

Name _____

Author's Purpose

- The **author's purpose** is the reason or reasons the author has for writing.
- An author may write to persuade, to inform, to entertain, or to express feelings and ideas.

Directions Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

In 1773, American colonists held the Boston Tea Party, raiding three British ships in Boston Harbor. They dumped more than three hundred crates of British tea into the water. They were protesting England's taxes on the American colonies. Eight months earlier, the British government had created a tax on all tea shipped from England to America. The

colonists were furious. On the night of December 16, 1773, approximately one hundred colonists led by Samuel Adams stormed the British ships waiting to unload their tea. By dumping all the tea into the harbor, the colonists let the king know that they would not stand for his high taxation.

1. What is the author's purpose in this passage?

2. What happened as a result of the English tax on tea in the American colonies?

3. List some facts you learned about the Boston Tea Party in this passage.

4. What words or phrases does the author use to show how upset the colonists were with the English taxes?

5. In your opinion, is the author's purpose achieved? Why or why not?



Home Activity Your child analyzed the author's purpose in a passage about the Boston Tea Party. Ask your child to describe an event that happened at school. After he or she has finished, ask your child to explain the purpose in describing the event. Was it to inform, persuade, entertain, express himself or herself, or a combination?