

The Townshend Acts

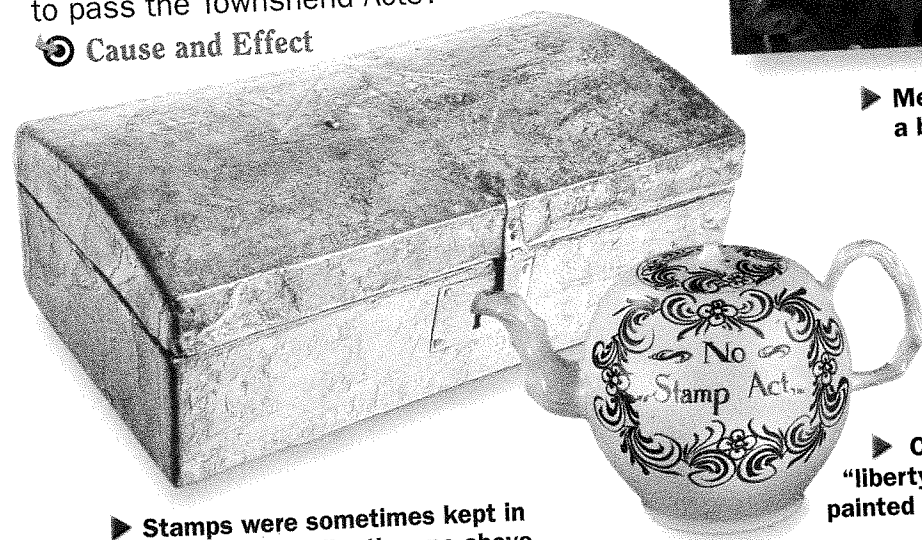
Leaders in Britain saw that it would be nearly impossible to collect any money from the stamp tax. Parliament voted to repeal the Stamp Act in 1766. This news was celebrated with parades and fireworks in the colonies. But Britain still needed money. And King George III insisted that Britain had the right to tax the colonies, no matter what Patrick Henry and Samuel Adams said.

Charles Townshend (TOUN zend) agreed with the king. As treasurer of the British government, Townshend called for a new tax. In 1767 Parliament passed the **Townshend Acts**. These laws placed a **tariff**—a tax on imported goods—on paper, wool, tea, and other goods that the colonies imported from Britain. British leaders hoped that colonists would agree to pay these tariffs. They had another goal as well—to show the colonies who was in charge.

The Townshend Acts caused new protests in the colonies. From New Hampshire to Georgia, colonists decided to boycott British imports. A **boycott** is a refusal to buy goods. Many colonists would rather do without British products than pay the new taxes.

REVIEW What caused British leaders to pass the Townshend Acts?

☉ Cause and Effect



► Stamps were sometimes kept in a leather box, like the one above.

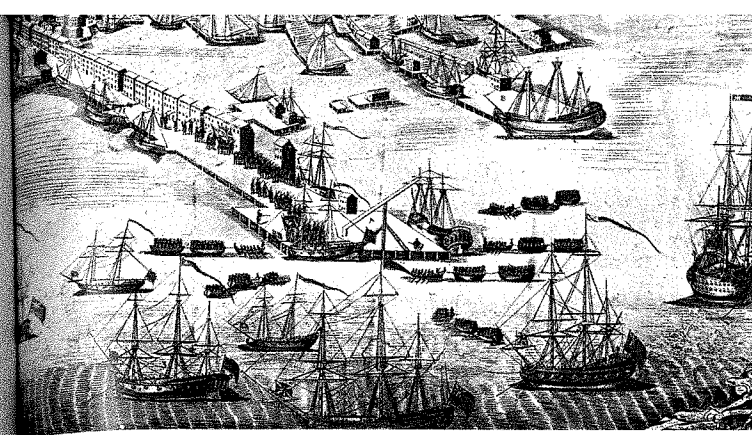
Women Join the Boycott

In Boston, writer **Mercy Otis Warren** encouraged people to stop buying imported goods such as tea and wool. “We’ll quit the useless vanities [expensive items] of life,” she wrote. Rather than buying British tea, colonial women began making their own “liberty tea” out of berries and herbs. New groups called the **Daughters of Liberty** formed in the colonies. To help the boycott, Daughters of Liberty began weaving cloth that could be used instead of British wool.



► Mercy Otis Warren urged a boycott of British goods.

► Colonists might have served “liberty tea” from this teapot, painted in protest of the Stamp Act.



Engraving detail by Paul Revere

► British warships landed troops in Boston in 1768.

The boycott was hurting British businesses. The British government decided to take stronger action. In 1768 British warships arrived in Boston Harbor. British leaders hoped this show of force would convince colonists to stop protesting. Benjamin Franklin was in London at this time. He warned the British government that British

soldiers and warships would only increase tensions in the colonies and lead to more violence. He was right.

REVIEW What caused the British to send warships to Boston? ☉ Cause and Effect

Summarize the Lesson

- **1765** After the French and Indian War, Parliament passed the Stamp Act to help raise money.
- **1766** Parliament repealed the Stamp Act after bitter protest in the colonies.
- **1767** Parliament passed the Townshend Acts, causing colonists to boycott British products.

LESSON 1 REVIEW

Check Facts and Main Ideas

1. ☉ Cause and Effect On a separate sheet of paper, fill in the missing causes of the major events from this lesson.

Cause	Effect
Britain needed more money.	Stamp Act passed
	Stamp Act repealed
	Townshend Acts passed

- 2. What was the Stamp Act?
- 3. Who were the Sons of Liberty and Daughters of Liberty?
- 4. How did the British taxes lead to greater cooperation among the colonies?
- 5. **Critical Thinking: Evaluate** Were the colonists’ protests successful? Explain your answer.

Link to Writing

Write a Speech Suppose you are a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1765. Write a speech persuading people to oppose or support the Stamp Act.