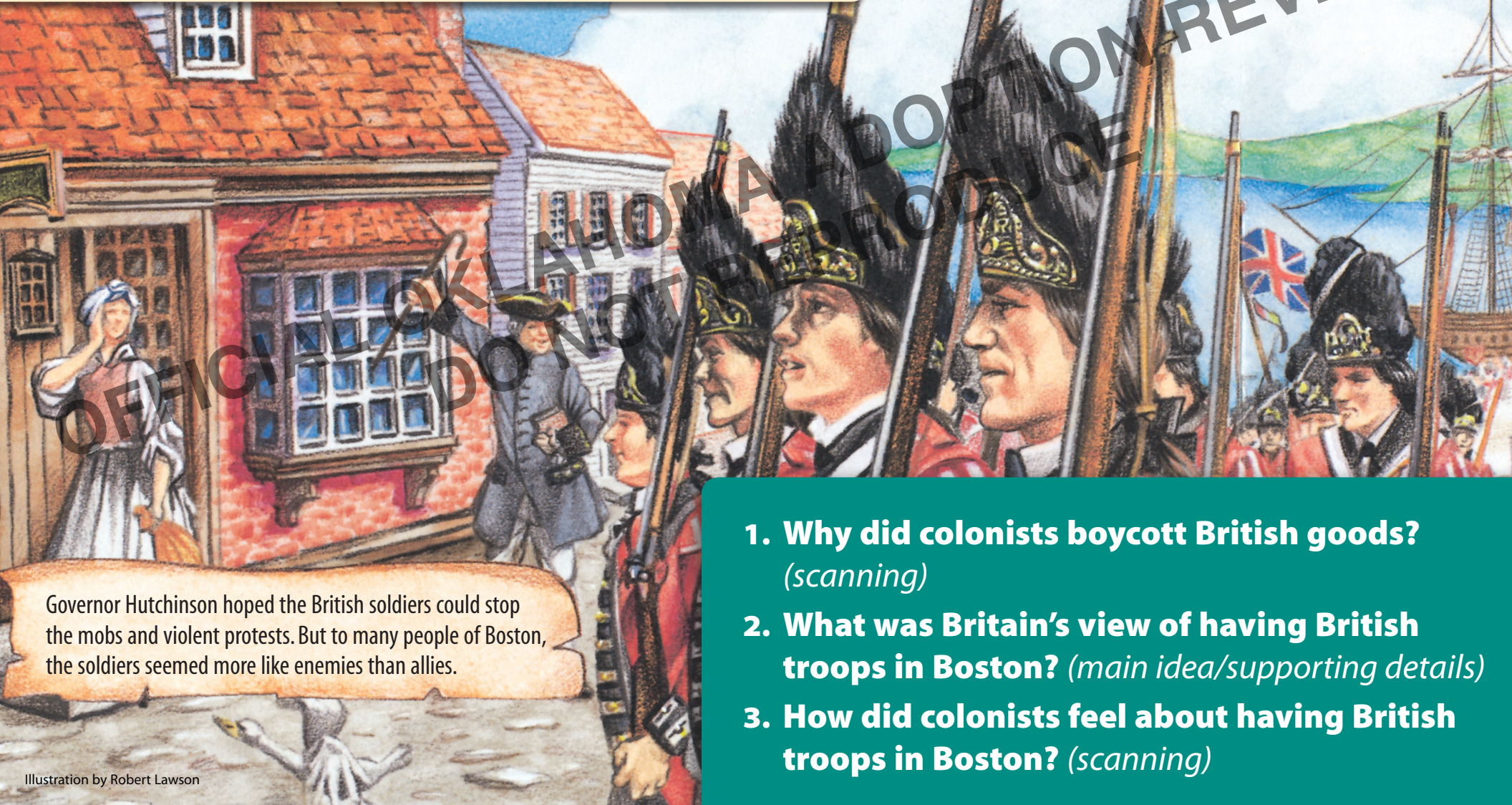
# Why did Britain send soldiers to Boston?



SET 7

SLIDE 1

The Townshend Acts sparked the same kinds of protests the Stamp Act had. And Boston led the fight. Again, colonists boycotted British goods. But this time, the Sons of Liberty threatened merchants and shopkeepers if they did not go along with the boycott.



Governor Hutchinson hoped the British soldiers could stop the mobs and violent protests. But to many people of Boston, the soldiers seemed more like enemies than allies.

Illustration by Robert Lawson

1. **Why did colonists boycott British goods?** *(scanning)*
2. **What was Britain's view of having British troops in Boston?** *(main idea/supporting details)*
3. **How did colonists feel about having British troops in Boston?** *(scanning)*





SET 7

SLIDE 2

## Other Tensions Between British Troops and Colonists

**The Quartering Act of 1765** This law required colonists to provide housing and food for British soldiers stationed in America. When the French and Indian War ended, the colonists wanted the soldiers to leave America and resented having to feed and house them.

**Soldiers in the Boston Common** In 1634, Boston's founders had set aside Boston Common as public land that was for everyone to use. But when British soldiers arrived in Boston in 1768, they set up camp there until they could find suitable housing.



Parliament gave British soldiers the right to enter homes and collect taxes against a colonist's will.



# What happened at the Boston Massacre?



SET 8

SLIDE 1

## Paul Revere's Engraving of the Boston Massacre

Paul Revere, an artist and silversmith, made this engraving of the Boston Massacre at the request of Samuel Adams. Many prints were made and distributed all over the colonies.



## Crispus Attucks in the Boston Massacre

This print shows Crispus Attucks, a black patriot, charging at the soldiers. Attucks was one of five people who died that night.

1. Compare how the two pictures are the same and different. (*understanding visuals, comparing and contrasting*)
2. Why did Revere depict the event the way he did? (*making inferences*)





## Primary Source

**Captain Preston was the officer in charge of the soldiers at the Boston Massacre. He is shown in Paul Revere's print standing behind the soldiers with his sword drawn. Here is part of what he said happened that night.**

The Mob still increased, . . . striking their clubs . . . and calling out, "come on, you Rascals, you bloody Backs, you Lobster Scoundrels; fire if you dare, . . . we know you dare not;" . . . At this Time I was between the Soldiers and the Mob, . . . to persuade them to retire peaceably; . . . They advanced to the Points of the Bayonets, struck some of them, . . . and seemed to be endeavouring to close with the Soldiers. On which some well-behaved Persons asked me if the Guns were charged: I replied, yes. They then asked me if I intended to order the Men to fire; I answered no, by no Means; . . . While I was thus speaking, one of the Soldiers, having received a severe Blow with a stick, stept a little on one Side, and instantly fired, on which turning to and asking him why he fired without Orders, I was struck with a Club on my Arm . . . On this a general attack was made on the Men by a great Number of heavy Clubs, and Snow-balls being thrown at them, by which all our lives were in . . . Danger; some Persons at the same Time from behind calling out, "Damn your Bloods, why don't you fire?" Instantly three or four of the Soldiers fired . . .

—from *A Fair Account*, published in London, 1775.

**3. Do you think the soldiers acted in self-defense?**  
**Explain your answer.** (main idea/supporting details)



# What was the Boston Tea Party?



SET 9

SLIDE 1

On December 16, 1773, three ships from Britain loaded with chests of tea were docked in Boston Harbor. Britain had cut the price of tea in half, but the tea tax remained. The next day, the governor was going to have the tea unloaded, and the tax would be paid. The people of Boston had other ideas.

1. What might people watching from the shore have thought? *(making inferences)*
3. Why do you think the colonists dressed as Mohawk Indians? *(making inferences)*
2. How did this protest differ from a riot? *(scanning)*

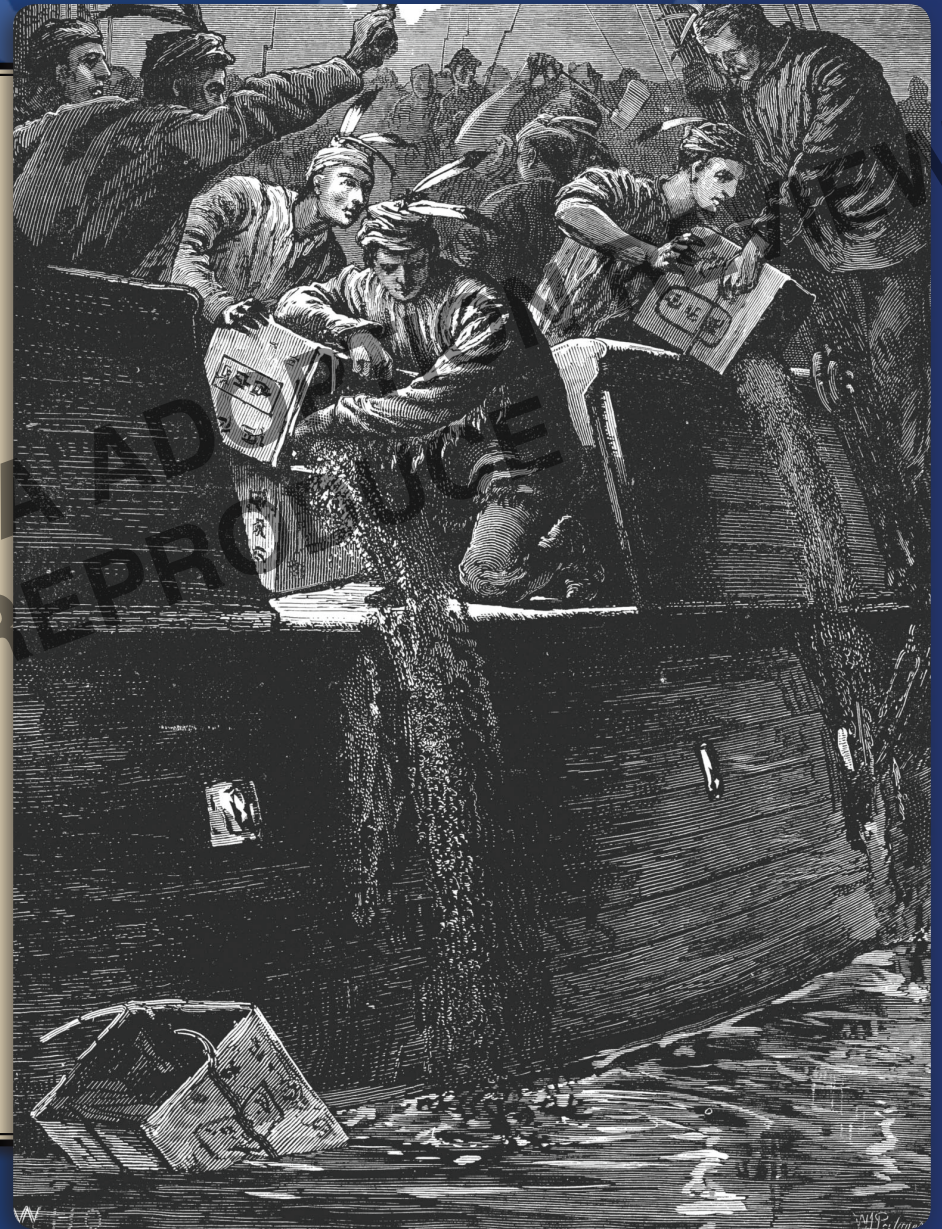
Bostonians protested the Tea Act by dumping British tea into the harbor.





## The Tea Act

In 1773, Parliament passed the Tea Act, which cut the price of tea in half but kept the tea tax. Also, according to the Tea Act, only certain hand-picked merchants could sell the tea. Was Britain trying to drive the other merchants out of business? It appeared so to the colonists. From Britain's point of view, the Tea Act was a way of saving one of London's most powerful companies. Because of the colonial boycott, the British East India Company had 17 million pounds of tea in its warehouses. If it wasn't sold soon, it would spoil. Such a loss might bankrupt the company—a company which many members of Parliament had invested in.







## Primary Source

**George Hewes, a participant in the Boston Tea Party, wrote the following account of the event.**

It was now evening, and I immediately dressed myself in the costume of an Indian, equipped with a small hatchet . . . after having painted my face and hands with coal dust in the shop of a blacksmith, I repaired to Griffin's Wharf, where the ships lay that contained the tea. . . . I fell in with many who were dressed, equipped and painted as I was, and who fell in with me and marched in order to the place of our destination. . . . We then were ordered by our commander to open the hatches and take out all the chests of tea and throw them overboard, and we immediately proceeded to execute his orders, first cutting and splitting the chests with our tomahawks, so as to thoroughly expose them to the effects of the water.

Colonists quietly threw crates of tea overboard.





SET 10

SLIDE 1



## Why were Committees of Correspondence formed?

A Committee of Correspondence was a group of people who would write letters to let other towns know what was happening in Boston.

Sam Adams called a special town meeting and set up a Committee of Correspondence. Soon Committees of Correspondence sprang up all over the colonies. Letters were delivered by messengers on horseback. In the 1700s, most colonial roads were simply dirt paths. By writing and sending letters, this network improved communication and helped the colonies forge alliances, or friendships.

**1. How did the Committees of Correspondence help the colonies?** *(main idea/supporting details)*





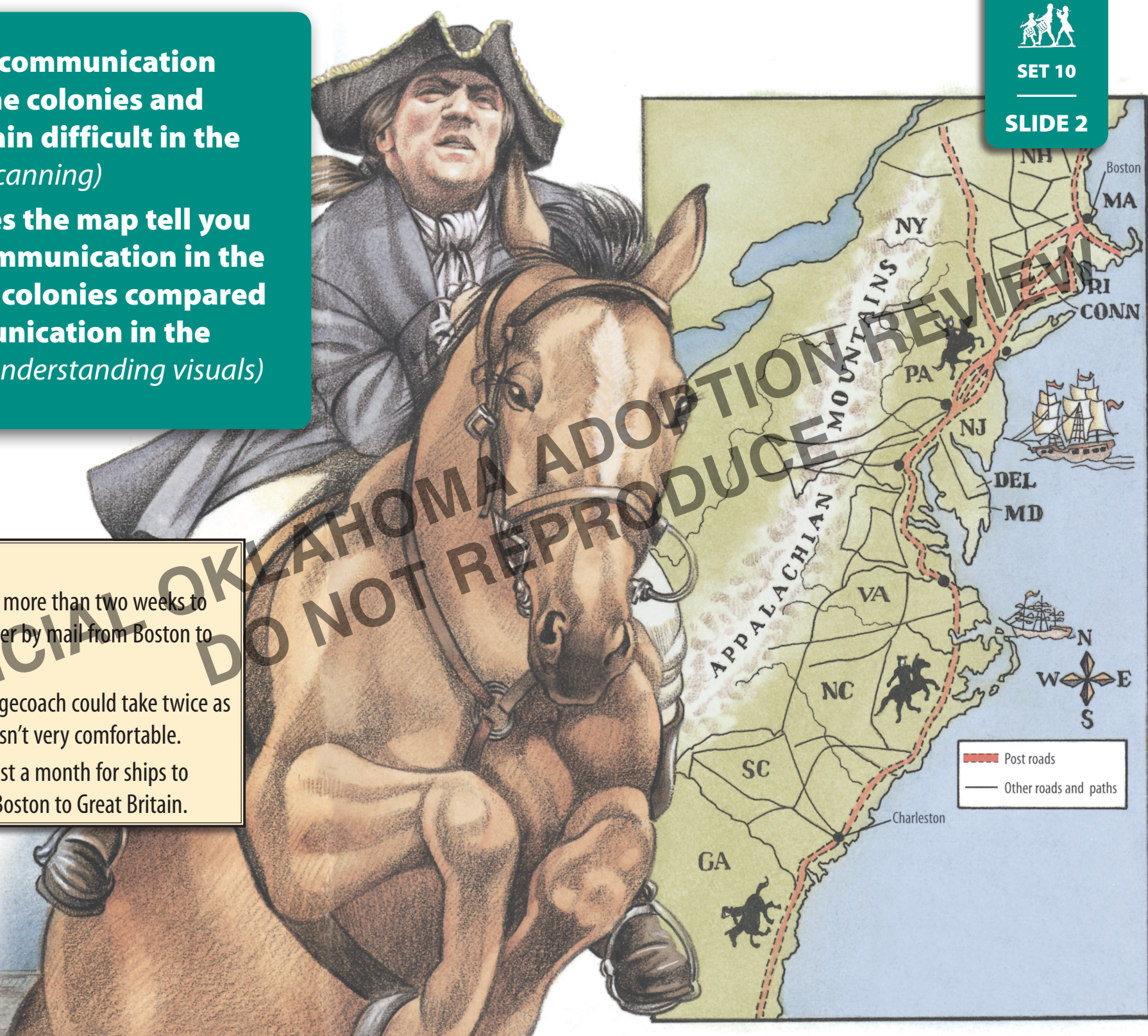
SET 10

SLIDE 2

2. Why was communication among the colonies and with Britain difficult in the 1700s? (*scanning*)
3. What does the map tell you about communication in the northern colonies compared to communication in the south? (*understanding visuals*)

#### Travel Times

- It could take more than two weeks to deliver a letter by mail from Boston to Charleston.
- Travel by stagecoach could take twice as long and wasn't very comfortable.
- It took at least a month for ships to travel from Boston to Great Britain.



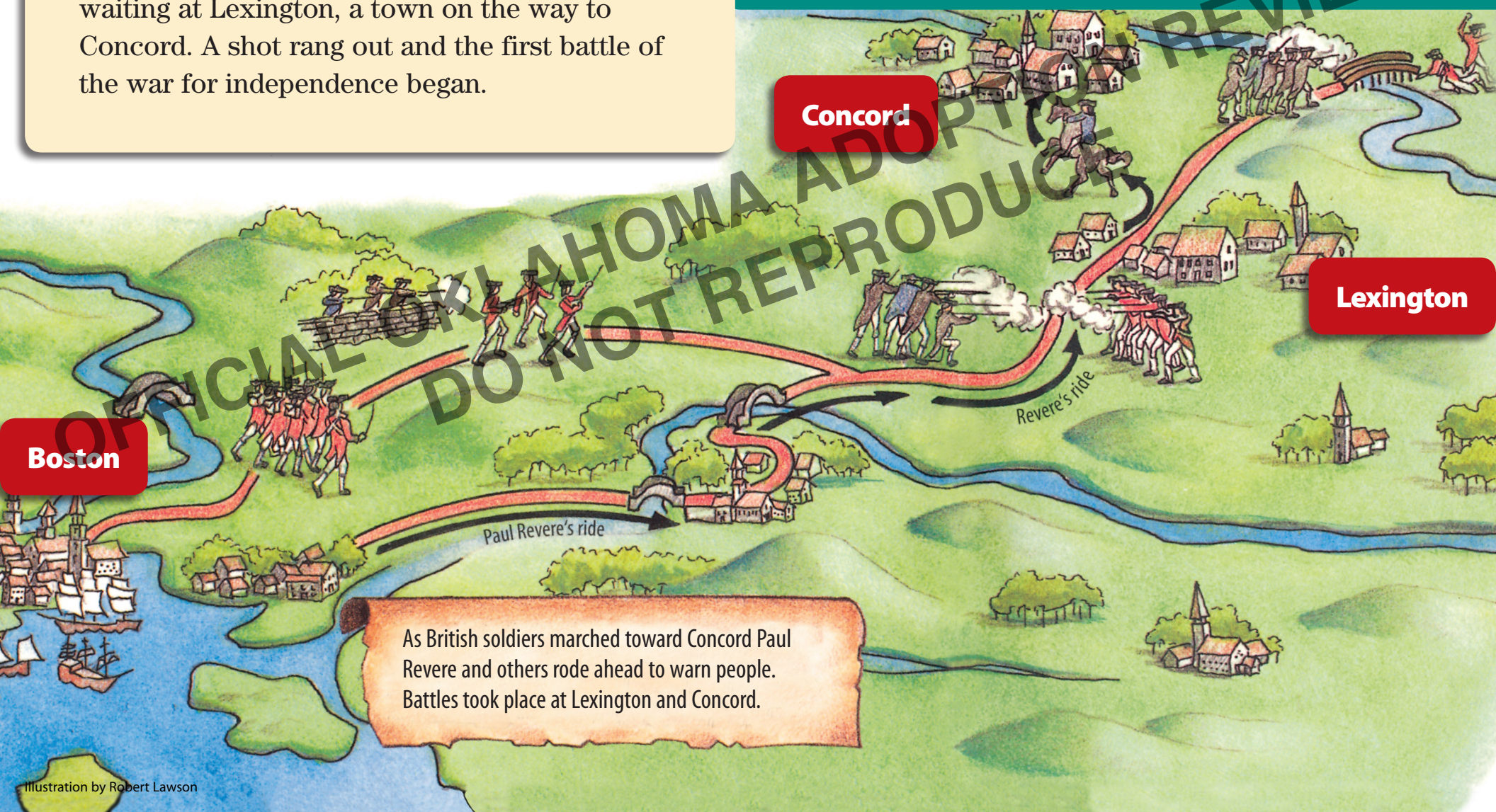




# What happened on July 4, 1776?

On April 18, 1775, British soldiers marched toward Concord. Paul Revere and others raced to warn the townspeople that the British were coming. At dawn the next day, militiamen were waiting at Lexington, a town on the way to Concord. A shot rang out and the first battle of the war for independence began.

1. What advantages might the militia have had over British soldiers? (*making inferences*)
2. Why do you think Paul Revere took the route he did? (*understanding visuals*)



Concord

Lexington

Boston

As British soldiers marched toward Concord Paul Revere and others rode ahead to warn people. Battles took place at Lexington and Concord.



