

#1. Patriots: The Founding Fathers

Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry

King George III of England claimed that he needed to tax the colonies to pay for the French and Indian War that took the land from the French and gave the Americans land up to the Mississippi river.

The taxes would also pay for the protection of the colonists by British troops against the Native Americans.

However, the Founding Father believed that the taxes were unfair:

1. Taxes were unfair because the colonists had no representatives in Parliament (the government of Great Britain). It was “taxation without representation”. The colonists were willing to pay taxes, but they wanted a say about what they could be taxed on and how much taxes they should pay.
2. The English in Great Britain had a say or representation on taxes! Why not the English in the colonies?
3. Staying part of the British empire would always cause them to be second-class citizens without any political rights to representation.
4. Some colonists felt that the British were treating the colonists like slaves in order to become rich off the trade and taxes.
5. Some Americans were too poor to pay the required taxes.
6. Some merchants thought the taxes were unfair and hurt business. They believed Britain ruled the colonies for its own benefit and wealth, and did not consider the best interests of the colonists.
7. Some of the taxes were: the Sugar tax, the Stamp Tax, the Townshend Acts which taxed glass, lead, paints, paper, and tea,