From resistance to revolution (1763-1775)

Source 3 The Stamp Act Crisis (1765-1766)
George Grenville, first lord of the treasury, announced plans to impose a stamp tax in America, (a tax on any printed material such as newspapers, books, playing cards, and all legal documents). The colonial assemblies argued that since Americans were not represented in Parliament, that body could not tax them (« no taxation without representation»). However Parliament passed the legislation. The reaction in America, partially coordinated by resistance groups calling themselves the Sons of Liberty, was immediate and violent. Rioting crowds forced distributors to resign. Governors could not compel the distribution of stamps, and thus the tax did not enforce itself. The repeal of the Stamp Act in March 1766 was a major defeat for Britain. Without question the Stamp Act crisis weakened royal authority in the colonies, heightened American suspicions about British policy, and encouraged further resistance.


Source 4 American patriots dealing with a custom official in 1774
The man who has been tarred and feathered is probably John Malcolm, a British customs official who strongly supported British regulations and taxes. Printed for Carrington Bowles. No. 69 in St. Pauls Church Yard, London, (23 x 14.5 cm). The American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA.

Source 5 The Boston tea party, December 16, 1773
The Boston Tea Party was a protest by the American Colonists against the British regarding the tea taxes that had been imposed on them. This resulted in the passage of the punitive Coercive Acts in 1774 and pushed the two sides closer to war.

Destruction of tea at Boston Harbor, N. Currier (firm), 1846, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C., USA.
Source 4 Some of the Founding Fathers' famous quotes

“The distinctions between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers, and New Englanders are no more. I Am Not A Virginian, But An American!”.


"It is a common observation here that our cause is the cause of all mankind, and that we are fighting for their liberty in defending our own".

Benjamin Franklin, Letter to Samuel Cooper, May 1, 1777.

QUESTIONS
1. Introduce all documents, separating primary and secondary sources.
2. Explain why the Americans rebelled against Britain (sources 3, 5 and 6).
3. Describe how they conducted their rebellion. (all sources)
4. Describe who were the people who rebelled against Britain? (all sources)