

Teaching American History for All
MDUSD/UCB H-SSP
11th Grade Lesson: “Title/ Topic listed here”

Developed by: Jessica Scott

Teaching American History Grant Focus Question:

How did definitions of citizenship change from the 17th century to the 20th century?

11th Grade Yearlong Focus Question:

How have the powers of the United States federal government expanded or been limited since the Civil War?

Unit Focus:

American Revolution

Unit Focus Question:

Analyze the ideological origins of the American Revolution, the Founding Fathers’ philosophy of divinely bestowed unalienable rights, the debates of the drafting and ratification of the Constitution, and the addition of the Bill of Rights.

Unit Working Thesis:

Lesson Focus Question:

What colonial resistance and British countermeasures prompted the Boston Massacre?

Lesson Working Thesis:

The Boston Massacre was caused by mounting tension due to the taxes imposed by the British.

Reading and Writing Strategy/ies:

graphic organizer for reading primary source

Suggested Amount of Time:

About one 60 minute period

Textbook:

Danzer, Gerald et al. *The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century*. Evanston, Illinois: McDougal Littell Inc., 2006,

Context of the lesson in the unit (and its connection to Citizenship):

The lesson connects to the idea of citizenship because it focuses on the struggle that people go through in order to get their citizenship

Lesson Procedure:

- Step one: Give a brief lecture on the Boston Massacre (using the engraving by Paul Revere).
- Step two: Give students the handout with the timeline of events and briefly go over the list with them.
- Step three: In groups of three, students choose three events that had a direct connection to causing the Boston Massacre.

- Step four: Students fill in the table with their three events, the year they occurred and the reason that it led to the Boston Massacre.
- Step five: As a class, we discuss all of the group's top 3 reasons and the students decide on the top 3 events that led to the Boston Massacre. Within this discussion, we will also discuss why events were or were not causes of the Boston Massacre.
- Step six: Individually, students will answer the question; "What were the causes of the Boston Massacre?"

History-Social Science Content Standards:

Students analyze the significant events in the founding of the nation and its attempts to realize the philosophy of government described in the Declaration of Independence

Historical and Social Sciences Analysis Skills:

- Students will show the connections, causal and otherwise, between particular historical events and larger social, economic and political trends and developments
- Students will recognize the complexity of historical causes and effects, including the limitations on determining cause and effect
- Students will interpret past events and issues within the context in which an event unfolded rather than solely in terms of present day norms and values

Reading/Language Arts Content Standards:

Writing Strategies

- 1.1 Establish a controlling impression or coherent thesis that conveys a clear and distinctive perspective on the subject and maintain a consistent tone and focus throughout the piece of writing.

Writing Applications

2.3 Write expository compositions, including analytical essays and research reports:

- a. Marshal evidence in support of a thesis and related claims, including information on all relevant perspectives.
- b. Make distinctions between the relative value and significance of specific data, facts, and ideas.

2.4 Write persuasive compositions:

- a. Structure ideas and arguments in a sustained and logical fashion.
- b. Use specific rhetorical devices to support assertions (e.g., appeal to logic through reasoning; appeal to emotion or ethical belief; relate a personal anecdote, case study, or analogy).
- c. Clarify and defend positions with precise and relevant evidence, including facts, expert opinions, quotations, and expressions of commonly accepted beliefs and logical reasoning.

Prelude to Revolution

1. **1733**- In an effort to raise revenue and simultaneously interfere with the French in the Caribbean, a 6 pence tax on each gallon of molasses was imposed
2. **1754**- Benjamin Franklin drew and published the cartoon “Join, or Die”
3. **1763**- The Proclamation of 1763 established a line along the Appalachians, which the colonists were not allowed to cross
4. **1765** - In March, the Stamp Act is passed by the English Parliament imposing the first direct tax on the American colonies, to offset the high costs of the British military organization in America. Thus for the first time in the 150 year old history of the British colonies in America, the Americans will pay tax not to their own local legislatures in America, but directly to England.
5. **1765** -The Quartering Act requires colonists to house British troops and supply them with food.
6. **1765** - In October, the Stamp Act Congress convenes in New York City, with representatives from nine of the colonies. The Congress prepares a resolution to be sent to King George III and the English Parliament. The petition requests the repeal of the Stamp Act and the Acts of 1764. The petition asserts that only colonial legislatures can tax colonial residents and that taxation without representation violates the colonists' basic civil rights.

7. **1766** - On the same day it repealed the Stamp Act, the English Parliament passes the Declaratory Act stating that the British government has total power to legislate any laws governing the American colonies in all cases whatsoever..
8. **1767** - In June, The English Parliament passes the Townshend Revenue Acts, imposing a new series of taxes on the colonists to offset the costs of administering and protecting the American colonies. Items taxed include imports such as paper, tea, glass, lead and paints. The Act also establishes a colonial board of customs commissioners in Boston. In October, Bostonians decide to reinstate a boycott of English luxury items.
9. **May 10, 1775** - American forces led by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold capture Fort Ticonderoga in New York. The fort contains a much needed supply of military equipment including cannons which are then hauled to Boston by ox teams



Prelude to Revolution

Name of Event	Year	Significance

Answer the question: *What were the causes of the Boston Massacre?*

Prelude to Revolution

Name of Event	Year	Significance
Stamp Act	1765	The first direct tax on the American colonist. This was out of the status quo; ended 150 years of paying local taxes and having a say on how what to tax and what to spend that money on.
Quartering Act	1765	Required American colonist to house and feed British soldiers. This was an invasion of personal space and created a lot of tension between the Bostonians and the British soldiers
Townshend Revenue Act	1767	Another tax that the British justified by saying it would be used to take care of the interests of the American colonies. This tax was on common items, including tea; a very popular colonial item

Answer the question: *What were the causes of the Boston Massacre?*

Increased tension due to the Stamp Act, the Quartering Act and the Townshend Revenue Act caused the Boston Massacre.