

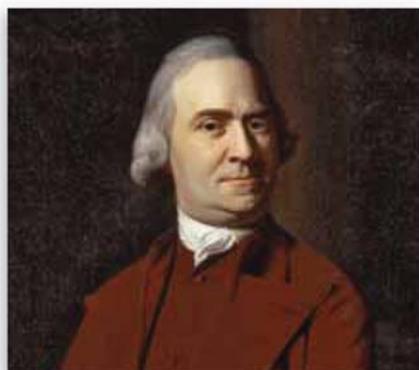
Attempting to save British tea merchants, Parliament passed the Tea Act in 1773. This law gave one company, the East India Company, the exclusive right to sell tea in the colonies. Although the act lowered the price of tea for colonists, it also restricted colonists from acting as shippers and merchants of the valuable product.

Many colonists—particularly those who had traded in smuggled tea—were enraged by the new tax. Colonists saw the tea act as another attempt by Parliament to interfere in the economic life of the colonies.

Colonial Unity Expands By this time, colonial leaders understood the importance of unity among the colonies. Therefore, Samuel Adams urged many towns in Massachusetts to establish **committees of correspondence** to communicate with their neighboring towns and colonial leaders.

In the months that followed, these groups exchanged numerous secret letters on colonial affairs and resistance to British policy. Before long, many other colonies—such as New York, South Carolina, and Rhode Island—had created similar committees of correspondence.

History Makers *Revolutionary Leaders*



Samuel Adams 1722–1803

When Parliament levied taxes upon the colonies, no one responded with greater passion and fury than Boston merchant Samuel Adams. A skillful writer, orator, and popular leader of the Sons of Liberty and the Boston Committee of Correspondence, Samuel Adams persuaded many colonists to unite against British policy and taxation. “It does not require a majority to prevail,” Samuel Adams wrote, “but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people’s minds.”



John Adams 1735–1826

While his cousin Samuel planned fiery public protests, John Adams used a quieter tactic—the law—to counter British policy. “Facts are stubborn things,” Adams wrote, “and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.” Putting this theory into practice, Adams helped draft a legal petition to the king suggesting that Parliament had no right to tax the colonies.

COMPARING *Leaders*

How did Samuel and John Adams differ in the way they protested British actions?



For more information about Samuel and John Adams, go to the **Research & Writing Center @ ClassZone.com**