

Standard 7 – Government and Political Systems

Students explain the structure and purposes of government and the foundations of the United States' democratic system using primary and secondary sources.

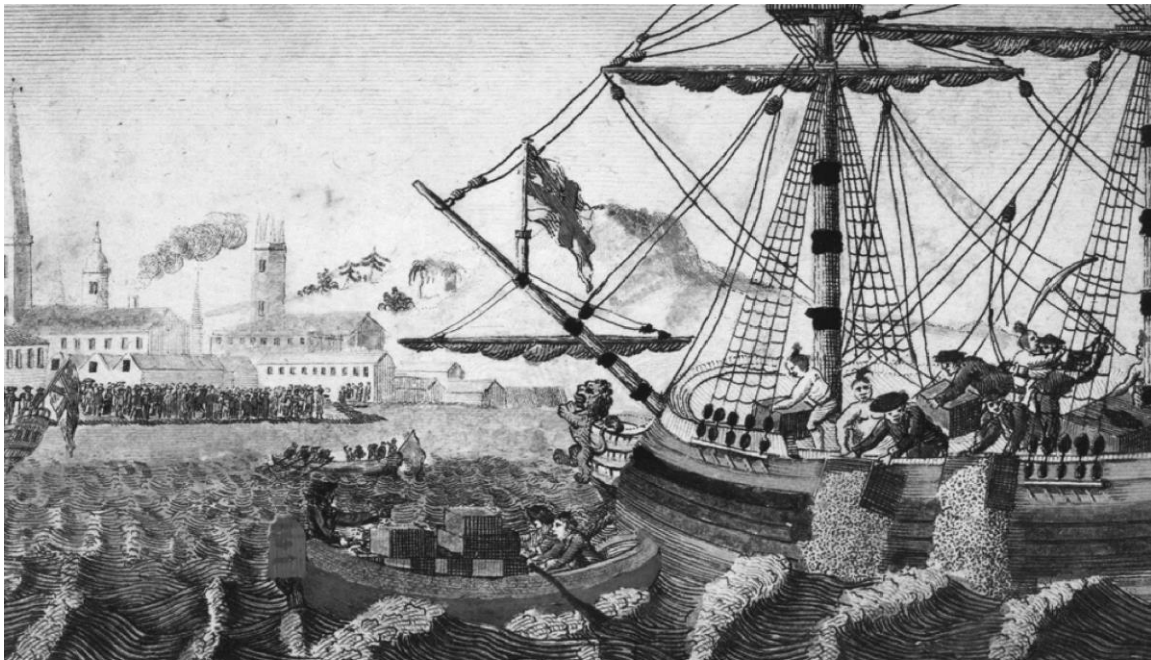
4.7.2 Explain the significance of key ideas contained in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights

Use the three sources and your knowledge of social studies to answer questions 1–3.

Source 1

Boston Tea Party Engraving

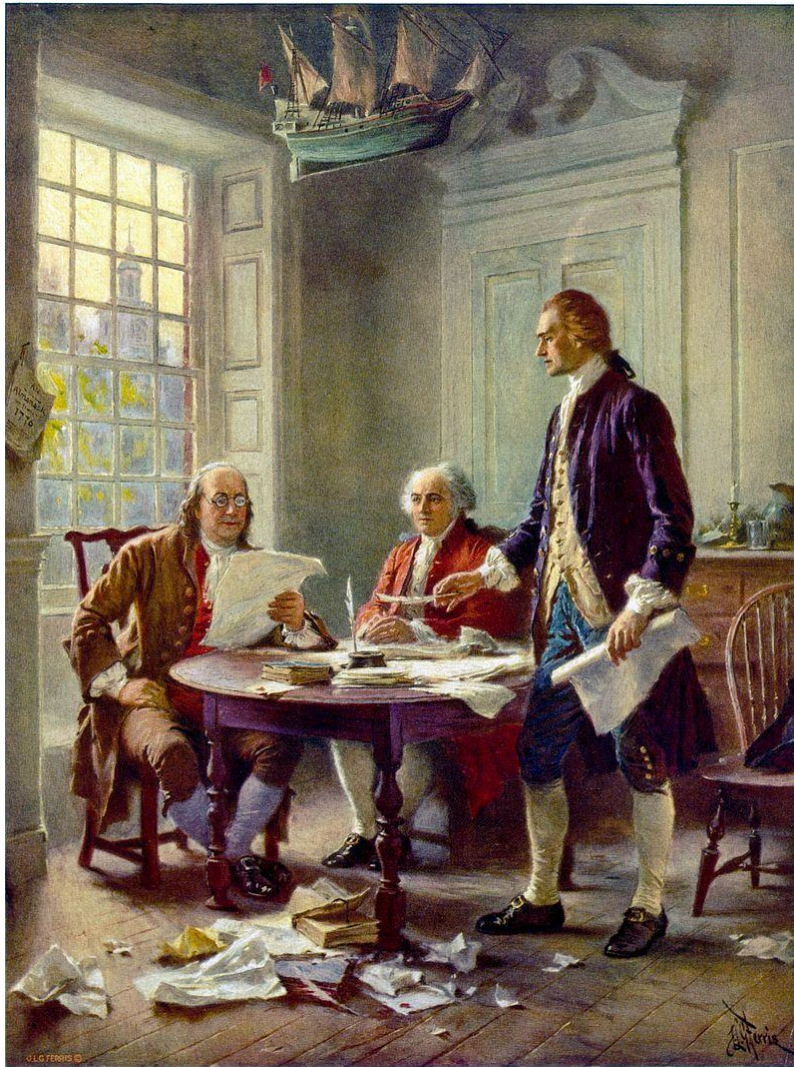
This engraving from 1789 shows the events of December 16, 1773. Dressed as American Indians, colonists dumped nearly 90,000 pounds of British East India Company tea into Boston Harbor in protest against the Tea Act.



Source 2

Writing of the Declaration of Independence

This picture shows Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson writing the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Benjamin Franklin wrote the Declaration of Independence with help from other members of the Continental Congress.



Source 3

Timeline of Events Leading to American Revolution

Year	Event
1764	Britain passes the Sugar Act on Colonists.
1765	Britain passes the Stamp Act on Colonists.
1767	Britain passes Townshend Acts on Colonists.
1770	Boston Massacre occurs when the British Army kills five Colonists.
1773	Colonists protest at the Boston Tea Party.
1774	First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
1775	Battles of Lexington and Concord occur.
1776	Declaration of Independence signed and adopted.

Item 1: Multiple Choice

In the period before the American Revolution, the colonists **most** effectively resisted British taxes in which way?

- A. voting for new governors
- B. forming their own legislatures
- C. refusing to purchase specific goods
- D. sending citizens to Britain to speak to Parliament

Item 2: Multiple Select

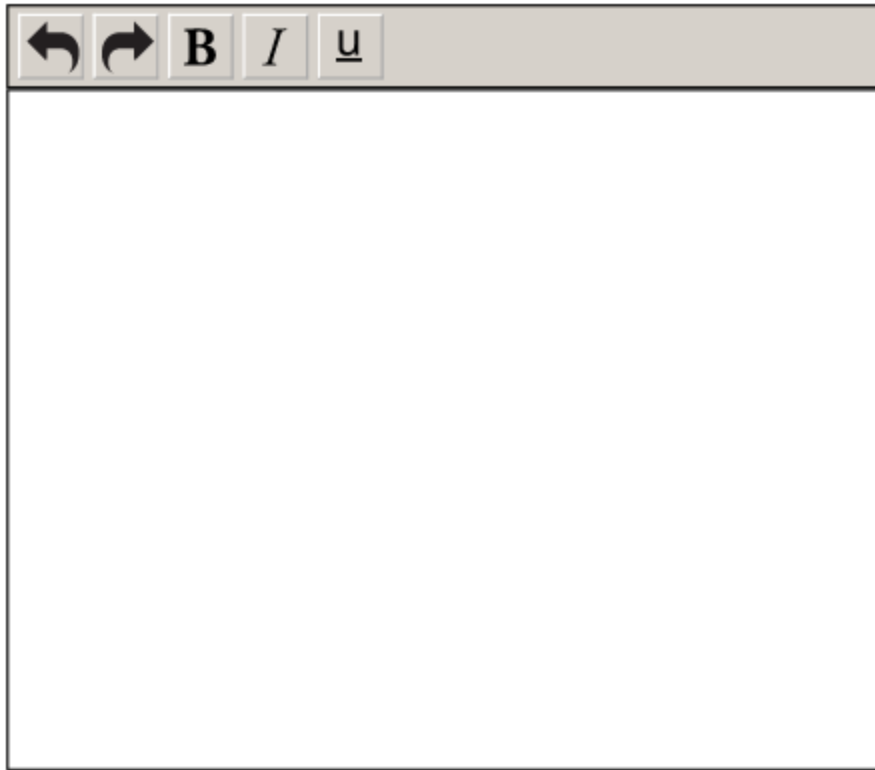
Why did the Boston colonists feel justified in destroying the tea cargo?

Select the **two** correct answers.

- A. They knew Parliament planned to declare war on them soon.
- B. They were able to buy tea from the Dutch and Spanish at much cheaper prices.
- C. They believed Parliament was giving an unfair advantage to British merchants.
- D. They wanted to control all of the merchandise that came into and out of the port of Boston.
- E. They disliked having to provide quarters for British officers and soldiers in their homes.
- F. They felt that they had not been represented in the decisions about taxes made by Parliament.

Item 3: Constructed Response

Explain how two ideas from the events leading up to the American Revolution became the foundation of democracy for the new nation's government.



A text entry box with a toolbar at the top. The toolbar contains five icons: a left-pointing arrow (undo), a right-pointing arrow (redo), a bold letter 'B', an italic letter 'I', and an underlined letter 'u'. The main area of the box is empty, intended for the student's response.

Scoring Information	
Score Points	Description
2	Student explains how two ideas from the events leading up to the American Revolution became the foundation of democracy for the new nation's government.
1	Student explains how one idea from the events leading up to the American Revolution became the foundation of democracy for the new nation's government.
0	Student's response does not explain how the ideas from the events leading up to the American Revolution became the foundation of democracy for the new nation's government.

Scoring Notes:

- Colonists were upset as they felt they were being unfairly treated by Britain through taxes in which they had no say. The new nation's government created was based on popular sovereignty.
- Boston Tea Party served as an example of the right of the people to protest. The right of free speech and to protest became a part of the first amendment in the Bill of Rights.
- The Declaration on Independence stated why they wanted to be free from Britain. The Declaration of Independence stated that all men are equal, and everyone has the right to life, liberty, and happiness.
- Accept any other reasonable answers.