

# SAMUEL ADAMS



# BIOGRAPHY

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Samuel Adams was born in Boston, Massachusetts on September 27, 1722. He was second cousin to John Adams, who signed the Declaration of Independence and was the second president of the United States.

After graduating from Harvard, Samuel Adams became involved in Massachusetts politics. In 1756, Adams worked as a tax collector in Boston, which meant he knew first-hand what happened when Britain increased taxes in its colonies, including Massachusetts.

Adams particularly resented the Tea Act of 1773, and he became involved in a campaign that ended with the Boston Tea Party. It was not a dispute about high taxes. The price of legally imported tea was actually reduced by the Tea Act. But the problem for Adams and other thinkers of the time, was that the colonies had no direct say in policies that were imposed on them by Britain. It was seen as "taxation without representation".

In every colony except Massachusetts, protesters were able to prevent imported tea from arriving or being unloaded. In Boston, however, the governor was determined not to give in. When the tea ship Dartmouth arrived in the Boston Harbor, Adams called for a mass meeting to be held at Faneuil Hall on November 29, 1773. Thousands of people arrived and demanded the ship be sent back without unloading. Then, two more tea ships, the Eleanor and the Beaver, arrived in Boston Harbor. Adams announced that "This meeting can do nothing further to save the country." He urged peaceful negotiation. However, others were determined to act. They had already planned what to do, come what may. Some had prepared Mohawk costumes to disguise their faces while destroying the tea.

Adams was actively involved in the American Revolution that followed. He escaped from the British forces at Lexington after Paul Revere warned of their approach. He also helped draft the Declaration of Rights.

After the Revolutionary War, Adams was Governor of Massachusetts, having helped to write the state's constitution. He also signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and is remembered as a Founding Father of the United States.

# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'campaign'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'campaign' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'campaign'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'campaign'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'campaign' means.

# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: prevent	stop

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

Adams and others of the time thought the Tea Act was an example of taxation without representation.

In 1773, Britain passed the Tea Act, which affected tea prices in the colonies.

Adams later signed the Declaration of Independence.

Samuel Adams was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1722.

In November 1773, Adams called for tea to stop being unloaded in Boston. The protest became known as the Boston Tea Party.

Adams was interested in politics, and he worked as a tax collector.

In the American Revolution that followed, Adams was a key figure.



# Get to the facts

1 Where was Samuel Adams born?

2 Who was Samuel Adams' second cousin?

3 Which Act did Adams oppose in 1773?

4 Where did the tea ships arrive?

5 What did Adams sign in 1776?

# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

## The Boston Tea Party

It was November 29, 1773. I went to the meeting at Faneuil Hall because I was angry about the Tea Act. When I realized tea ships were arriving into harbor, I ran outside... (now complete the story)

**Below is a plain text version for printing:**



## Understanding words:

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- c Write a new sentence using the word 'campaign'.
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## Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – prevent                      Synonym – stop

## Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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- 2 Who was Samuel Adams' second cousin?
- 3 Which Act did Adams oppose in 1773?
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## **Make a story...**

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# Samuel Adams

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