

Transcript Boston
Listen and fill in the gaps!

- Teacher:** Okay, everyone. Quiet now please. Quiet, thanks, calm down.
Okay, hi, good morning.
Now, today we are going to learn a bit more about the American Revolution and why it happened, okay. So today Helen is going to tell us about
- Helen:** the Boston Tea Party. I've done a poster with some important information and a few pictures so that you can look at the same time as you listen.
- Well, the first thing to say is that the Boston Tea Party wasn't a party at all. The name is a kind of joke, okay. But the Tea Party was a very important bit of the history of how America became independent.
- Now I want to say a bit about Boston. Because Boston was a very, very important place in America in the 17hundreds. It was an important port, you know, ships went in and out and took things in and out of America. And don't forget that in those days America was still a colony of Britain, okay.
- And you see in the 17hundreds, especially after about 1730 the government in Britain started to ask the Americans to pay money, taxes. And the Americans weren't very happy about that, not happy at all. So things weren't very good between Britain and America at that time. And it got worse. Because in 1770 there was a thing called the Boston Massacre.
- Student 1:** What was that?
- Helen:** It was when British soldiers, there were British soldiers there in Boston;
There was like a fight and the soldiers fired their guns and they killed five American men. So you can imagine the Americans weren't very happy with the British. Anyway, the Boston Tea Party:
So, a lot of Americans weren't happy with the British and in 1773 in Boston harbour there were three ships which had tea on them. They were delivering the tea for a big British company. And this was in December. In fact it was the night of the 16th of December. The 16th of December 1773.
And some American men decided they wanted to go on the ships. The men called themselves "The sons of Liberty".
- Student 2:** And how many men were there?
- Helen:** How many? Well, there were three groups of men. And there were about 15 men in each group. And what they did: they dressed up to look like Native Indians. And in the evening they went on to the three British ships. And they took the big boxes of tea and they started to throw all the tea into the water, into the sea. And the people of Boston watched them and cheered and waved. They thought it was great.
- Student 1:** Helen, how many boxes of tea were there, do you know?
- Helen:** Yes, it's here somewhere. Oh, yes. There were about 350 big boxes of tea. And it all went into the sea. Imagine, I mean 350 boxes, that's a lot of tea. And, of course, the British company lost a lot of money. And the Americans said they wouldn't pay for the tea. So the British government was very angry with them. In fact, they closed Boston harbour.
- Student 1:** So this thing, the Boston Tea Party, why was it so important?
- Helen:** Well, you see, it was one of the first times that the Americans really said "we don't want the British here, we don't want to pay taxes". So it was one of the things, I mean not the only thing, but one of the things that got more Americans to think like that. They started to think about being independent.

Teacher: Thanks Helen, that was really interesting.