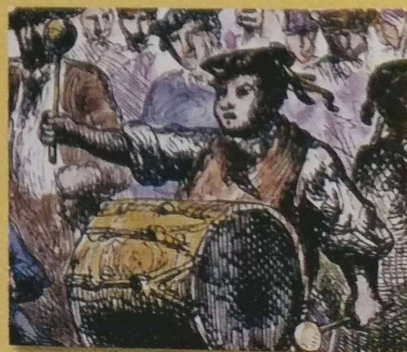


How is each picture an example of protest against the British?





Growing Tensions Between the Colonies and Britain

10.1 Introduction

In Chapter 9, you read about daily life in the American colonies in the early 1700s. At the time, the colonists were happy to be part of Britain, and they supported the British king. In this chapter, you will learn about events that changed how the colonists felt.

During the 1750s and 1760s, Britain and the colonists fought against the French in the French and Indian War. The war left Britain with huge **debts** and a large amount of new territory to protect. To solve its problems, the British government passed a number of laws, called **acts**. Some of these laws ordered the colonists to pay new taxes. The colonists became angry because they had no representatives in the British government to vote on these laws. They said that **taxation without representation** was unfair. Many colonists began to **protest** against British rule.

Look at the drawing of the parent and child at the right. Some people have compared Britain and the colonies to a parent and a child. Britain was like a parent because it created the colonies and expected them to respect its authority. The colonies were like a child who sometimes refused to obey the parent. This kind of comparison is called a *metaphor*.

As you read through this chapter, think about this metaphor of the relationship between a parent and a child. What can a parent do when a child disobeys? What happens to their relationship when the parent makes new rules or punishes the child?

Britain and the Colonies: A Strained Relationship





Here we see British troops capturing the city of Quebec in Canada in 1759. This was a key event in helping the British win the French and Indian War.

10.2 The French and Indian War

By the late 1600s, Britain, France, and Spain often fought one another to gain more territory around the world. They fought in Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

In North America, Britain and France both claimed the Ohio River Valley. British settlers wanted to farm the rich soil there. The French wanted to trap beavers so that they could trade their furs.

In 1754, the argument over the Ohio Valley turned into a war. The war lasted almost 10 years. Thousands of British soldiers fought along with many colonists against the French. Most Native Americans were friendly with the French, and they fought on their side. Some Native Americans fought on the British side. Europeans called Native Americans “Indians,” so the British colonists called the conflict the French and Indian War.

At first, Britain lost many battles. The bright red uniforms of the British soldiers made them easy targets. But things changed in 1759 when British troops captured the city of Quebec in Canada. By 1760, the French had lost Canada, and in 1762, they asked for peace. In 1763, a peace treaty gave Britain control of Canada. Britain also won the land between the Mississippi River and the Appalachian Mountains.

The war gave Britain more land, but it also created huge problems. Most important, it left Britain with unpaid bills, called *debts*. By 1763, Britain’s debts added to an amount that would be equal to more than 30 billion dollars today.

10.3 The Proclamation of 1763

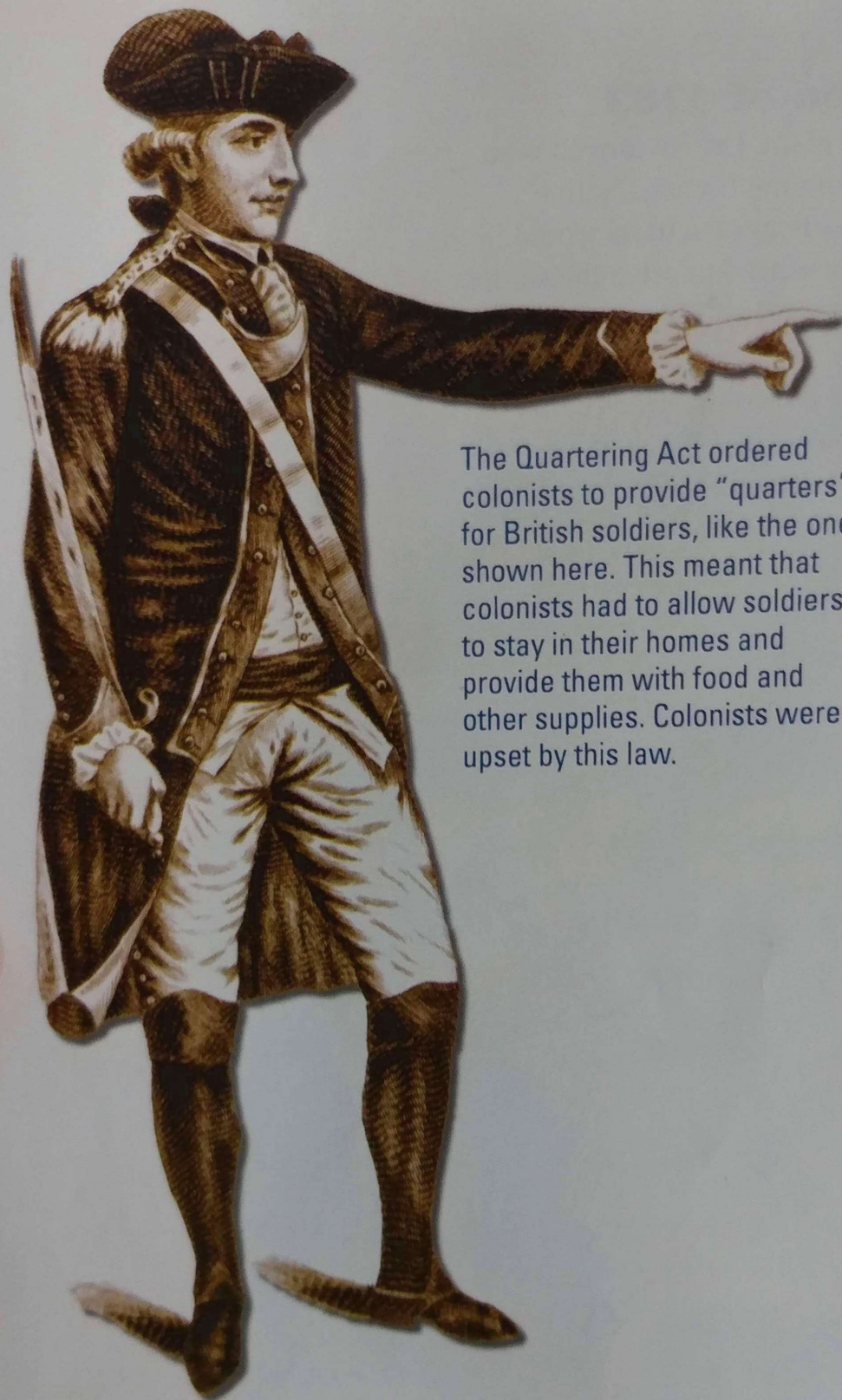
After the French and Indian War, many British moved west into the land that Britain had won from the French. Native Americans were afraid that this movement of settlers would destroy their way of life. Some of them tried to drive the settlers away by attacking their forts and houses. In 1763, nearly 2,000 settlers died because of the fighting.

To stop the fighting and to protect the colonists, Britain announced a law called the Proclamation of 1763. The law said that Native Americans could have all the land west of the Appalachian Mountains and that settlers could not move there.

The colonists disliked this law. Many of them simply ignored it and continued to move west. Even more of them didn't like the way that Britain was trying to control the colonies.

The Proclamation of 1763 prevented the colonists from moving west of the Appalachian Mountains. This was the first of many British actions that angered the colonists.





The Quartering Act ordered colonists to provide “quarters” for British soldiers, like the one shown here. This meant that colonists had to allow soldiers to stay in their homes and provide them with food and other supplies. Colonists were upset by this law.

10.4 The Quartering Act

The British government left thousands of soldiers in the colonies to protect the colonists after the French and Indian War. The British were afraid that Native Americans or Spanish settlers in Florida might attack the colonies.

Britain thought that the colonists should help to pay for this army. As a result, in 1765, a new law called the *Quartering Act* was passed by the British **Parliament**. The law was called the Quartering Act because it ordered the colonists to provide “quarters” (places to live) for British soldiers. It also ordered them to supply the soldiers with food, fuel, and candles, and to provide them with transportation.

The colonists were angry about the Quartering Act. They didn’t want to pay for British troops staying in the colonies. Many colonists treated the soldiers badly.

10.5 The Stamp Act

After fighting the French and Indian War, Britain needed money to pay its debts. Britain also needed to pay for the soldiers who remained in America. British leaders thought that the colonists should help pay for the troops who were protecting them. So, in 1765, Parliament passed a new tax law called the *Stamp Act*.

The Stamp Act said that the colonists would have to pay a tax on printed papers. To prove that the tax was paid, almost every piece of printed paper would have to show a large blue

Parliament: The lawmaking part of the British government, similar to the Congress in the United States. The American colonists did not have the right to elect representatives to Parliament.

stamp. Newspapers, pamphlets, marriage licenses, and playing cards were taxed.

News of this new tax made the colonists furious. They didn't want to pay more money for things they used every day, especially since the money went to the British government. But they were even angrier because they had no say in making the law.

Colonists showed their anger in many ways. Some of them refused to buy the stamps. Some protested in the streets and town squares. And some tried to scare off the tax collectors, at times even attacking them and their homes.

Groups from different colonies also joined together to protest the stamp tax. In several colonies, merchants (shopkeepers and other businesspeople) agreed not to buy British goods. Many women, such as the Daughters of Liberty in Boston, refused to buy British cloth and wove their own cloth instead.

In October 1765, nine of the colonies sent delegates to a special meeting in New York called the *Stamp Act Congress*. The delegates believed that all British subjects had a right to vote on taxes through their representatives. Since the colonies had no representatives in Parliament, the delegates said that it was unfair for Parliament to pass laws like the Stamp Act. They said that passing such laws was "taxation without representation."

The colonists' angry protests surprised the king and the rest of the British government. However, British leaders realized that they had no way to force the colonists to obey the Stamp Act. In March 1766, Parliament **repealed** the law. But Parliament let the colonies know that it still believed in its right to tax them.



The Stamp Act required colonists to pay a tax on printed papers. Here, we see a stamp that was put on printed papers to prove that the tax had been paid. The Stamp Act made colonists furious. Later, it was canceled.

repeal: to take back, or to cancel, a law