

COLONISTS REBEL

Although Parliament agreed to repeal the Townshend Acts, it kept the tax on tea. The colonies began to unite in order to fight this hated tax on tea.

The Boston Tea Party

In 1773 British ships carrying tea sailed into Boston and other colonial ports. In early December, **Abigail Adams**, the wife of John Adams, reported that the colonists were preparing a protest.

On a quiet December night, a group of colonists disguised as Mohawks crept toward Boston Harbor. "Boston Harbor will be a teapot tonight!" they shouted. They boarded a ship and dumped 342 chests of

tea into the harbor. This important event came to be known as the **Boston Tea Party**.

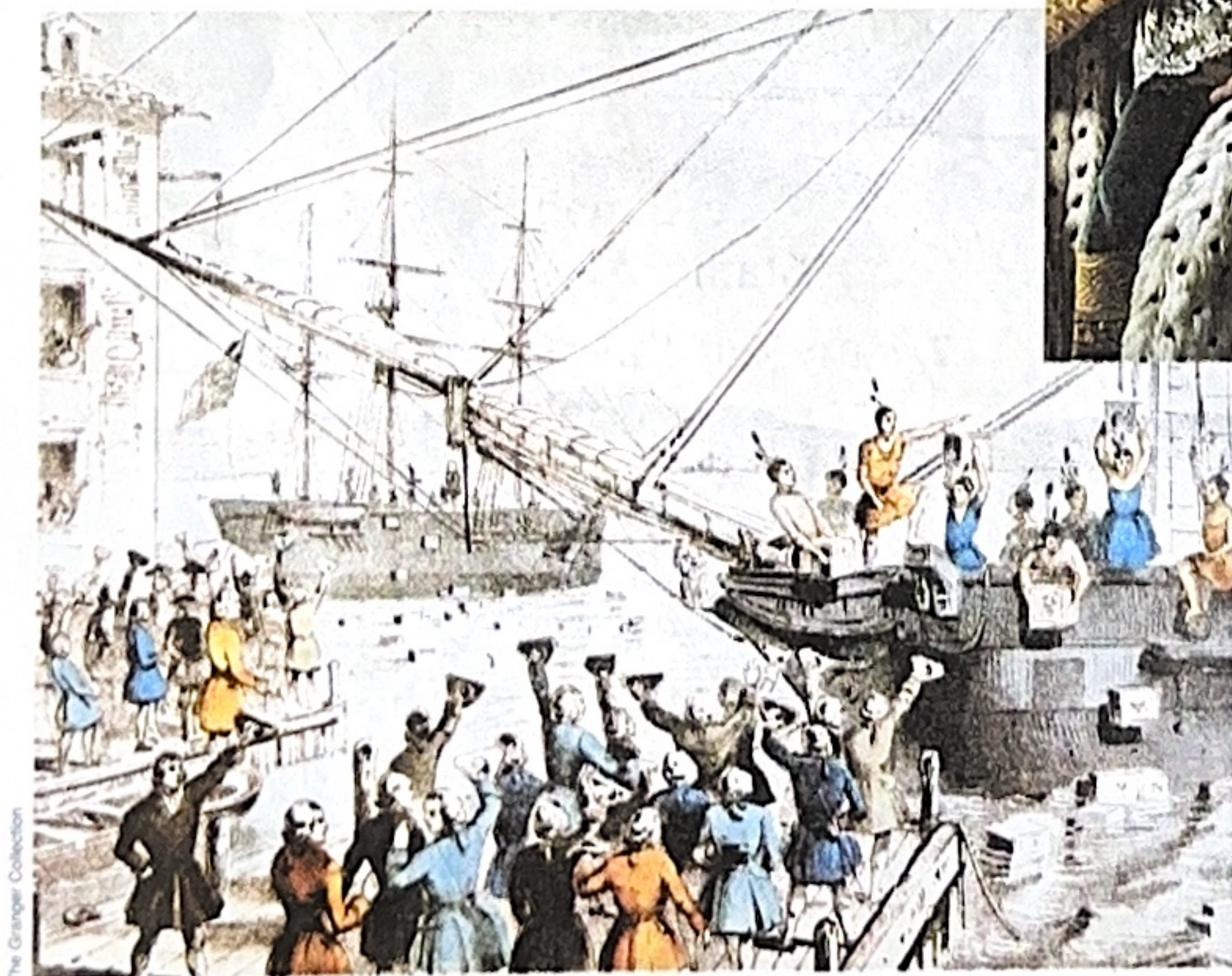
Because the men were disguised, the governor did not know whom to charge for destroying the tea. When King George III learned of the "tea party" he demanded that Boston be



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Nathaniel Currier painted the **Boston Tea Party** in his work *The Destruction of Tea at Boston Harbor* (above). After the tea was thrown overboard, King George III (above right) blockaded Boston Harbor (right).

punished. In 1774 Parliament decided to close the port of Boston until the colonists paid for the tea. Town meetings were banned.

Parliament also ordered colonists to give food and shelter to British soldiers in the colonies. The angry colonists called Parliament's actions the **Intolerable Acts**.

Unknown to the British, the Committees of Correspondence sent food and money to help the colonists in Boston. Then they worked to decide on a united response to the Intolerable Acts.

WHY IT MATTERS

The Committees of Correspondence helped the colonists become more united. The colonists learned about the power of working together. The committees saw that they could make Britain repeal some of

its taxes. John Adams felt that the Committees of Correspondence had become "a great political engine." That engine would move the colonies closer to liberty.

✓ Reviewing Facts and Ideas

SUM IT UP

- To raise money after the French and Indian War, Parliament passed the Stamp Act in 1765 to collect taxes from the colonies.
- The Townshend Acts of 1767 made colonists pay taxes on everyday products. After the Boston Massacre the Committees of Correspondence were formed to tell colonists of important events.
- The Boston Tea Party led to Britain's strongest actions against the colonies, the Intolerable Acts of 1774.

THINK ABOUT IT

1. Why were many colonists against the Stamp Act?
2. How did the Sons and Daughters of Liberty fight the Stamp Act and the Townshend Acts?
3. **FOCUS** What acts of the British Parliament caused the colonists to rebel against the British?
4. **THINKING SKILL** What *effects* did the Committees of Correspondence have? Explain your answer.
5. **WRITE** Suppose you were a member of the Massachusetts Committee of Correspondence. Write a few paragraphs describing the Boston Tea Party and the Intolerable Acts.

