



WAS IT A PARTY?

Unit 6: Lesson 12

What is a party?

What happens at a party?

What doesn't happen at a party?



Let's Think

Definition - Use your own words to define "party"	Common Reasons for a Party
Things that you WOULD expect to happen at a party	Things that you would NOT expect to happen at a party

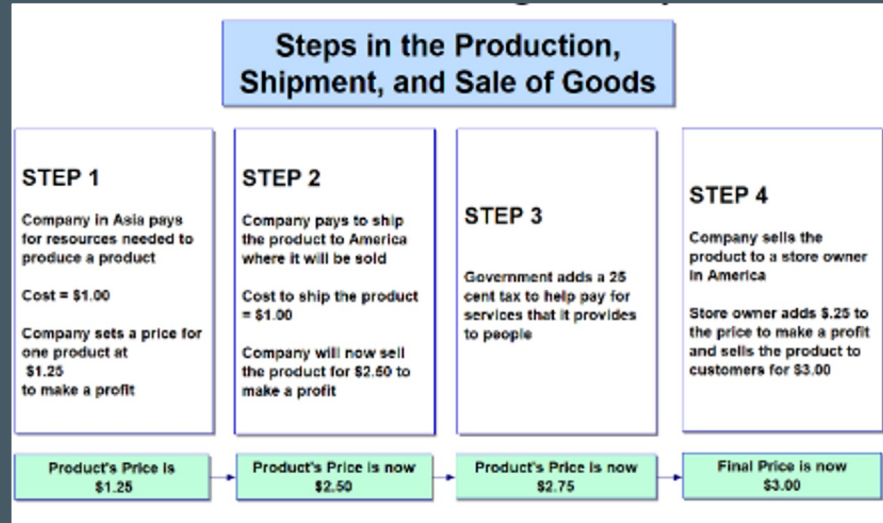
PARTY



Your job:

You need to cut costs so that more people buy your product because it's cheaper.

Problem Solving Activity: Analyze the flow chart.



How can costs best be cut?

Why is your strategy for cutting costs the best strategy for the company?

Let's read about a similar problem that occurred in history and how the company tried to solve it.

Resource 3: Background Reading

What is the First Thing Many Adults Do When They Wake Up in the Morning?

Many people around the world wake up each morning and make themselves a cup of coffee or tea. Today, coffee is the favorite drink among adults in our country. Back in colonial times, the favorite drink by far was tea (as it still is in England). The sale of tea in the 1770s brought a LOT of money into those who sold it. Whether they lived in England or the colonies, Englishmen loved their tea so much that it was one product that everyone could count on people buying.

How Did Tea Become a Problem in 1773?

There was one important rule at the time. British laws in the 1770s stated that people in the 13 colonies had to buy their tea from British companies. This seems to be a reasonable law, right? After all, why should Britain allow money from the sale of tea in her colonies to go to other countries and make those other countries richer and more powerful? Think of it this way - what if your parents or guardian owned a candy store and they found that you were buying candy from someone else's store. It probably would not go over well.

But many colonists did buy tea sold by other countries. Before reading on, can you guess why the British colonists bought tea from other countries?

Why Did Colonists Buy Tea from Other Countries?

As you know, price has a big effect on what people buy. First, the cost of tea from other countries was lower than what colonists had to pay for British tea. Second, the colonists did not have to pay a tax on tea that they bought from other countries. You may recall that Parliament passed a tax on British tea to help pay for the French and Indian War. So, colonists bought tea from other countries. From England's point of view, the colonists who were buying tea from other countries were lawbreakers - smuggling illegal tea!

In 1773, the British East India Company was the biggest tea company in the British Empire, and it had a VERY BIG problem. The problem was a massive pile of tea. A major cause of the problem was that colonists were not buying British tea. The East India Company spent a LOT of money growing and producing the tea and now it had a lot of unsold tea piling high and rotting quickly. If the tea did not sell, the company might have to go out of business. Parliament did not want that to happen.

How Did Parliament Respond to Britain's Tea Problem?

On May 10, 1773, Parliament passed a law called the Tea Act. Parliament created a big incentive for colonists to buy British tea. They lowered the price of British tea so that it was cheaper than tea that the colonists could get from other countries. Who would not like that?

But the new law also had parts that angered colonists. The Tea Act allowed the British East India Company to sell their tea directly to people in the colonies rather than letting colonists sell it. This helped lower the price BUT meant that the colonists who sold tea in the colonies would be put out of business.

Many colonists were also insulted by the Tea Act. From their point of view, Parliament was trying to get the colonists to "swallow" their taxes as they swallowed the cheaper tea. This insulted colonists because it suggested that the colonists were less committed to defending their right not to be taxed without representation than to getting cheap tea.



How Did Colonists Respond to the Tea Act?

Colonists decided to **boycott** English tea meaning that the Sons and Daughters of Liberty called on all colonists to stop buying British tea. The more radical colonists even used violence against people who tried to buy or sell English tea.

Then, on November 28, 1773, a ship named the Dartmouth arrived in Boston carrying 114 chests of English tea. Colonists refused to let the tea be unloaded in Boston.

Another ship named the Eleanor carrying another 114 more chests of tea arrived on December 2nd. A third ship called the Beaver arrived with another 112 chests of tea on December 15th. The third ship was late because smallpox broke out on the ship, and it had to stay away (quarantined) from Boston for 2 weeks. Altogether, the three ships carried **92 THOUSAND** pounds of tea in over 300 chests. That much tea would be worth approximately **\$1.7 MILLION** in today's money. (see [here](#))

Did Either Side Back Down?

No. The colonists in Boston demanded that the ships return to England with the tea. The British governor of Massachusetts who was appointed by King George III said no. He stood firm, stating that the tea had to be unloaded in Boston. And he set a deadline for when it had to be unloaded - December 17th. British navy ships arrived to block the three tea ships from returning to England until the tea was unloaded in Boston. Meanwhile, colonists blocked the tea from being unloaded from the ships into Boston.

With only one day before the December 17 deadline when the Governor said the tea had to be unloaded, something had to happen. And it did.

Check for Understanding

Show what you learned by completing the questions on Resource 4.

1- Use the blank timeline below to create a timeline with the following bulleted events presented in correct chronological order from left to right.

- Deadline for unloading tea in Boston
- Ships arrive in Boston carrying tea
- Colonists started a boycott
- Tea Act Passed
- British company cannot sell its tea

Timeline Destruction of the Tea

A horizontal timeline with five empty rectangular boxes for events, each connected to a vertical tick mark on a horizontal line above them.

2- Which of the following BEST describes why Parliament passed the Tea Act?

- A. to save a company
- B. to pay for new ships
- C. to punish the colonists
- D. to increase the price of tea

3- Place a check next to any of the statements that help explain why the Tea Act angered the colonists.

- British tea would now be more expensive
- British tea was still taxed
- Colonists would lose jobs because of the Act
- Colonists now had to buy tea from other countries
- Parliament did not lower the price of coffee

What happened on December 16, 1773?

Let's read three accounts of what happened that night.

Source 3: Account of Joshua Wyeth [modified], from an interview that took place in 1826. Joshua was 16-year-old in 1773.

I was only warned about what was going to happen a few hours before it happened.

We agreed to wear ragged clothes and disguise ourselves by dressing up to look like Indians. Our closest friends did not know what we were planning to do. When the time came, we met in an old building at the wharf. We placed guards to control who could come near us at the end and middle of the wharf, and one on each ship when we took control of them.

We boarded the first ship and ordered the captain and crew to open the hatch (small door) to the ship and assured them that we would not hurt them. Some of our men jumped below deck and passed the chests of tea up to the rest of us. When the chests came to the deck of the ship, some of our men broke them open with axes while others raised the chests over the railings and threw the tea overboard. All who were not needed on the first ship went on board the other ships and did the same thing with the tea.

We found the idea of making such a large cup of tea for the fishes funny but remained quiet and used no more words than was absolutely necessary.

I never worked harder in my life.

While we were dumping the tea, people gathered around the wharf in large numbers to see what was going on. They crowded around us. Our guards were not armed and could not stop anyone who insisted on passing by them.

Source 1: Letter from Samuel Cooper to Benjamin Franklin (December 17, 1773) Samuel was 16-year-old in 1773.

As soon as the colonists heard that the Governor would not let the ships return to England with the tea, their meeting ended.

Just before it ended two or three hundred people dressed like Indians passed by the place where the meeting was held. They gave a war yell and went quickly down to where all of the tea ships were. They demanded the tea and, without any resistance, emptied all of the chests of tea into the harbor. The total number of chests was about three hundred and forty. This was done without any injury to any person and without damage to any other property.

Source 2: Account of George Robert Twelves Hewes (from an interview that took place in 1834 or 1835). Robert was 31 years old in 1773.

It was evening and I dressed up as an Indian with a small hatchet. I painted my face and hands with coal dust from the blacksmith's shop. I went down to the dock where the tea ships were. I joined many others who were dressed as I was and marched to the ships.

When we arrived, there were three people who became leaders. They divided us into three groups.

We were ordered to board the ships and obeyed. My leader then ordered me to go to the captain of the ship and demand the keys to the hatches and a dozen candles. The captain did as I asked but he also asked me to not damage the ship.

We were ordered to take all of the chests of tea and throw them overboard. We cut and split the chests with our tomahawks so that the water would ruin the tea. It took us about three hours to throw every tea chest overboard.

We were surrounded by British ships with weapons, but they made no attempt to stop us.

Check for Understanding

Show what you learned by completing the questions on Resource 6.

Resource 6: Check for Understanding

Name _____

1- Read the information in the first column. Then, look at Column 2 and circle or highlight any of the sources in which the information in Column 1 can be found. If the information cannot be found in any of the sources, do not circle any.

Information	Source That the Information is Found In		
A- 200 or 300 people dressed as Indians dumped the tea	Source 1	Source 2	Source 3
B- It took 3 hours to throw the tea overboard	Source 1	Source 2	Source 3
C- At least 340 chests of tea were destroyed	Source 1	Source 2	Source 3
D- They used tomahawks to break open chests	Source 1	Source 2	Source 3
E- No one was hurt	Source 1	Source 2	Source 3
F- No one tried to stop the people from dumping the tea	Source 1	Source 2	Source 3

2- Draw and Explain a Conclusion: If you were doing research and the only thing you know about Sources 1, 2, and 3 was who wrote them and when they were written, which source would you want to be able to read if you could only have one. Be sure to explain why you chose that source.

Does it Stick or Stray?

What parts of the image stick to the evidence?

What parts of the image stray from the evidence?

Complete Resource 7b to share your thinking.





SO, WAS IT A PARTY?

Resource 8: Was it a "Party"?

The event that you just learned about in this lesson is now known as "The Boston Tea Party." Most Americans have heard about the Boston Tea Party as it has become part of what students learn in just about every school in our country. Not only are the details of the event interesting, so is the history of naming that event.

You see for over 60 years it seems that the events of December 16, 1773, were not even mentioned in most history books. And if they were, they were referred to as "the destruction of the tea" - the same title used by Nathaniel Currier's painting for his painting.



In 2000, an award-winning historian named Alfred Young wrote a fascinating book about the Boston Tea Party. Young did a lot of research and found that the name "**Boston Tea PARTY**" did not appear in print until 1834. Prior to that, it seems that people either called it "the destruction of the tea" or did not even talk about it. Apparently, Americans did not want to draw attention to the destruction of property by the colonists who were demanding that their own property be respected (remember how the colonists complained about Parliament taking away their money through taxes and how the Proclamation Act took away some of the land they thought was theirs?).



Perhaps people did not think it was a good idea to draw attention to the questionable actions of people who they wanted to remember as heroes for standing up for people's rights.

On December 17-18 of 1773 - one day after "the destruction of the tea", John Adams wrote the following in his diary: "...this last effort of the Patriots...I greatly admire." He even suggested that the events of December 16, 1773, would be the start of an entirely new "epocha" (or era) in history - an important turning point. But then his thinking shifted a bit, and he posed an important question that needed to be considered: "**The Question is Whether the Destruction of this Tea was Necessary?**" (source [here](#)) Adams concluded that it was necessary.



to discuss: Think back to the warm-up for this lesson when you broke down the definition and characteristics of a party.

1. Were the events in Boston on December 16, 1773, a "party?" Explain why or why not.
2. Why do you think people started calling the events of December 16, 1773, a "Party"?
3. Do you think the destruction of the tea was necessary? Can you think of something that could have been done other than destroying the tea - something that showed Parliament that they would not accept taxed tea but that also did not involve the "destruction" of other people's property?

Let's Watch to Learn More.





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