Causes of the American Revolution:

The Boston Tea Party (1773)

The Boston Tea Party occurred on December 16, 1773. It was one of the key events leading up to the American Revolution.

The Boston Tea Party was a protest by the Sons of Liberty, a radical group of patriots who were against the British government. They staged the protest by boarding three trade ships in Boston Harbor and throwing the ships' cargo of tea overboard into the ocean. They threw 342 chests of tea into the water. Some of the colonists were disguised as Mohawk Indians, but the costumes didn't fool anyone. The British knew who had destroyed the tea.

At first, throwing tea into the ocean dressed as Mohawks might seem a bit silly, but the colonists had their reasons. Tea was a favorite drink among the British and the colonies. It also was a major source of income to the East India Trading company. This was a British company and the colonies were told they could only buy tea from this one company. They were also told they had to pay high taxes on the tea. This tax was called the Tea Act.

Why were patriots upset about the Tea Act? __________________________________________
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This didn't seem fair to the patriots because they were not represented in British Parliament and didn't have a say on how the taxes should be done. They refused to pay taxes on the tea and asked that the tea be returned to England. When it wasn't, they decided to protest Britain's unfair taxes by throwing the tea into the ocean.

It actually was a lot of tea. The 342 containers totaled 90,000 pounds of tea! In today's money that would be around a million dollars in tea.
Causes of the American Revolution:  
Coercive / Intolerable Acts (June 1774)

After the Boston Tea Party, Parliament and King George III realized that they really did not possess any power or authority in the colonies. In order to establish its authority and to punish both Massachusetts and Boston for their lawlessness, Parliament passed four separate laws known as the **Coercive Acts** in 1774. Patriots called these acts “**intolerable**” and called on all colonists to unite against Britain. The four parts of the Acts are listed below:

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<th>First:</th>
<th>As of June 1, 1774, the port of Boston will be closed to all shipping until payment is made for the destroyed tea.</th>
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<td>Second:</td>
<td>In Boston, <strong>only one town meeting may be held per year.</strong></td>
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<td>Third:</td>
<td><strong>British officials</strong> accused of serious crimes will be put on <strong>trial in Britain.</strong></td>
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<td>Fourth:</td>
<td>A <strong>Quartering Act</strong> was passed that required colonists to provide their homes for <strong>British officials.</strong></td>
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Why did Parliament pass the Coercive Acts?  
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Why did the Patriots call them “Intolerable”?  
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Causes of the American Revolution:  
The First Continental Congress (September 1774)

In response to the Intolerable Acts, colonial leaders called a meeting in Philadelphia in September 1774. Delegates from 12 colonies gathered in what became known as the First Continental Congress. (Georgia did not send delegates because there were still conflicts with Native Americans. Georgia relied on British support to help in these conflicts. John Adams, Samuel Adams, George Washington and Patrick Henry were among the 56 delegates who were there.

The First Continental Congress decides to:

1. boycott all British goods and stop exporting goods to Britain until the Intolerable Acts are repealed.

2. instruct each colony to set up and train its own militia

Conclusion:
If you had been a representative of the First Continental Congress, would you have voted to go to war against Great Britain or try to work out a peaceful agreement? Give reasons for your answer.  
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