The **Boston Tea Party** was a pivotal event in American history that occurred on **December 16, 1773**, in Boston, Massachusetts. It was a protest by American colonists against British taxation policies and played a significant role in escalating tensions leading to the American Revolution.

**Key Events of the Boston Tea Party:**

1. **The Tea Act of 1773**:
   * The British Parliament passed the Tea Act to help the struggling East India Company by allowing it to sell tea directly to the colonies at a reduced price, bypassing colonial merchants.
   * Despite the lower price, the tax on tea imposed by the **Townshend Acts** remained, angering colonists who opposed "taxation without representation."
2. **Colonial Resistance**:
   * Many colonists viewed the Tea Act as a way for Britain to enforce its authority.
   * Protests erupted, and colonial leaders like **Samuel Adams** and the **Sons of Liberty** organized opposition to the tea shipments.
3. **The Protest in Boston**:
   * Three ships carrying East India Company tea—**Dartmouth**, **Eleanor**, and **Beaver**—docked in Boston Harbor.
   * On the night of December 16, about **60 colonists**, disguised as Mohawk Indians to symbolize freedom, boarded the ships.
4. **Destruction of the Tea**:
   * The protestors dumped **342 chests of tea**, equivalent to about 90,000 pounds (over 45 tons), into the harbor.
   * The act was a defiant statement against British rule, with no violence or theft involved.
5. **British Response**:
   * The British government responded harshly with the **Coercive Acts** (also known as the Intolerable Acts) in 1774, which included:
     + Closing Boston Harbor until the tea was paid for.
     + Restricting colonial self-government.
     + Requiring the housing of British troops (Quartering Act).
6. **Impact on the American Revolution**:
   * The Boston Tea Party united colonists against British oppression, sparking further protests and acts of resistance.
   * It directly led to the First Continental Congress in 1774 and eventually the outbreak of the American Revolution in 1775.