

## Excerpt from “Trouble Is Brewing”

Read the following excerpt aloud to a family member.

### Chapter 2

# Trouble Is Brewing

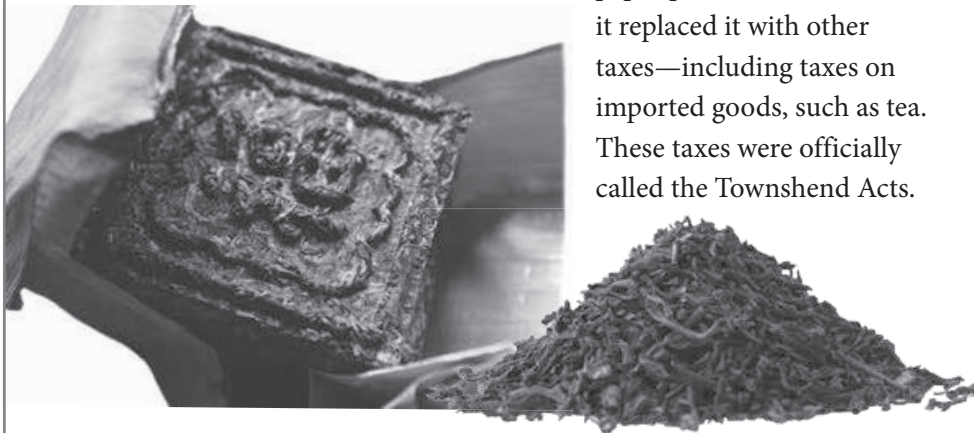
#### THE BIG QUESTION

Who were the Sons of Liberty, and what form of protest did they lead in Boston Harbor?

Some of the most passionate protests against the Stamp Act took place in Boston, Massachusetts. There, angry crowds took their frustration out on tax collectors.

A new group of protestors formed in Boston in response to the Stamp Act. The group met under a tree that they called the **Liberty Tree**. They made public speeches against taxes and the British government. They cried, “No taxation without representation!” This group became known as the Sons of Liberty.

Eventually, after much protest, the British government decided to **repeal** the Stamp Act in 1766. Parliament **eliminated** the tax on paper products, but in 1767 it replaced it with other taxes—including taxes on imported goods, such as tea. These taxes were officially called the Townshend Acts.



Buying, selling, even drinking tea became a political act in 1773.



Teapot celebrating the repeal of the Stamp Act

Tea was a popular drink in the colonies, just as it was in Great Britain. However, many people decided they would not buy British tea if they had to pay an unfair tax. And they thought the new tax on tea was every bit as unfair as the old tax on paper. After all, the new tax had been approved by the same British Parliament in London, and there were still no representatives from the 13 colonies there.

Suddenly, deciding to take a sip of tea meant something more than just having a drink. If you bought British tea, you were paying a tax, and, **indirectly**, you were agreeing that Parliament had the right to tax the colonies. On the other hand, if you refused to buy British tea, you were making a statement of a different kind: you were saying that you did not approve of—and would not accept—taxation without representation.

Colonists who were angry about the new tax agreed not to buy British tea. But they didn't stop there. They also visited inns and other places that sold tea and asked the owners to stop selling it. Many establishments agreed to **boycott** British tea.