



REVOLUTIONARY IDEALS



HISTORY
OF
PHILIP'S WAR
COMMONLY
THE GREAT INDIAN WAR

Party in Philadelphia: Tea, Time, and Troubles

GUIDING QUESTION:

What were the ideals behind the Philadelphia Tea Party?

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► OVERVIEW

In 1773, desperate for funds, the British government passed the controversial Tea Act. A tax on an item found in everyone's home, on everyone's table, was more than many colonists could bear. Protests were rampant, but no action made as big a splash as the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 1773. Up and down the seaboard, tea was dumped in an act of protest against the tax. In this lesson, students will examine how the lesser-known Philadelphia Tea Party unfolded and how broadsides were used to promote political positions, not only in Philadelphia but also across the colonies.

► OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this activity, students will be able to:

- › Examine the ideals and objectives of the proponents of the tea party in Philadelphia in reaction to the Tea Act; and
- › Demonstrate how patriots used broadsides to communicate and orchestrate their goals.

► STANDARDS CONNECTIONS

CONNECTIONS TO COMMON CORE

- › CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7 Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

CONNECTIONS TO C3 FRAMEWORK

- › D2.His.6.6-8. Analyze how people's perspectives influenced what information is available in the historical sources they created.
- › D2.His.1.6-8. Analyze connections among events and developments in broader historical contexts.
- › D2.His.14.6-8. Explain multiple causes and effects of events and developments in the past.

► DOCUMENTS USED

PRIMARY SOURCES

Broadside, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Committee For Tarring And Feathering, "To the Delaware pilots . . .," 1773
Library of Congress (rbpe1430330a)
<https://www.loc.gov/item/rbpe.1430330a/>

Broadside, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Committee For Tarring And Feathering, "To the Delaware pilots . . .," 1773 (adapted transcription)
Library of Congress
<https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/service/rbc/rbpe/rbpe14/rbpe143/1430330a/1430330a.pdf>

The Philadelphia Resolutions, October 16, 1773
Lillian Goldman Law Library, Yale Law School
https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/phil_res_1773.asp

► TEACHER-CREATED MATERIALS

- › The Philadelphia Resolutions Answer Key

► ACTIVITY PREPARATION

- › Project the broadside, "To the Delaware pilots . . ."
- › Make one copy of The Philadelphia Resolutions for each student.
- › Print one copy of The Philadelphia Resolutions Answer Key for teacher use.
- › Gather poster-making supplies (blank paper, colored pencils, markers).
- › Establish partners for the activity.

► PROCEDURE

ACTIVITY ONE: INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

- › Project the broadside, "To the Delaware pilots . . ."
- › Read and analyze the broadside as a class. Explain that broadsides were printed and posted around towns as a way to distribute news and engage the public in civic action. Ask students:
 - » *Who signed this document?*
 - » *What is being asked of the reader?*
 - » *What is being threatened?*
- › **Teacher Tip:** Help students understand that resolution five is a reference to the Tea Act (May 1773).

Students interested in this topic might be interested in researching the following for an NHD project

- › **The Gaspee Affair (June 9, 1772)**
- › **The Charleston Tea Party (December 3, 1773)**
- › **The Boston Tea Party (December 16, 1773)**
- › **Propaganda of the American Revolution**

ACTIVITY TWO: THE PHILADELPHIA RESOLUTIONS (15 MINUTES)

- › Write or display, "November 1773" on the board.
- › Explain to the class that they are colonists in Philadelphia in 1773. They are assembled at the meeting of the Sons of Liberty. Tell students: *"As you know, the British have imposed upon us the unfair, unjust, evil Tea Act, which has made our most beloved drink too expensive for many of us to enjoy and undermined our ability to have a say in the taxation of ourselves and our colonies. This has been done by the hated tea monopoly, the British East India Company. While we can purchase tea from the French, this act forbids it. Before the group are eight resolutions. However, we must make our intent clear. We will now split into partners and simplify our beliefs for our educated public."*
- › Organize students into partners and distribute copies of the Philadelphia Resolutions.
- › Stagger the group so that partners start at different resolutions.
- › Reconvene the class and share the answers, using The Philadelphia Resolutions Answer Key as a guide. Explain that these resolutions were accepted by a large group who gathered in Philadelphia and by the Sons of Liberty in Boston.

ACTIVITY THREE: BROADSIDE CREATION (20 MINUTES)

- › Return to the projection of the broadside, “To the Delaware pilots . . .”
- › Change the date on the board to December 1773.
- › Tell students, “*Welcome to the December meeting of the Philadelphia Sons of Liberty. A week ago in Boston, the Sons of Liberty entered Boston Harbor and raided several ships. This is our first act of liberty! We will not allow the Redcoats to bring their blood-soaked tea into our harbor! This broadside clearly warns the British of our intent if they come here. However, we still must win over and educate the people about our resolutions. We must create broadsides to show the people the way to liberty. Choose which of our Resolutions you wish to show to the public and create a broadside sheet that will inform the public of our glorious cause. Choose the tenet that you are the most passionate about.*”
- › Explain to students that each broadside should contain the following elements:
 - › an interpretation of the resolution written in their own words;
 - › a bold title and imagery designed to intimidate the pilots and crews of trading vessels; and
 - › a clear message that the Sons of Liberty would have supported.
- › Return to the partners from the previous activity and distribute materials to create the broadside. The broadsides may be completed by hand or electronically (at teacher discretion).
- › Reconvene the class.
- › Change the date to January 1774.
- › Tell the students, “*Brothers and Sisters of liberty, we have struck a blow for independence and freedom. As a result of our work rallying the people to action, we have turned back the tea ship and driven the tea back to England. None of the tea was sold in the colonies and the 697 chests of tea are still sitting in the hold of the Polly. Not a shilling of our money is going to support this evil oppressive regime! We are on the road to liberty my brothers and sisters and we shall prevail! Cheer with me if you too feel the triumph felt by the colonists not just in Boston but throughout the Colonies.*”

ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

- › Have students share their broadsides with the class.
- › Ask students to react to the broadsides from the perspective of a Loyalist.
- › Allow students to post the broadsides around the school.
- › Create a counter broadside from the perspective of a Loyalist.

To access a PDF containing all of the sources and materials to complete this lesson plan, go to: nhd.org/RevIdeals.

“To the Delaware pilots. . .,” 1773

Broadside, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Committee For Tarring And Feathering, “To the Delaware pilots. . .,” 1773
Library of Congress (rbpe1430330a)
<https://www.loc.gov/item/rbpe.1430330a/>

TO THE DELAWARE PILOTS.

TH E Regard we have for your Characters, and our Desire to promote your future Peace and Safety, are the Occasion of this Third Address to you.

I N our second Letter we acquainted you, that the Tea Ship was a Three Decker ; We are now informed by good Authority, she is not a Three Decker, but an *old black Ship, without a Head, or any Ornaments.*

T H E Captain is a *short fat Fellow*, and a little *obstinate* withal.----So much the worse for him.----For, so fure as he *rides rusty*, We shall heave him Keel out, and see that his Bottom be well fired, scrubb'd and paid.----His Upper-Works too, will have an Overhawling.----and as it is said, he has a good deal of *Quick Work* about him, We will take particular Care that such Part of him undergoes a thorough Rummaging.

W E have a still worse Account of his Owner ;---for it is said, the Ship POLLY was bought by him on Purpose, to make a Penny of us ; and that *he* and Captain Ayres were well advised, of the Risk they would run, in thus daring to insult and abuse us.

Captain Ayres was here in the Time of the Stamp-Act, and ought to have known our People better, than to have expected we would be so mean as to suffer his rotten T E A to be funnel'd down our Throats, with the Parliament's Duty mixed with it.

W E know him well, and have calculated to a Gill and a Feather, how much it will require to fit him for an *American Exhibition*. And we hope, not one of your Body will behave so ill, as to oblige us to clap him in the Cart along Side of the Captain.

W E must repeat, that the SHIP POLLY is an *old black Ship*, of about Two Hundred and Fifty Tons burthen, *without a Head, and without Ornaments*,---and, that CAPTAIN AYRES is a *thick chunky Fellow*.-----As such, TAKE CARE to AVOID THEM.

YOUR OLD FRIENDS,

THE COMMITTEE FOR TARRING AND FEATHERING.

Philadelphia, December 7, 1773.

Monday Morning, December 27, 1773.

TH E TEA-SHIP being arrived, every Inhabitant, who wilhes to preserve the Liberty of America, is desired to meet at the STATE-HOUSE, This Morning, precisely at TEN o'Clock, to advise what is best to be done on this alarming Crisis.

T M,

“To the Delaware pilots. . .,” 1773 Transcript

Broadside, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Committee For Tarring And Feathering, “To the Delaware pilots. . .,” 1773 (adapted transcription)

Library of Congress

<https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/service/rbc/rbpe/rbpe14/rbpe143/1430330a/1430330a.pdf>

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In our second Letter we acquainted you, that the Tea Ship was a Three Decker; We are now informed by good Authority, she is not a Three Decker, but an old black Ship, without a Head, or any Ornaments.

The Captain is a short sat Fellow, and a little obstinate¹ withal.—So much the worse for him.—For, so sure as he rides rusty, We shall heave him Keel out, and see that his Bottom² be well fired, scrubb’d and paid.—His Upper-Works too, will have an Overhawling³—and as it is said, he has a good deal of Quick Work about him, We will take particular Care that such Part of him undergoes a thorough Rummaging.

We have a still worse Account of his Owner; —for it is said, the Ship Polly was bought by him on Purpose, to make a Penny of us; and that he and Captain Ayres were well advised of the Risque they would run, in thus daring to insult and abuse us.

Captain Ayres was here in the Time of the Stamp-Act, and ought to have known our People better, than to have expected we would be so mean as to suffer his rotten TEA to be funnel’d down our Throats, with the Parliament’s Duty mixed with it.

We know him well, and have calculated to a Gill and a Feather, how much it will require to fit him for an American Exhibition. And we hope, not one of your Body will behave so ill, as to oblige⁴ us to clap him in the Cart along Side of the Captain.

We must repeat, that the SHIP POLLY is an old black Ship, of about Two Hundred and Fifty Tons burthen⁵, without a Head, and without Ornaments, —and, that CAPTAIN AYRES is a thick chunky Fellow. —As such, TAKE CARE to AVOID THEM.

Your Old Friends,

The COMMITTEE FOR TARRING AND FEATHERING.

Philadelphia, December 7, 1773.

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THE TEA-SHIP being arrived, every Inhabitant, who wishes to preserve the Liberty of America, is desired to meet at the State-House, This Morning, precisely at TEN o’Clock, to advise what is best to be done on this alarming Crisis.

¹ stubborn

² bottom (like the bottom of a boat)

³ overhauling

⁴ require

⁵ burden

The Philadelphia Resolutions

The Philadelphia Resolutions, October 16, 1773
Lillian Goldman Law Library, Yale Law School
https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/phil_res_1773.asp

Directions: Working with your group, read the resolutions aloud, and re-write them into current-day language.

1. That the disposal of their own property is the inherent [obvious] right of freemen; that there can be no property in that which another can, of right, take from us without our consent; that the claim of Parliament to tax America is, in other words, a claim of right to levy contributions [demand taxes] on us at pleasure.

2. That the duty imposed by Parliament upon tea landed in America is a tax on the Americans, or levying contributions on them without their consent.

3. That the express purpose for which the tax is levied on the Americans, namely for the support of government, administration of justice, and defence of his Majesty's dominions in America, has a direct tendency to render assemblies useless and to introduce arbitrary government and slavery.

4. That a virtuous and steady opposition to this ministerial [government] plan of governing America is absolutely necessary to preserve even the shadow of liberty and is a duty which every freeman in America owes to his country, to himself, and to his posterity.

The Philadelphia Resolutions (Con't)

5. That the resolutions lately entered into by the East India Comy. any [Company] to send out their tea to America, subject to the payment of duties on its being landed here, is an open attempt to enforce this ministerial plan and a violent attack upon the liberties of America.

6. That it is the duty of every American to oppose this attempt.

7. That whoever shall, directly or indirectly, countenance [support] this attempt or in any wise aid or abet in unloading, receiving, or vending the tea sent or to be sent out by the East India Company while it remains subject to the payment of a duty here, is an enemy to his country.

8. That a committee be immediately chosen to wait on those gentlemen who, it is reported, are appointed by the East India Company to receive and sell said tea and request them, from a regard to their own characters and the peace and good order of the city and province, immediately to resign their appointment.

The Philadelphia Resolutions Answer Key

1. That the disposal of their own property is the inherent right of freemen; that there can be no property in that which another can, of right, take from us without our consent; that the claim of Parliament to tax America is, in other words, a claim of right to levy contributions on us at pleasure.

England should not be able to tax the colonists at will. Free men have the right to property unless they consent to be taxed.

2. That the duty imposed by Parliament upon tea landed in America is a tax on the Americans, or levying contributions on them without their consent.

The tax issued by Parliament on American tea has been done without the colonists' consent.

3. That the express purpose for which the tax is levied on the Americans, namely for the support of government, administration of justice, and defence of his Majesty's dominions in America, has a direct tendency to render assemblies useless and to introduce arbitrary government and slavery.

Since the sole purpose of the tax is to support England, the American assemblies are powerless and the colonists are like enslaved people.

4. That a virtuous and steady opposition to this ministerial plan of governing America is absolutely necessary to preserve even the shadow of liberty and is a duty which every freeman in America owes to his country, to himself, and to his posterity.

It is every American's duty to oppose these taxes to preserve their freedoms in America.

5. That the resolutions lately entered into by the East India Comy. any [Company] to send out their tea to America, subject to the payment of duties on its being landed here, is an open attempt to enforce this ministerial plan and a violent attack upon the liberties of America.

Forcing Americans to pay the tea tax is a violent attack on colonists' freedom.

6. That it is the duty of every American to oppose this attempt.

Everyone must fight back against the British.

7. That whoever shall, directly or indirectly, countenance this attempt or in any wise aid or abet in unloading, receiving, or vending the tea sent or to be sent out by the East India Company while it remains subject to the payment of a duty here, is an enemy to his country.

Anyone who helps sell, or even deliver, tea is labeled an enemy of the colonists.

8. That a committee be immediately chosen to wait on those gentlemen who, it is reported, are appointed by the East India Company to receive and sell said tea and request them, from a regard to their own characters and the peace and good order of the city and province, immediately to resign their appointment.

Choose representatives to confront and convince or force British importers to switch sides and join the revolution.