

For Crown or Colony? Glossary

As students play MISSION 1 – “For Crown or Colony,” they will encounter many of the terms below. Some of the terms, listed in this document in purple, are included as “smartwords” in the game. Additional terms are included for teacher and student reference.

accosted – harassed or confronted.

apprentice – a young person (14-21) who lives with and works for a master craftsman in order to learn a trade, craft, or profession.

artisan – a highly skilled craftsman.

barracks – soldiers’ living quarters; in Boston, warehouses and other buildings were used as barracks for British soldiers.

Boston Massacre – the name given to an incident that took place on March 5, 1770, in which five civilians were killed by British soldiers; it is one of the events that helped spark the American Revolution.

Boston Tea Party – the name given to an act of political protest by American colonists, directed against the economic policies of Great Britain, in which colonists destroyed many crates of tea on ships in Boston Harbor; it is another one of the events that helped spark the American Revolution.

boycott – an agreement among people to stop buying certain goods or services as a form of political protest.

braggart – a person who often brags.

broadside – a large sheet of paper with text printed on one side, designed to catch a reader’s attention and declare the latest news, government proclamations, public service announcements, opinions or advertisements.

brood – a group.

Coercive Acts – referred to by the colonists as the “Intolerable Acts”; passed by the British Parliament in 1774 in response to the Boston Tea Party; only the King or governor could appoint officials in the colonial government; limited town meetings; closed the Port of Boston until the East India Company was paid back for the destroyed tea; made it possible for troops to be housed in empty buildings.

Committees of Correspondence – bodies organized by colonial governments to facilitate written communications between colonies; planned the meeting of colonial representatives in Philadelphia in September-October 1774.

concede – to acknowledge (usually reluctantly) as true.

consort – to associate with.

court-martial – to try in a military court.

cur – a despicable or awful person.

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customs – taxes that must be paid on imported items.

daft – foolish.

Daughters of Liberty – Colonial women who actively supported the patriot cause by not buying British goods or by making local substitutes, such as homespun cloth.

Declaratory Acts – passed by the British Parliament in 1766 in response to the repeal of the Stamp Act; reasserted Parliament's right to pass laws in the colonies.

decreed – declared.

deface – to damage the appearance of something, usually by writing or drawing on it.

desert – to leave one's military post against orders.

detain – to restrain or make someone wait.

doff – to remove one's hat, often as a sign of greeting or respect.

East India Company – a private English trading company, supported by the British government, whose monopolistic practices in the American colonies led to the Boston Tea Party.

effigy – a crudely made doll or model of a person that is made in order to hang, burn, or damage in protest.

empire – a political state which extends its economic and/or military power over a large geographical area, often encompassing people and cultures distinct from those of the central power.

export – goods or merchandise produced in one country that are then shipped to and sold in another country.

First Continental Congress – a body of representatives from twelve of the thirteen colonies which met in Philadelphia in 1774, largely in response to the so-called "Intolerable Acts" imposed by Great Britain.

fleece – the woolly coat of a sheep.

foolhardy – reckless.

French & Indian War/Seven Years' War – A conflict between the British colonists and the French colonists and Native Americans over westward expansion into the Ohio Territory. The British eventually won the war, and imposed taxes on the British colonists to pay for it.

hastily – quickly.

heed – listen to.

homespun – woven using homemade thread.

hue and cry – public outrage.

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import – to bring in items from a foreign country.

imports – products brought from one country into another, usually for sale.

in vain – for no good reason.

indentured servant – in return for clothes and food, an indentured servant works without pay for a master for seven years.

indigo – a natural blue dye that is extracted from a tropical plant.

journeyman – a young person who has completed an apprenticeship, and may now work as an employee for a master craftsman. Unlike apprentices, journeymen are paid a wage.

King George III – the King of Great Britain from 1760 to 1820. Imposed many different taxes on American colonies in an effort to pay for military efforts in North America and elsewhere. Viewed as the classic symbol of British sovereignty and tyranny – “The Crown.” Blamed by many for prolonging the conflict with the colonies and the American Revolution unnecessarily, and ultimately losing the colonies.

libel – to write or publish false, negative things about someone.

Liberty Tree – an elm tree in Boston that was the site of early colonial protests against British rule.

lobsterback – an offensive term for a British soldier, so called because of their bright red coats.

lout – a stupid or rude person.

Loyalist – a colonist who remained loyal to the British crown.

martial – relating to war.

martyr – a person who dies or greatly suffers for their belief in a cause.

master – the title by which an indentured servant or apprentice would refer to his overseer and/or guardian, usually a skilled artisan or craftsmen.

merchant – one involved in the buying and selling of goods.

musket – a firearm used by both colonists and British soldiers.

Navigation Acts – a series of laws which restricted the use of foreign shipping in the trade of Great Britain; required all imports to the colonies to be brought from Britain, no matter how cheaply they may be obtained elsewhere. One of the causes of colonial resentment which led to the American Revolution.

Non-importation agreement – an agreement among merchants to stop purchasing goods from Britain in order to pressure the British parliament into agreeing to the merchants' demands.

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pamphlet – a printed leaflet or booklet, often containing political, philosophical or religious arguments, essays, and commentaries on current events. Pamphlets were usually printed and distributed quickly and cheaply.

Parliament – the highest law-making body in Britain, consisting of the House of Commons, House of Lords, and the sovereign (monarch).

Patriot – one who loves his country; in the colonial context, one who supported defending American interests from British policies that were perceived as unfair, and/or was in favor of the political separation of the colonies from Great Britain.

pennywhistle – a small, inexpensive woodwind instrument, also known as a tin whistle.

persecute – to treat unfairly because of one’s beliefs or identity.

pious – deeply religious.

Poorhouse – a government-run institution that provides housing for the needy and often requires those staying there to perform labor.

Proclamation of 1763 – a decree issued by King George III at the end of the French and Indian War to establish boundaries of the new territories acquired from the French. The Proclamation forbade colonists to buy land or settle west of the “Proclamation line” that roughly followed the Appalachian Mountains.

proof – the first draft of a document, especially before it is printed for sale or circulation.

protest – to object to something; also to demonstrate one’s objection by any number of means, i.e., marching or boycotts.

provoke – to prompt or motivate the actions of another person.

quartering – giving shelter to someone, often under duress; the Quartering Act passed by Parliament in 1774, one of the so-called “Intolerable Acts,” required colonists to house British soldiers in unoccupied buildings.

rabble rouser – a person who causes an unnecessary commotion.

rag – (slang) a newspaper considered to be of low quality.

redcoats – British soldiers (so named because of the color of their uniform).

regiments – military units of ground troops consisting of hundreds of soldiers organized into multiple battalions.

representation – refers to the right to have the political interests of a community or area spoken for by an elected official in a government body; the rallying cry of the Sons of Liberty and other patriots was “No taxation without representation!”

ropewalk – a long, narrow path or building where ropes are made.

ruffian – a tough person, a criminal.

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search and seizure – a provision that allowed British soldiers and officials to inspect and confiscate colonial property without a search warrant or probable cause.

silversmith – a person who makes things out of silver.

slander – to say false, negative things.

slugabed – a lazy person who sleeps in late.

smuggle – to bring items into a country illegally either because they are not allowed in that country, or to avoid paying taxes.

snuff – finely ground tobacco for chewing or inhaling.

Sons of Liberty – a secret organization of American patriots who protested the British Crown's new taxes on the colonies, beginning with the Stamp Act of 1765.

spinning bee – a gathering of the Daughters of Liberty to spin thread and produce homespun fabric in support of colonial boycotts against imported British goods.

Stamp Act – a British law passed in 1765 that was meant to raise revenue through taxing all colonial commercial and legal documents, newspapers, cards, and other printed material.

tallow – animal fat that can be processed and used to make soap and candles.

tarring & feathering – a form of public humiliation and punishment, usually carried out by a mob, in which the victim is covered first in tar, then feathers. In colonial Boston, British officials and their colonial supporters, or loyalists, were sometimes tarred and feathered by angry townspeople.

tarry – to delay or be late in doing something.

taunt – to insult or mock someone.

tax collector – a government official whose job it is to collect tax revenues.

taxes – the money that the government requires people to pay, based on their income, property, or purchase of certain goods that is used to pay for a range of government functions.

Tea Act of 1773 – an Act of Parliament which allowed the East India Company to export its tea directly to the colonies, paying only a small import duty; angered the colonists and led to the Boston Tea Party.

Tory – a name originally describing a political party in Great Britain; used before and during the American Revolution to describe anyone who remained loyal to the British Crown.

Townshend (Revenue) Acts or Duties – Acts passed by Parliament which placed a tax on common products imported into the colonies, such as paper, lead, glass, and tea.

turmoil – great commotion and unrest.

typeface – a set of letters, numbers, and symbols made out of metal and wood used to create

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lines of text.

tyranny – harsh or oppressive rule by a government.

vindicate – to defend or uphold a cause.

wares – items for sale.

West Indies – a group of islands in the Caribbean Sea, where the British, Spanish, French, and Dutch empires had colonial settlements.

wharf – a man-made structure where boats can be tied up to be loaded and unloaded.

whet – to sharpen or increase.