

Sons and Daughters of Liberty^

Directions: Answer these questions after you read the passage. Remember to begin your answer by restating part of the question, use direct evidence from the text, and explain your thinking.

Have you ever been part of a secret club? Did your club use code words and symbols or have special rituals? One of the most famous secret clubs in history was formed just before the start of the American Revolution. Members of the club were called the Sons and Daughters of Liberty. This group of passionate Patriots began meeting in secret to protest the British taxes and laws. They had to meet in secret in order to avoid being arrested by British soldiers. The Sons and Daughters of Liberty typically met quietly at night in local taverns.

1. According to the first paragraph of the text, what was the purpose of the Sons and Daughters of Liberty?

The secret group was first formed in 1765 in response to the Stamp Act. All of the members of the group were Patriots. Many of the group members worked as lawyers, merchants, and craftsmen. While most colonists did not like the Stamp Act, the Sons of Liberty took it a step further. They organized themselves in order to protest the act. The first group formed in Boston and called themselves the Loyal Nine. As more Patriots wanted to participate in the protests and the group began to expand, its name was changed to the "Sons of Liberty."

2. Explain why the Sons of Liberty first organized.

The Daughters of Liberty were also passionate Patriots. These women helped support the Sons of Liberty and spread the word about ways to protest British goods. They would promote drinks other than British tea and hand-sew clothes rather than buy British clothes. These women organized themselves and held meetings, just like the men did. Their contributions to the revolutionary efforts were just as important as the men's. They fought just as hard for liberty.

3. Summarize the impact of the Daughters of Liberty.

One of the most memorable acts of the Sons of Liberty took place on August 14, 1765. Samuel Adams called it "a day to forever be remembered in history." The Sons of Liberty hung a sculpture of Andrew Oliver in Boston. Oliver was the city's stamp tax agent. The model's head was cut off, stomped on, and burned. A mob of several thousand people then stormed to Oliver's home and office. Word of this protest spread around the colonies quickly, and the Sons of Liberty's reputation grew. By the end of the year, the Sons of Liberty could be found in every colony. Their main goal was to force stamp distributors to resign.

4. Describe the impact of the hanging of Andrew Oliver's sculpture.

The Sons worked hard to spread the word about the protests against Great Britain. They sent out pamphlets and newspapers. Although some of the protests turned violent, most of the work the Sons did was non-violent. The majority of the influence the Sons had was through the papers they printed. Many of the Sons were printers, which made it easy to get negative stories about the British out to the other colonists. The printers were especially passionate about spreading these messages because they were the ones who were going to be heavily taxed by the Stamp Act. By 1766, many of the British officials who were supposed to be enforcing the Stamp Act had gone into hiding. They were scared of the Sons of Liberty. On March 1, 1766, the Stamp Act was **repealed**, or cancelled.

5. Explain how the Sons of Liberty spread the word about protesting Great Britain.

As issues between the colonists and the British government continued to mount, the Sons of Liberty continued to meet. When three ships arrived in Boston in 1773 with British tea, angry members of the Sons of Liberty dumped the tea into the Boston Harbor. This famous event is called the **Boston Tea Party**. The colonists were angered again the next year when the **Coercive or Intolerable Acts** were passed. The Sons of Liberty came together and boycotted. Their protests led to the first meeting of the **Continental Congress**. Each of these key events were led by the Sons of Liberty and were part of the Road to the Revolution.

FAST FACT: The name “Sons of Liberty” came from a speech that Isaac Barre gave to the British Parliament in February of 1765. Barre was a member of Parliament. He called the colonists in America who had opposed unfair British treatment the “sons of liberty.”

FAST FACT: Famous Sons included Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, Benedict Arnold, John Hancock, and Patrick Henry.

FAST FACT: Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams and a Daughter of Liberty, famously asked her husband to please “remember the ladies” in her letters to him. She was one of the first women to speak up for women’s rights. Abigail hoped her husband would remember the ladies when he was writing the new country’s important foundational documents.

6. What series of events led to the First Continental Congress?

7. Explain the meaning of the name “Sons and Daughters of Liberty.” Why do you think the Patriots chose this name?