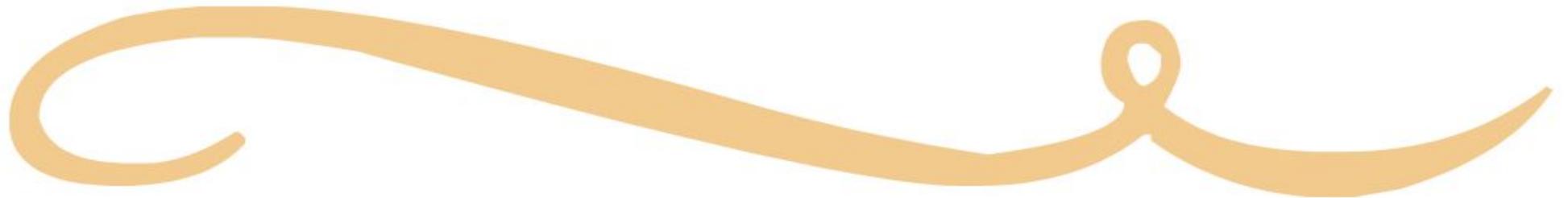


Fraunces Tavern

The role of taverns during the American Revolutionary War

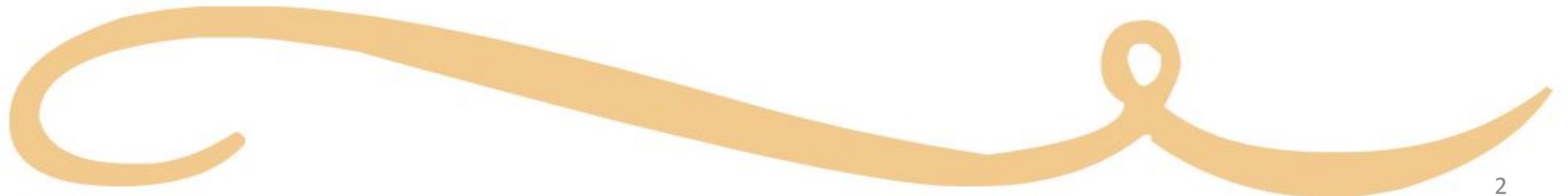


Objectives

Students will explore the role of taverns in colonial America.

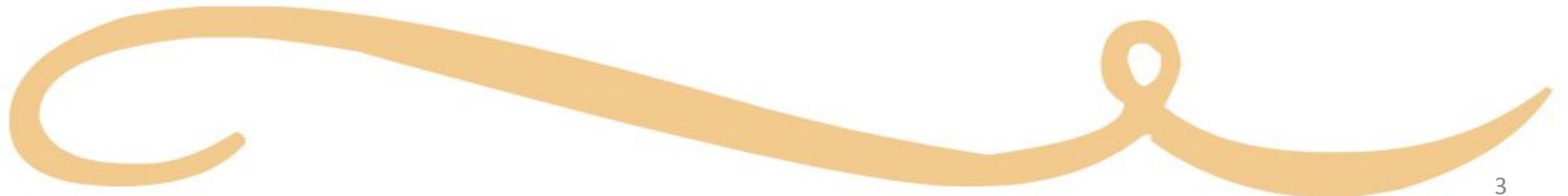
Students will learn about the role of Fraunces Tavern in New York City history.

Students will apply what they have learned by answering several questions throughout the lesson.



VOCABULARY

- **BROADSIDE** - a single sheet of paper that delivered the latest news, government proclamations, or even poems. They were hung up in public places, like taverns, ensuring everyone was able to receive important information.
- **LOYALIST**- a person who remains loyal to a ruler or government, especially in the case of a political revolt. In the Revolutionary War, those who supported the British rule.



VOCABULARY

- **PATRIOT** - those who rebelled against British rule and fought for independence from the British empire to create the United States. A patriot also means a person who supports their country.
- **PARLIAMENT** - a legislative part of government, like Congress in the United States. Parliament represents the people, makes laws, and oversees the functions of government. The British Parliament works with the King or Queen to govern their nation.
- **TAVERN** - a place to eat and drink. Taverns also acted as a public gathering space where people exchanged ideas and beliefs.



What was New York City like in the 1700s?



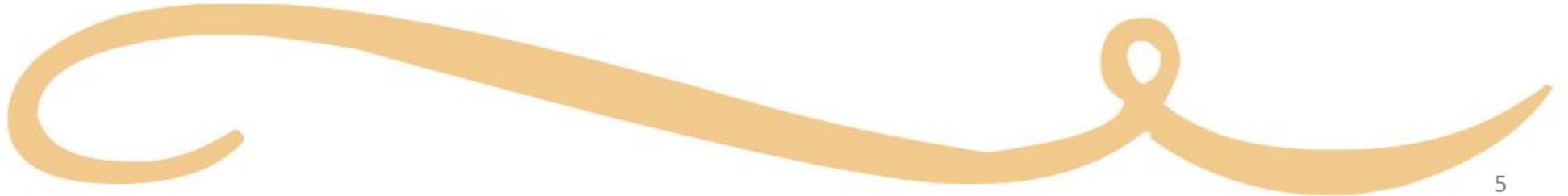
54 Pearl Street—the building that would become Fraunces Tavern—was built in 1719.

Look at this picture of the tavern. How would you describe the building to someone who hasn't seen it? How is it different from other buildings you have seen in the city?

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If you stood outside Fraunces Tavern in the 1700s, you would...



Southwest View of Fort George with the City of New York

SEE: the docks lined with ships. Merchant ships were unloading goods from other colonies or around the world. This included things like tea, molasses, and manufactured goods. Enslaved people were also imported by merchants from Africa and the Caribbean. The colonies exported a lot of raw materials, like lumber, tobacco, cloth, and furs.

If you stood outside Fraunces Tavern in the 1700s, you would...

HEAR: the loading and unloading of cargo from nearby ships, the sounds of horses and wagons. You would also hear many different languages being spoken, since New York was a center of trade.



click to listen to the sounds of the wharf!

SMELL: the ocean and the harbor, the horses and livestock being brought into the city. You might also smell Samuel Fraunces preparing an ordinary service (or what we call “lunch” today), the smell of sautéed meat, freshly baked breads, and even spices like cinnamon and nutmeg from his pastries.



Do you think this was a good location for a tavern? Why?

What is a tavern?

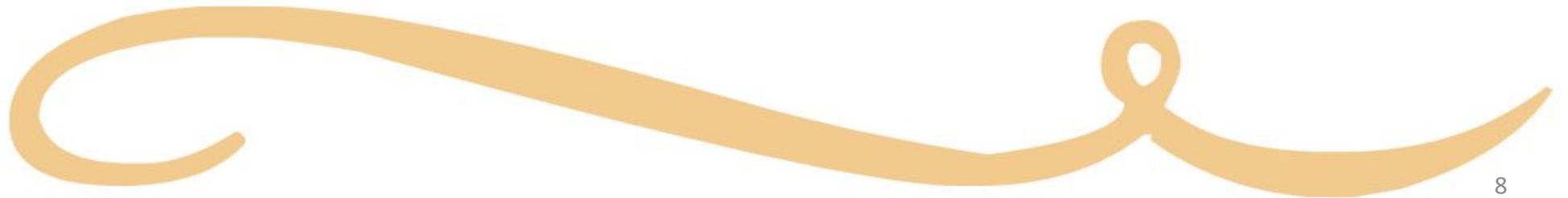
Taverns were a center of life for colonists during the 18th century. They were a place for both locals and travelers to gather. You could grab a bite to eat, drink, conduct business or even gamble. Taverns were essential for the spread of information.



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Samuel Fraunces: Tavern Keeper

Fraunces arrived in NYC in 1755. Not much is known about his life before he came to New York. Between 1758 and 1762, Fraunces operated a tavern called The Freemason's Arms. This tavern became a headquarters for the Sons of Liberty in the years before the American Revolution.

On January 15, 1762, Fraunces purchased a new tavern and named it the Queen's Head Tavern, in honor of the British Queen Charlotte. This tavern would eventually become known as Fraunces Tavern.



Why do you think the name changed? Why might people not want to call the tavern after the British queen?



Today, Fraunces Tavern is most famous for its Long Room, the site of Washington's Farewell.

On December 4, 1783, George Washington and his officers celebrated the end of the war, and said goodbye to each other. Washington left Fraunces Tavern and returned to his home in Virginia, not knowing he would return in a few years as the first president of the United States.

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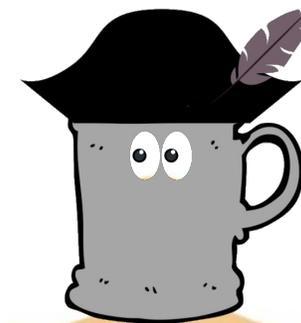
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Fraunces Tavern Museum's Long Room



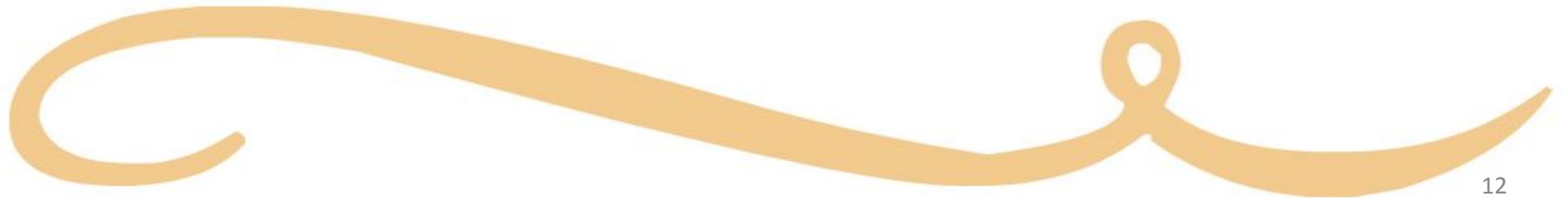
The Long Room represents what a typical tavern space looked like in the 18th century. This kind of room is called a **period room**— a room recreated using furniture, plates, and other objects original to the period. Almost all of the artifacts in the room are over 200 years old - the table is over 250 years old!



What do you think people did in taverns? Compare your answers to the information on the next slides!

Food & Drink

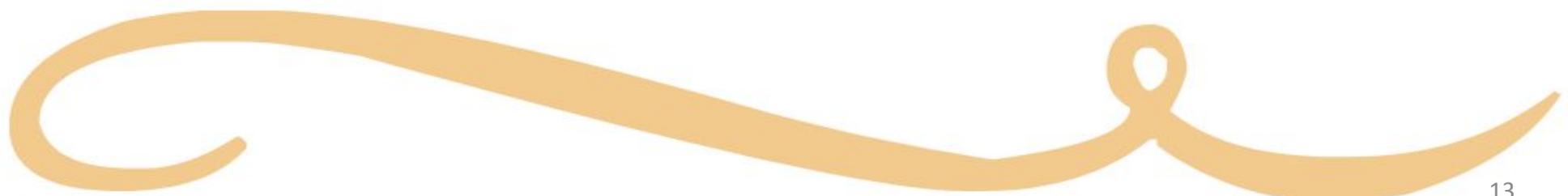
Drinking was a major part of social life in the 18th century. One of the most popular drinks was a punch made from imported rum, water, sugar, citrus fruits, and spices. Punch was served in large bowls and passed from one drinker to the next, each person drinking directly from the bowl.



Food & Drink

Samuel Fraunces was famous for his cooking skills. He served meat dishes like beef, veal, and pork chops. There was always fresh seafood on the menu because the tavern was next to the water. On any given day you could be served lobsters, oysters, fish, and even turtle! Fraunces' specialty was desserts. He served pies, puddings, cakes, and tarts.

Fraunces was different from other New York City tavern owners because he offered take out service for those who couldn't stay to eat in the tavern. He even catered private events in people's homes.



Food & Drink



Watch this video as Jessica shows you the leftovers of an 18th century meal.



How is the food of 18th century taverns different from what you eat today? How is it the same? What food would you like to eat in a tavern?

Click the CC button to turn on captions.

Games & Leisure



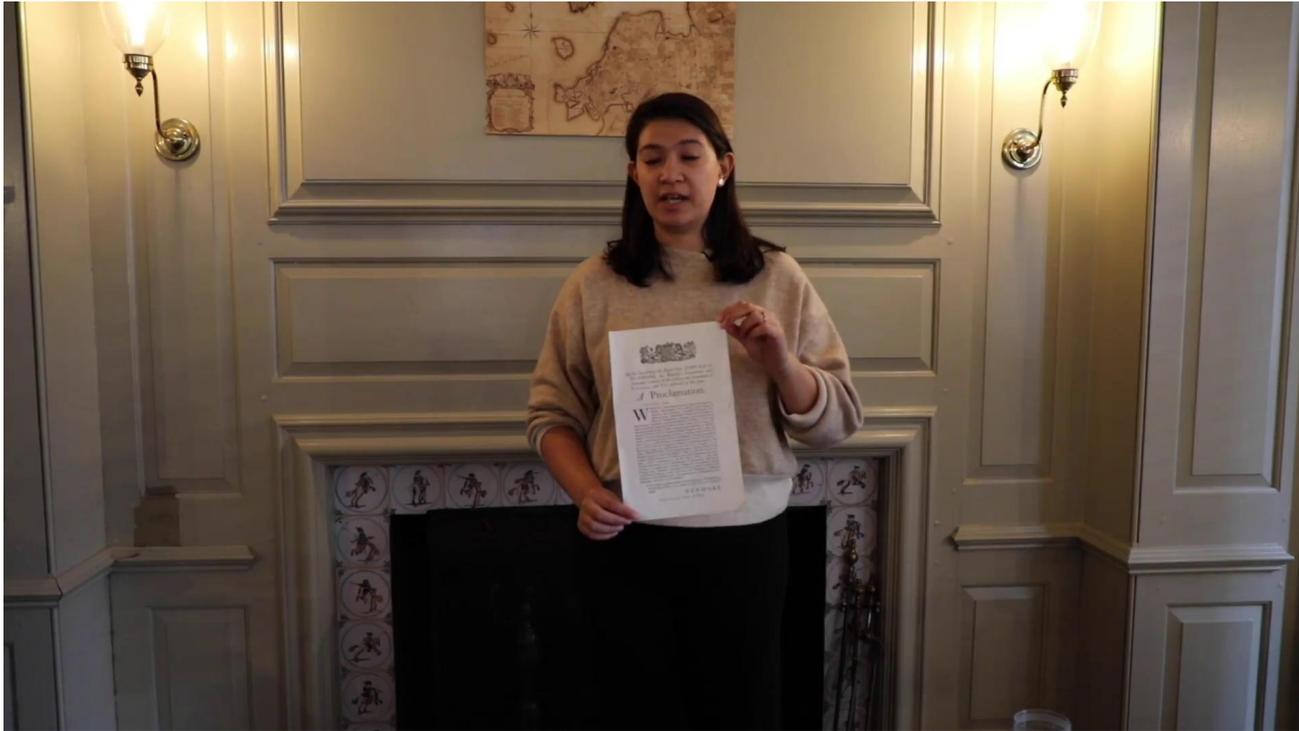
Watch this video as Theresa takes you through the various forms of entertainment you could find at a tavern!



Have you played any of these games before?
How do you play games with your friends now?

Click the CC button to turn on captions.

Centers of Information



Watch this video as Theresa explores how 18th century colonists got their news.



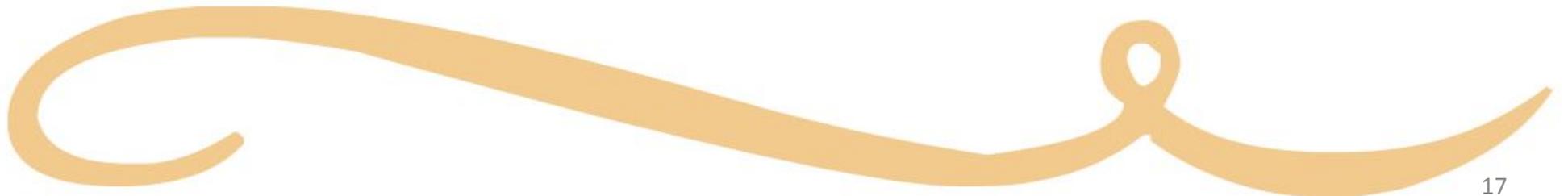
How do people get the news today? How is it similar to broadsides? How is it different?

Click the CC button to turn on captions.

Places of Business

Taverns were also places to conduct business. The New York Chamber of Commerce met at Fraunces Tavern. It could act as an office for merchants where they could auction items, sell goods off their ships, and write and sign contracts.

After the war ended, Samuel Fraunces rented out office space to the new government: Alexander Hamilton, Henry Knox, and John Jay worked in the building in the Departments of State, War, and Treasury.



Political Divisions: Patriots and Loyalists



Taverns were public gathering places where ideas could be freely exchanged. A person could openly discuss their frustrations with government laws and actions.

Taverns often became associated with the political leanings of the people who met there. Because Samuel Fraunces was a known Patriot, many Patriots came to his tavern to talk about their problems with King George III and Parliament.

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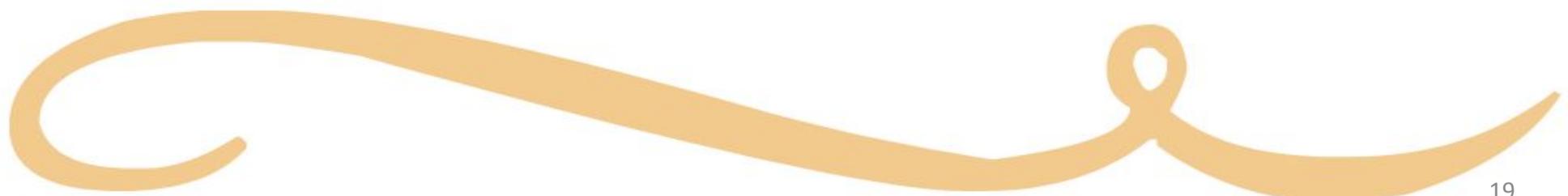
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Taverns & Taxes

Colonists became particularly divided over the issue of taxes. Beginning in the 1760s, Parliament passed a series of taxes as a way to raise money to pay for the British debt after the French and Indian War and to pay for the soldiers that stayed to protect colonists from the French and Native Americans.

Groups like the Sons of Liberty were formed to protest these taxes. These groups often met in Patriot-friendly taverns, like Fraunces Tavern, to plan their protests. You may recognize the names of some of their most famous New York members: Alexander Hamilton and Hercules Mulligan.



What did Parliament tax?

The Sugar Act (1764) taxed sugar, coffee, and molasses, which was used to produce rum. This was the first major tax on the colonists.

The Stamp Act (1765) taxed printed materials, like newspapers, playing cards, and legal documents—including tavern licenses.

The Townshend Act (1767) taxed lead, paint, glass, and paper.

The Tea Act (1773) was created to help the British East India Company. This meant that colonists had to buy the East India Tea, no matter how expensive it was.

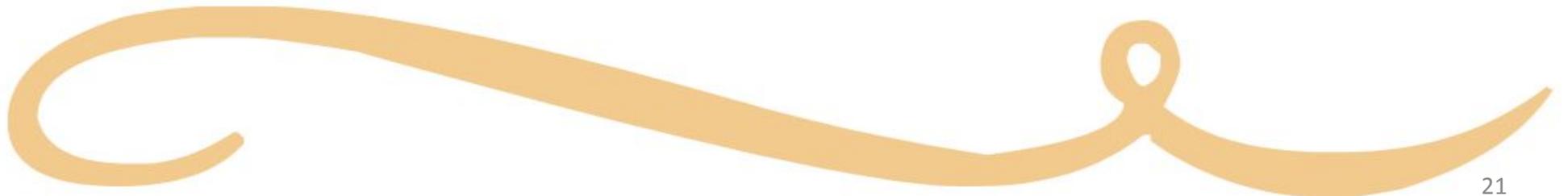
These are only a few examples of taxes passed by Parliament.



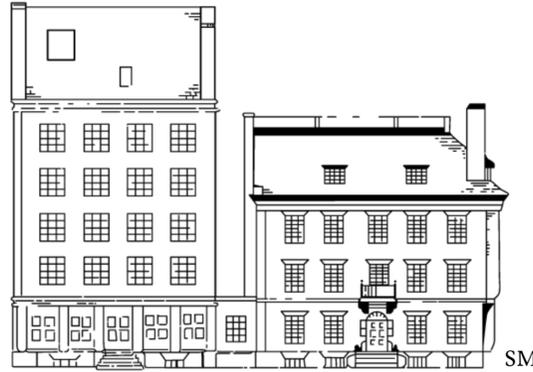
*How would these taxes affect colonists?
How would they affect tavern owners like Samuel Fraunces?*

Questions to Consider

- Why were taverns so important during the Revolutionary War?
- What was the role of a tavern? Give three examples.
- Are there places today like taverns today? How are they similar and how are they different?
- If you were at Fraunces Tavern in the 1700s, what would you be doing?



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frauncestavernmuseum.org

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