

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Boston Tea Party



- 1 The early days of this country were full of drama. Emotions ran high. The Colonists wanted to be free of England. They wanted to start their own country because they did not like the way the English were treating them. They wanted to live how they liked. They were willing to fight for their freedom. That's exactly what they had to do.
- 2 The Boston Tea Party took place in 1773. It happened before the Revolutionary War actually began. It was called a party, but it really wasn't. The colonists in Boston, Massachusetts, were angry. The English had put a tax on tea and many other things the colonists used.
- 3 In mid-December, English ships arrived in Boston Harbor. There were three ships, which were named the *Dartmouth*, the *Beaver*, and the *Eleanor*. They were carrying a lot of tea that belonged to an English company. That company did not have to pay the same tax that the Colonists did. The colonists decided to protest. They wanted to strike out against the English.
- 4 On December 16, late at night, about 50 colonists came aboard the ships. They were dressed as Mohawk Indians. Everyone knew they were not Indians, though. They called themselves the Sons of Liberty. Samuel Adams led them. Adams was a patriot. That means he wanted the colonies to be free of English rule.
- 5 The Sons of Liberty destroyed the tea. There were 342 chests in all. First, they used axes to split open the chests. Then they threw the tea into the harbor. On the shore, a crowd of onlookers cheered. They had successfully protested against the English tax. Later, the colonists made sure the chests of tea were sunk. They did not want any of it landing onshore.



- 6 The English had every right to be furious. They saw what happened as destruction of private property, not a protest. Then other American cities joined in the protest. They wanted England to see that they didn't like the tax, either. They threw the English tea into the ocean, too. The English became even angrier, and they wanted to punish everyone. They especially wanted to punish the people of Boston. In 1774, they closed the port in Boston. They also ended the self-government of the colony of Massachusetts.
- 7 The Colonists called these and other new laws the "Intolerable Acts." The laws only increased their desire to be free from England. Finally, in 1775, the American Revolution began. Tea became a symbol of American freedom.

36 Which question does paragraph 2 answer?

- F Why did the Boston Tea Party take place?
- G How much tax did the English put on tea?
- H Which other cities protested against the English?
- J Who were the Sons of Liberty?

37 Use this dictionary entry to answer the next question.

way (wā) *adj.* **1.** detail or respect. **2.** direction. **3.** manner or form of doing something. **4.** one's wish or will. **5.** action or experience.

Which definition is the correct meaning for the word way as it is used in the first paragraph?

- A Definition 1
- B Definition 2
- C Definition 3
- D Definition 4

38 The author wrote this passage *most likely* to —

- F amuse the reader with a funny story
- G tell how much tea cost long ago
- H warn the reader against rebellion
- J inform the reader about an historic event

39 The people of Boston *most likely* —

- A were determined to fight for their rights
- B were frightened of rebelling
- C were silly to waste so much tea
- D liked and respected the English

40 Which statement is based on an opinion?

- F The English had every right to be furious.
- G The Sons of Liberty destroyed the tea.
- H The Boston Tea Party took place in 1773.
- J In mid-December, English ships arrived in Boston Harbor.

41 If the author included more information about which other American cities joined in the protest against the English, it would belong in paragraph —

- A 1
- B 4
- C 6
- D 7



42 A student does an Internet search and finds the following information.

Keyword: Boston Tea Party

- *Boston Tea Party: Ship and Museum*
- *Boston Tea Party: Eyewitness Account*
- *Boston Tea Party Reenactment*
- *Boston Tea Party: Tourist Attractions*
- *Boston Tea Party: Prints and Images*

Which website would be *most* helpful for a student looking for information on what the Boston Tea Party was like by someone who was there?

- F *Boston Tea Party: Ship and Museum*
- G *Boston Tea Party: Eyewitness Account*
- H *Boston Tea Party Reenactment*
- J *Boston Tea Party: Prints and Images*

