Intro to the Declaration of Independence

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Introduction

Our founding documents not simply written in 1776, but were a result of a heritage spanning over	
years.	
This heritage includes 5 Liberty Charters	
1.	
2.	
3.	

The Boston Tea party not simply about excessive ______.

Remember the "pernicious design" described in the Grand ______ of 1641:



History repeats itself. And ignorance of history leads to the same pitfalls.



4. 5.

Sam Adams said in his Treatise the Natural Rights of the Colonists: "No people will tamely surrender their Liberties, nor can any be easily subdued, when knowledge is diffused and virtue is preserved. On the Contrary, when People are universally

______, and debauched in their ______, they will sink under their own weight without the Aid of foreign Invaders."

First, Taxation withoutParliament.	The colonists were being denied their right of representation in
Parliament assured the colonist that individuals	in Parliament had to represent them.
When people who make the	don't live under or aren't bound by the laws they make,
then they can't be said to truly	you.
Took recoup the debt of the French and Indian	Wars, the Crown tried to recoup the war debt through certain taxes.
Stamp taxes on and	were particularly offensive to the colonists.
The Crown also the pu	archase of certain items from certain suppliers.
To check for stamped papers and contraband it	tems, agents were using hand-written warrants called
These Writs of Assistance were essentially directed in the Magna Carta.	searches, that provided no due process as

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Meet James Otis Jr.

These warrantless searches often resulted in violators being shipped to _______ to be tried under foreign law.

Some of the abuses beside excessive taxation that prompted the Declaration in 1776 were:



James Otis Jr. was an ______ by trade.

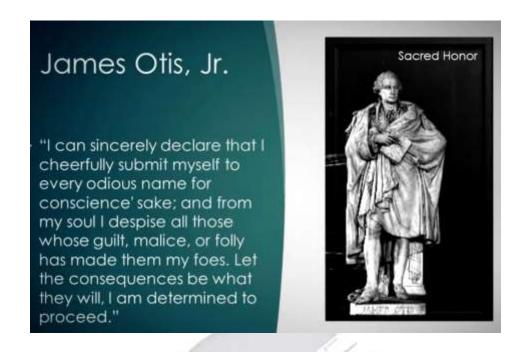
He was supposed to enforce the Writs of ______.

Yet he knew that these warrantless searches were a violation of the ______ of 1215, and the principles of English Law and the rights guaranteed to Englishmen.



James Otis Jr. decided to stand up for what is right even if he had to stand alone.

James Otis Jr. was attacked and ridiculed by many around him.



In February 1761, a full 15 years before the Declaration. Several men seek out James Otis Jr. to fight against the Writs of Assistance.

Notes:



James Otis Jr. Leads the Way

The moment James Otis Jr. took the case and quit his post, he was charged with
He risked his reputation, his life and livelihood without knowing that he would make any difference in the struggle.
With boldness and courage, he declares, "Let the be as they may, I am determined to
James Otis, Jr. declares these Writs of Assistance to be,
"the worse instrument of power, the most destructive of English
and the fundamental principles of law, that ever was found in an English law-book."
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James Otis Jr. argues against the Writs of Assistance for 5 hours in the Boston State House.
The court made no decision but took the matter under consideration.
The court was packed and in the crowd were future framers including,

John Adams who took notes that day described James Otis Jr. years later:

"Otis was a flame of Fire! With the promptitude of Clasical Allusions, a depth of Research, a rapid Summary of Historical Events and dates, a profusion of legal Authorities, a prophetic glare of his eyes into futurity, and a rapid Torrent of impetuous Eloquence, he hurried away all before him; American Independence was then and there born. The seeds of Patriots and Heroes to defend the non sine Diis animosus infans, to defend the vigorous Youth, were then and there sown. Every man of an immense crowded Audience appeared to me to go away, as I did, ready to take up Arms against Writs of Assistants. Then and there was the first scene of the first Act of Opposition to the arbitrary Claims of Great Britain. Then and there the child Independence was born. In fifteen years, i.e. in 1776, he grew up to manhood, and declared himself free."

The arguments and ideas Otis presented continued to be circulated in pamphlets years after and continued to raise awareness to the violations of the people's liberty.



The first Committees of ______ in Boston were formed 3 years later in Boston, to disseminate truth and prevent the government from "_____ the judgment of men."



The Coercive Acts

Several Laws were known as the Coercive Acts because they attended to force compliance among the American colonists.

The Crown described the colonists as radicals and selfish. The media attacked many of the framers and while the alternative media of pamphleteers promoted the principles of liberty.

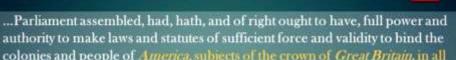


The colonists and The Sons of Liberty carried out protests against the oppressive acts such as the stamp taxes, by conducting mock hangings and funerals.

As a result of the mock hangings the tax collectors refused to do their jobs.

The Crown sent	to intimidate t	the colonists and quell unrest.	
To house and provide for the troop	os the Crown and Pa	arliament passed	Act.
March 22, 1765 Parliament passed		Act.	
The Stamp Act dictated that certain	ı goods must have t	he tax stamp. The Sons of Libert	y made their own stamp
with had the picture of a	and	to further intimidate	the tax collectors.
The resistance to the stamp act was	so fierce that the K	King repealed the Stamp Act and	the people celebrated, but
theAct	said the crown coul	ld pass any law it needed.	

Declaratory Act~ March 18, 1766



authority to make laws and statutes of sufficient force and validity to bind the colonies and people of America, subjects of the crown of Great Britain, in all cases whatsoever.

And be it further declared and enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all resolutions, votes, orders, and proceedings, in any of the said colonies or plantations, whereby the power and authority of the Parliament of Great Britain to make laws and statutes as aforesaid is denied, or drawn into question, are, and are hereby declared to be, utterly null and void to all intents and



The East _____ Trading Company was targeted because it was the government mandated tea company.

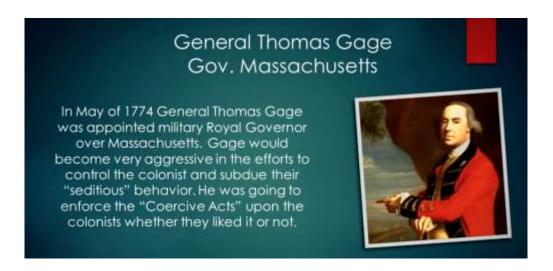
After the Boston Tea Party the Company was reimbursed by the John Hancock and the colonists for their losses.

The Crown and Parliament continued to squeeze the colonist by passing the Intolerable Acts.

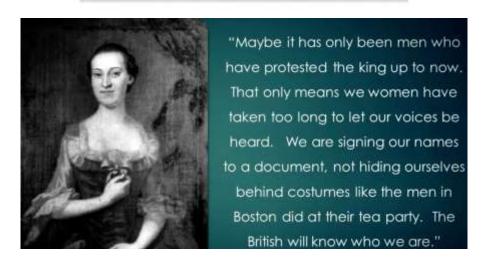


The statue of _____ in New York didn't last long after the colonists realized that things were getting worse.

Governor Gage, Penelope Barker & Lists of Grievances



General Gage was told by the Crown toammunition and powder.	_ the colonists. He decided instead to confiscate
The Crown restricted importation of arms except by obtaining a _	M. Par
Governor Gage restricted public meetings by requiring atheir rights as Englishmen.	for public meetings contrary to
A Tea Party of colonial women was gathered by a lady named home of Elizabeth King in Edenton, North Carolina.	at the
These ladies signed a petition of boycott saying, "We will purchase	e no English-made goods until the laws that have
our people shall be repealed.	SITY



Many of the ladies who boycotted English-made goods risked life and livelihood, because they were tied to men
who made their living as English
Troops march into Charleston, South Carolina to seize the
Interior Colonial Vowder Managine, Charleston, S. C.
20, 000 armed colonists march into Boston in response to Gage's provocations.
Paul Revere was 3 times during his ride and was helped by others to escape.
As Revere announced that the regulars were coming he was met with calls from the sentinel to keep!
July 1776, the Declaration was issued as a list of against George III.
The declaration demonstrated how the King had violated the principles of the 1100 Charter of Liberties and the provisions of the Magna Carta of 1215, The 1628 Petition of Right, The Grand Remonstrance of 1641 and the 1688 English Bill of Rights.
Those violations included Legislation without, mandated, warrantless
searches, denial of, imposition of foreign courts, and disarming the people, and

NOTES:

suppression of free speech.