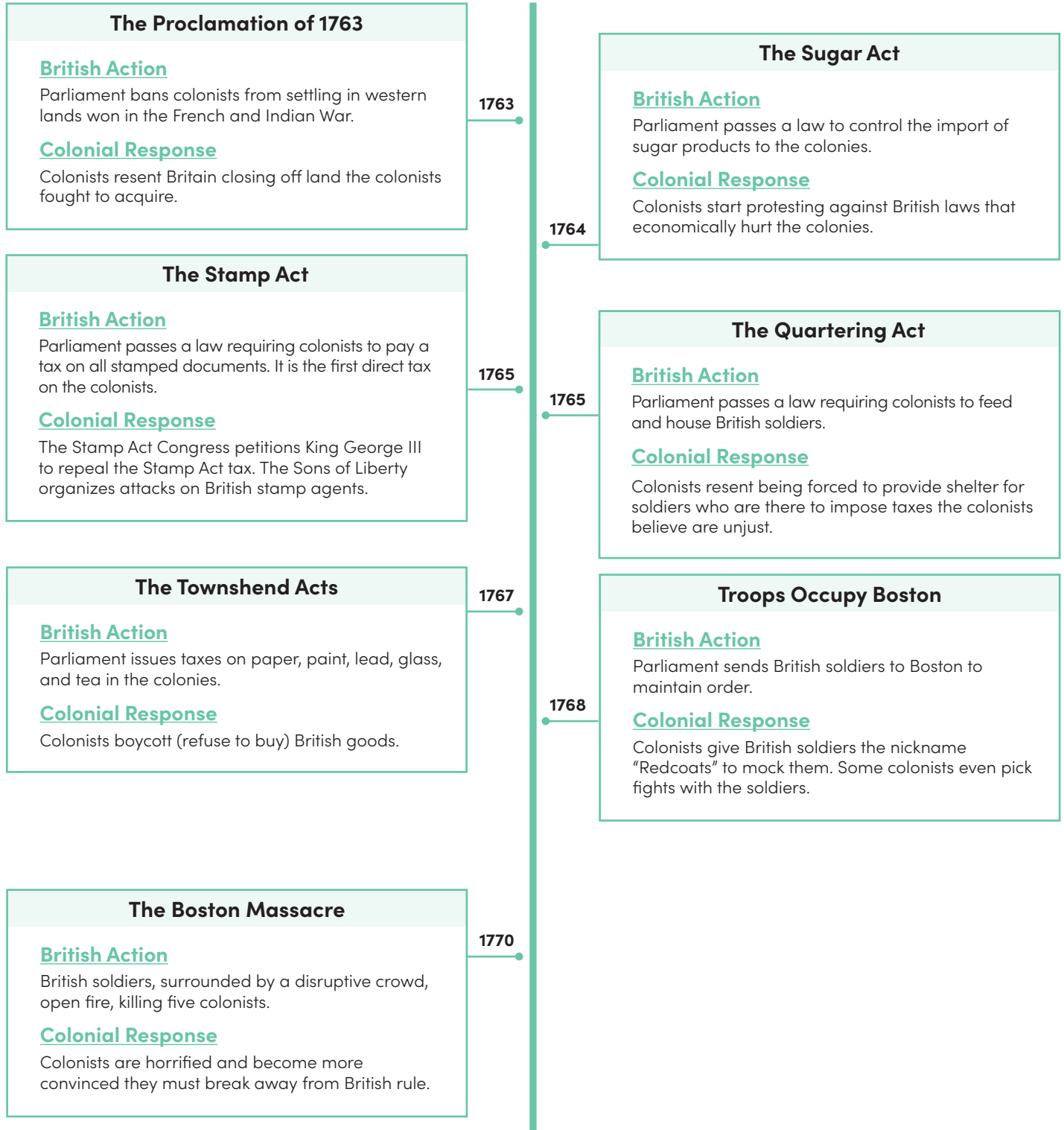


American Revolution Timeline: Events Leading to the Boston Massacre

The Boston Massacre started as a scuffle with British soldiers on March 5, 1770, and ended with five colonists dead. Those deaths were the result of seven years of rising tensions. The Boston Massacre is best understood in the context of several other key historic events.

Read the timeline. Then complete the sentences on page 2.



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Use the information in the timeline to complete the sentences.

1. The British Parliament passed the **Proclamation of 1763** to keep colonists out of newly claimed territory won during the **French and Indian War**. Colonists had helped to win that war and did not think it was fair to keep them off the lands.
2. In 1764, Parliament issued the **Sugar Act** to control the **import** of sugar products. Colonists organized protests asking Britain to stop making policies that economically hurt the colonists.
3. Parliament did not listen to colonial concerns and issued a direct tax in 1765. The Stamp Act asked for payment every time colonists put a stamp on paper **documents**. Colonists who wanted to negotiate with Britain formed the Stamp Act Congress. They petitioned King **George III** to repeal the tax. Other more frustrated colonists formed the **Sons of Liberty**, an underground organization willing to use intimidation and violence to force British stamp agents to resign.
4. Parliament also passed the **Quartering Act** in 1765. It required colonists to feed and house the British **soldiers** who were there to enforce laws the colonists thought were unjust.
5. In 1767, Parliament issued the **Townshend Acts**. These were the most extensive taxes yet, imposing extra fees on the purchase of essential goods like paper, paint, lead, glass, and **tea**. Colonists were furious and wanted to hurt the British economically, so they organized a **boycott** of all British goods.
6. By October 1, 1768, the first group of British soldiers arrived in the city of **Boston** to maintain order. Colonists called the hated British soldiers "**Redcoats**" and treated them like invaders.
7. On March 5, **1770**, British soldiers fired into a disruptive crowd, killing **five** colonists. The incident was called the **Boston Massacre**.

Use the information above to answer the following question.

8. Many historians identify the Boston Massacre as a turning point that convinced the colonists to overthrow British rule and gain independence. If you were a colonist in the 1760s, which British action prior to the Boston Massacre would you have been most angry with, and why?

Answers may vary.
