

WebQuest

Boston

1 Introductory quiz

Work in groups of between two and four. Find the answers to the following history questions using the website below:

1. Who was the vanguard of English settlers led by in 1624?
2. When was the colony of Massachusetts Bay established?
3. Where was Harvard College founded?
4. What industries were fortunes made in during the industrial boom?
5. What was the "Big Dig"?

http://uk.holidaysguide.yahoo.com/p-travelguide-239205-boston_history-i

2 Tea at a party!

Boston is probably best known for the infamous 'Boston Tea Party'. Obviously the people there were just following the instructions on the packet which said 'add water'. What was the 'Boston Tea Party'? And why was it so important?

<http://www.bostontepartyship.com/activities.asp>

(With this link you will have to click on the *Tea Party Gazette* and this will open a PDF document.)

Stage 1

Work in four groups and try and find the answers to the following two questions:

Group A

1. When was the 'Tea Act' passed? (Made a law.)
2. How many chests of tea were on board the 'Beaver'?

Group B

1. On what date was the tea emptied into the harbour?
2. Name three of the 'Sons of Liberty'.

Group C

1. Why did Britain need to tax the American colonies?
2. How many cups of tea could be made from 342 crates of tea on the three ships?

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Group D

1. What kind of shop did Benjamin Edes have?
2. How many chests of tea were emptied into the Boston harbour?

Stage 2

Your teacher will give you instructions for this round.

Stage 3

Now, working in your group (A, B, C or D), read through the *Boston Tea Party Gazette* newspaper article and write five more questions.

Stage 4

Your teacher will give you instructions for this round.

3 Grammar - abstract nouns and nominalization

'An abstract noun is a word that names a quality, idea, or feeling instead of a person, animal, place or thing.'

Source: Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners of English, 2002

Concrete nouns are nouns you can see, smell, touch, hear, or taste. (For example table, chair, train, or hamburger.) Abstract nouns are different. We cannot see, smell, touch, hear or taste them. Consider the following example:

Joseph's bravery in rescuing the small dog from drowning amazed his family and friends.

We can "see" Joseph and the dog and his family (concrete nouns), but we cannot "see" his bravery (abstract noun).

a) The following quotations were made by Benjamin Franklin, a famous Bostonian. He often used abstract nouns in his speech. Locate the abstract nouns in the following quotations:

- " *The absent are never without fault. Nor the present without excuse.* "
- " *If passion drives you, let reason hold the reins.* "
- " *Let thy discontents be thy secrets.* "
- " *Admiration is the daughter of ignorance.* "

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- " *The proof of gold is fire...* "

Benjamin Franklin 1706-1790, American Scientist, Publisher, Diplomat

Source: <http://www.bellaonline.com/ArticlesP/art14071.asp>

b) Can you think of five more examples of abstract nouns? Check your answers with your teacher.

c) Nominalization is the process of turning a verb or an adjective into a noun. Consider the following example:

" *Let thy discontents be thy secrets.* " - Benjamin Franklin

In this example, the word "discontents" has been used as an abstract noun. We cannot see, smell, touch, hear or taste "discontents". However, in the following quotation, the same word, in a different form (discontented) has been used as an adjective, in order to pre-modify the noun "man".

" *The discontented man finds no easy chair.* " - Benjamin Franklin

If we were to change "discontented" (an adjective) into "discontents" (an abstract noun) we would have nominalized the adjective.

De-nominalize the abstract nouns you found in Benjamin Franklin's quotations, and turn each abstract noun into an adjective or verb or both if possible. You might find that the noun does not change.

4 Vocabulary - British English and American English

Read the following story. Look at the words which are in italics (e.g. *pavement*). They are British English words. Use the website to find the same words in American English.

A Sweet Story

I was walking along the *pavement* in Boston looking for somewhere to eat lunch when I saw a friend leaning over the open *bonnet* of his car. I stopped to ask him what was wrong, had he run out of *petrol* or broken down, but all he was doing was cleaning his *windscreen*. I looked down and saw the hose snaking across the *pavement* towards the *taps* on the wall behind the *dustbins*. I said goodbye and carried on walking. As I passed the car I noticed the *boot* was open. I glanced inside and was surprised to see it was full of

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sweets. I was about to ask my friend why he had a *boot* full of *sweets* when my *mobile phone* rang, I answered the call and by the time I'd finished he'd driven off in his car. The next time I saw him I

<http://www.effingpot.com/>

5 A Boston tour

a) Your teacher will put you into a group. Look at the website below and find out as much as you can about the places on your tour. Look at your 'trail' and write five questions for the other groups to answer.

Group A: Chapter 1

Group B: Chapter 2

Group C: Chapter 3

Group D: Chapter 4

http://www.nps.gov/bost/freedom_trail_ch1.htm

b) Next, in your groups, try to find the answers to the questions another group has written.

6 A look at Poe

a) Start off by reading a short summary of Edgar Allan Poe's life, using the following website:

http://www.poemuseum.org/poes_life/index.html

b) Now try and answer the ten questions about Edgar Allen Poe on this online quiz:

http://www.poemuseum.org/educational_resources/for_students.html

c) Now, read the summary about Edgar Allen Poe from activity a) again and check your answers to the online quiz.

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7 Extra websites

Activity 2

<http://www.ctbw.com/jones.htm>

A simplified account of the “Boston Tea Party” that can be used by lower level students.

Activity 4

<http://englishclub.8m.com/ukus1.htm>

Another site which looks at the differences between American and British English.

Activity 6

<http://www.poemuseum.org>

Extra information about Edgar Allan Poe.

General interest

http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/north_america/boston