

# Time Machine (1773): The Boston Tea Party

By Boston Gazette, adapted by Newsela staff on 05.10.16

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This 1846 lithograph by Nathaniel Currier was entitled "The Destruction of Tea at Boston Harbor"; the phrase "Boston Tea Party" had not yet become standard. Contrary to Currier's depiction, few of the men dumping the tea were actually disguised as Native Americans. Nathaniel Currier, Wikimedia Foundation

*Newsela Editor's Note: This article appeared in the December 20, 1773, edition of the Boston Gazette. It announced what came to be known as the Boston Tea Party. On December 16, colonists dumped 342 chests of tea into the Boston Harbor to protest the British tax on tea. Their motto was "No taxation without representation."*

BOSTON, *December 20*

Last Tuesday people assembled at the old south meeting-house. They met to ask why the ship Dartmouth had not been sent back to London yet. The Dartmouth was carrying the East-India Tea from England. They found out that the owner of the ship had not tried to leave yet. They urged him to demand permission for the ship to leave. They waited until the next Thursday. The owner of the ship told them he did not get permission. They encouraged him immediately to ask the leader of the town. Near sunset the owner informed them the governor would not let the ship leave. The governor did not want the ship to leave until the tea was unloaded and the tea tax was paid. A tax is money that goes to the government. This tax would go to the British government. The people in Boston did

not want to pay the British government because the British government was not helping them. The people were trying to return the tea safely to London. They thought the government was ruining that plan. They ended their meeting. Look what followed, though! A number of brave and committed men were determined to save their country from ruin. So, they emptied every chest of tea on board the three ships into the sea. They did not damage the ships. They emptied 342 chests of tea in less than four hours. The owners are pleased that their ships have been cleared. The people are congratulating each other on this happy event.

### **Captain Told Transporting His Cargo Of Tea Would Be Dangerous**

We hear that a ship bringing more teas had arrived in Delaware. However, the pilots had refused to bring her up the river to Philadelphia. Letters sent to the captain and passengers said it would be dangerous for them to continue. It would mean the certain end of both the ship and cargo. Because of this, it was said they had gone off. It was uncertain whether they went back to where they came from or to another port. The only thing certain was that they would not be permitted to land the tea in any part of that land.

We are informed that the people in Lexington, Massachusetts, decided not to use tea of any sort. This includes teas from the Netherlands or England. They burned every bit of tea in the town in one giant fire.

We are also informed that Charlestown is planning to follow their excellent example.

We suggest that people urge their governments to stop the use of tea. Without this, it will be hard to get rid of the tea.