

ORAL QUIZ ON PARLIAMENT AND THE AMERICAN COLONISTS

The points and level of detail given below are those that an upper-grammar student might be expected to know from his reading, though he may not include every detail. You may also use these points to prompt your student.

Parliament and the American Colonies

1. What did King George III of England do that upset the colonists in America?
He had Parliament make a series of laws that taxed them, which the colonists believed violated their rights as Englishmen because they were not represented in Parliament.
2. What was the Stamp Act?
In 1765, the English Parliament passed the Stamp Act, which was a tax that the colonists had to pay on every piece of printed paper, including documents, newspapers, and even playing cards.
3. How did the colonists respond to the Stamp Act?
Believing the tax was unjust, the colonists got angry and refused to pay it.
4. What were the Townshend Acts?
In 1767, Parliament passed these acts, forcing colonists to pay taxes on such items as lead, glass, paper, paint, cloth, and tea.
5. What was the Boston Massacre?
In 1770, there was a confrontation between a group of British soldiers and Boston townspeople. The soldiers fired, killing five colonists and wounding seven. [NOTE: Accounts differ on who instigated the confrontation.]
6. What did some of the colonists in Boston do to protest the tax on tea?
Late one night in 1773, some of the colonists protested the unfair tea tax by dressing up as Indians and throwing chests of tea into the Boston Harbor. This event became known as the Boston Tea Party.
7. How did King George III and Parliament respond to the Boston colonists' actions?
King George was very angry. Hoping to force the colonists to submit to the king, Parliament passed some very strict laws, one of which closed the Boston Harbor, preventing ships from leaving or entering the area. [NOTE: These laws were known as the Intolerable Acts.] Consequently, half of Boston's citizens were out of work.
8. Upon hearing about the troubles in Boston, how did the other colonies respond?
When the other colonies heard reports of the trouble the citizens of Boston were experiencing, they united together and sent supplies, money, and encouragement to the people of Boston. Virginia even set a day aside to pray for Boston and to talk seriously about independence from England.
9. Who was the famous person who said in his speech to the Virginia House of Burgesses, "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death"?
A great and passionate speaker, Patrick Henry uttered these words as he addressed Virginia's House of Burgesses.
10. What famous work did Thomas Paine write in order to advocate complete independence from England's rule?
Thomas Paine wrote his thoughts on independence in a pamphlet called Common Sense, which was widely distributed throughout the colonies.

1. WHAT DID KING GEORGE III OF ENGLAND DO THAT UPSET THE COLONISTS IN AMERICA?

FAILING *POOR* *FAIR* *GOOD* *EXCELLENT*

COMMENTS: _____

2. WHAT WAS THE STAMP ACT?

FAILING *POOR* *FAIR* *GOOD* *EXCELLENT*

COMMENTS: _____

3. HOW DID THE COLONISTS RESPOND TO THE STAMP ACT?

FAILING *POOR* *FAIR* *GOOD* *EXCELLENT*

COMMENTS: _____

4. WHAT WERE THE TOWNSHEND ACTS? _____

COMMENTS: _____

5. WHAT WAS THE BOSTON MASSACRE? _____

COMMENTS: _____

6. WHAT DID SOME OF THE COLONISTS IN BOSTON DO TO PROTEST THE TAX ON TEA? _____

COMMENTS: _____

7. HOW DID KING GEORGE III AND PARLIAMENT RESPOND TO THE BOSTON COLONISTS' ACTIONS?

COMMENTS: _____

8. UPON HEARING ABOUT THE TROUBLES IN BOSTON, HOW DID THE OTHER COLONIES RESPOND?

COMMENTS: _____

9. WHO SAID TO THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF BURGESSSES, "...GIVE ME LIBERTY, OR GIVE ME DEATH"?

COMMENTS: _____

10. WHAT DID THOMAS PAINE WRITE TO ADVOCATE COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE FROM ENGLAND'S RULE?

FAILING POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT

COMMENTS: _____

