

## **Behind the Scenes of the Boston Tea Party - Lexile 800**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Boston Tea Party**

The Boston Tea Party was a big event in American history. It happened when a group of people called the Sons of Liberty, dressed as Native Americans, got onto three British ships. They took 342 chests of tea and threw them into the Boston Harbor. They did this because they didn't like the British government giving a lot of power to a British company called the East India Company, which controlled tea in America.

### **The Plan Was Carefully Made**

The Sons of Liberty were very careful when they carried out their plan. Even though they threw away over 92,000 pounds of tea (which would be worth millions today), they didn't hurt the ships or take anything from them, except the tea. They didn't even steal from the ships! Some people in Boston tried to take the tea for themselves, but the leaders of the group stopped them. Afterward, the Sons of Liberty made sure to clean up and fix anything they had moved during the event.

### **The Tea Floating in the Water**

The tea that was thrown into the water made the harbor messy. It floated there for a long time, and to keep people from trying to steal it, the Sons of Liberty went out on boats to sink it with clubs and oars. Even though the Sons of Liberty had a tough reputation, no one was hurt or killed during the Boston Tea Party.

### **Staying Secret**

After the event, the people who took part in the Boston Tea Party were worried they might get in trouble if anyone found out who they were. Only 116 people are known to have joined in, but many more kept their identities a secret. Some people left Boston right away to avoid getting caught. Only one person, Francis Akeley, was caught and put in jail by the British.

**1. What does the careful planning and respect for private property by the Sons of Liberty during the Boston Tea Party suggest about their goals?**

- A) They were focused only on causing chaos
- B) They wanted to show respect for American property while protesting
- C) They were trying to start a war with Britain
- D) They didn't care about the consequences of their actions

**2. Why might the Sons of Liberty have chosen to dump tea into the harbor rather than just stop its sale or protest peacefully?**

- A) They wanted to make a bold statement and get the attention of the British government
- B) They thought throwing tea was the only way to make the British understand their frustration
- C) They hoped to make the tea worthless so it could never be sold
- D) They believed it would be the fastest way to get rid of tea in America

**3. The Sons of Liberty took great care not to harm anyone or damage property during the raid. What does this tell us about their values and methods of protest?**

- A) They wanted to use violence to get their message across
- B) They were focused on peaceful protest despite their rebellion
- C) They didn't believe in their cause enough to cause harm
- D) They wanted to show the British they could destroy everything without consequences

**4. What might have been the reason the participants in the Boston Tea Party quickly fled Boston after the event?**

- A) They were worried about the British finding out who they were and punishing them
- B) They felt guilty about the damage they caused
- C) They thought they had done enough to make their point and wanted to disappear
- D) They were afraid the colonists would be angry with them

**5. Considering the Boston Tea Party was an act of civil disobedience, what can we learn about how protest movements might balance their message with responsibility?**

- A) Protests are most effective when they are violent and cause chaos
- B) Protests that show respect for property and people can still have a powerful impact
- C) The goal of a protest is to make as much noise and damage as possible
- D) Protests should only focus on the issue at hand without worrying about consequences

## Answers

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. B