

Topic:

Grievances and Protests: Road to the American Revolution

What Your Student is Learning:

Students will understand that:

- A government's actions can lead to rebellion and/or revolution by its citizens.

Students will be able to:

- Cite evidence from text to tell a narrative from multiple perspectives

Background and Context :

Students have been learning about Colonial America and how the American colonists lived with little interference from the British government. Students have also been analyzing the relationship between the indigenous people (Native Americans), the French settlers, and the American colonists. They have learned that tensions between the group came to a clash called the French and Indian War (1754-1763). The results of the war ultimately led to political and economic between the American colonists and their mother country Great Britain. This lessons is a review of the major events that lead to the American Revolution.

Ways to support your student:

(questions to ask, responses to look for, representations they should use, etc...)

- Read each section of text with your student.
- Ask questions about the reading at the end of each paragraph.
- Ask your student to paraphrase the directions.

Online Resources for Students:

Listen to an audio reading on the Stamp Act at:

https://www.ducksters.com/history/american_revolution/the_stamp_act.php

<https://www.history.com/news/american-revolution-causes>

5 Causes to the American Revolution

Directions: Illustrate a summary of each of the following events that led to the American Revolution. Then create a timeline and add each illustration to the timeline.

A. The Stamp Act

The Stamp Act was a tax put on the American colonies by the British in 1765. It said they had to pay a tax on all sorts of printed materials such as newspapers, magazines and legal documents. It was called the Stamp Act because the colonies were supposed to buy paper from Britain that had an official stamp on it that showed they had paid the tax.

The Stamp Act of 1765 was a tax to help the British pay for the French and Indian War. The British government felt that the colonies should share in the expense of the war and help to pay for the British troops in the Americas. The colonists felt that the British government had no right to tax them because there were not any representatives of the colonies in the British Parliament. They called this "taxation without representation".

The colonies reacted in protest. They refused to pay the tax threatened tax collectors, made tax collectors quit, burned the stamped paper, boycotted British Parliament, formed patriot groups like the Sons of Liberty, and formed the Stamp Act Congress. The Stamp Act Congress was a meeting in October of 1765 of all the colonies to unify the protests against the Act and Britain.

Eventually, the protests of the colonies to the Stamp Act began to hurt British merchants and businesses. The Stamp Act was repealed on March 18, 1766. The same day they repealed the Stamp Act, they passed the Declaratory Act which stated that the British Parliament had the right to make laws and taxes in the colonies.

First give each paragraph a **subtitle**.

Then **summarize** each paragraph above through illustrations in the boxes provided.

The Stamp Act

<p>Paragraph 1: _____</p>	<p>Paragraph 2: _____</p>
<p>Paragraph 3: _____</p>	<p>Paragraph 4: _____</p>

Key Terms

Prosecute - take to court

Smuggle - to move goods illegally into a country (smuggler - one who moves goods illegally)

Import - to bring goods or services into a country from another country to sell

Acts - written law

Protest - to publicly demonstrate objection to a policy

Boycott - refuse to buy or handle goods as a punishment or protest

Tax - a fee charged by the government on goods and service to earn money

Restitution - pay for injury or loss (of property)

Forbade - to refuse

Accommodation - a room or group of rooms where someone lives or stay

Board - live and receive regular meals in a house in return for payment or services

Grievances - a real or imagined wrong or other cause for complaint or protest, especially unfair treatment

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Grievances and Protests: Road to the American Revolution

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5 Causes to the American Revolution

Directions: Illustrate a summary of each of the following events that led to the American Revolution. Then create a timeline and add each illustration to the timeline.

B. The Townshend Acts

The Townshend Acts were a series of laws passed by the British government on the American colonies in 1767. They placed new taxes and took away some freedoms from the colonists including the following:

- New taxes on imports of paper, paint, lead, glass, and tea.
- Established an American Customs Board in Boston to collect taxes.
- Set up new courts in America to prosecute smugglers (without using a local jury).
- Gave British officials the right to search colonists' houses and businesses.

The British wanted to get the colonies to pay for themselves. The Townshend Acts were specifically to pay for the salaries of officials such as governors and judges.

The British thought that the colonists would be okay with taxes on imports. However, they were wrong. The colonists protested just as they did with the Stamp Act. Colonial merchants organized boycotts against British goods and began to smuggle in goods to avoid the taxes. Finally, protests in Boston turned violent when British soldiers panicked and killed several people in what would become known as the Boston Massacre.

The American colonists felt that the British didn't understand that they did not want "taxation without representation." The American colonies were not allowed any representatives in the British Parliament. They felt that it was unconstitutional for Parliament to place taxes and laws on them without representation. It was not about the cost of the taxes, but more about the principle.

First, what 4 key details from the reading.

Then **summarize** each key detail through illustrations in the boxes provided.

The Townshend Acts

Key Detail 1: _____	Key Detail 2: _____
Key Detail 3: _____	Key Detail 4: _____

5 Causes to the American Revolution

Directions: Illustrate a summary of each of the following events that led to the American Revolution. Then create a timeline and add each illustration to the timeline.

C. The Boston Massacre

The Boston Massacre began the evening of March 5, 1770 with a small argument between British Private Hugh White and a few colonists outside the Custom House in Boston on King Street. The argument began to escalate as more colonists gathered and began to harass and throw sticks and snowballs at Private White.

Soon there were over 50 colonists at the scene. The local British officer of the watch, Captain Thomas Preston, sent a number of soldiers over to the Custom House to maintain order. However, the sight of British soldiers armed with bayonets just bothered the crowd further. They began to shout at the soldiers, daring them to fire.

Captain Preston then arrived and tried to get the crowd to disperse. Unfortunately, an object thrown from the crowd struck one of the soldiers, Private Montgomery, and knocked him down. He fired into the crowd. After a few seconds of stunned silence, a number of other soldiers fired into the crowd as well. Three colonists died immediately and two more died later from wounds.

Thirteen people were arrested including eight British soldiers, one officer, and four civilians. They were charged with murder and put in jail awaiting their trial. British troops were removed from the city as well. The Boston Massacre became a rallying cry for patriotism in the colonies.

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The Boston Massacre

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5 Causes to the American Revolution

Directions: Illustrate a summary of each of the following events that led to the American Revolution. Then create a timeline and add each illustration to the timeline.

D. The Boston Tea Party

The Boston Tea Party was a protest by the American Colonists 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.

This didn't seem fair to the colonies as 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.

First, what 4 key details from the reading.

Then **summarize** each key detail through illustrations in the boxes provided.

The Boston Tea Party

Key Detail 1: _____	Key Detail 2: _____
Key Detail 3: _____	Key Detail 4: _____

5 Causes to the American Revolution

Directions: Illustrate a summary of each of the following events that led to the American Revolution. Then create a timeline and add each illustration to the timeline.

E. The Coercive Acts

(Intolerable Acts)

In response to the Boston Tea Party, the British government decided that it had to tame the rebellious colonists in Massachusetts. In the spring of 1774, Parliament passed a series of laws, the Coercive Acts. The Boston Port Act closed Boston Harbor until restitution was paid for the destroyed tea. The Massachusetts Government Act replaced the colony's elected council with one appointed by the British. It also gave sweeping powers to the British military governor General Thomas Gage. Finally the Massachusetts Government Act forbade town meetings without approval.

Yet another provision protected British colonial officials who were charged with capital offenses from being tried in Massachusetts. The Administration of Justice Act instead required that they be sent to another colony or back to Great Britain for trial.

But perhaps the most provocative provision was the Quartering Act, which allowed British military officials to demand accommodations for their troops in unoccupied houses and buildings in towns, rather than having to stay out in the countryside. While it didn't force the colonists to board troops in their own homes, they had to pay for the expense of housing and feeding the soldiers. The quartering of troops eventually became one of the grievances cited in the Declaration of Independence.

First, what 3 key details from the reading.

Then **summarize** each key detail through illustrations in the boxes provided. Finally answer the final question in box 4 through illustration(s) and a caption(s).

The Coercive Act

Key Detail 1: _____	Key Detail 2: _____
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<p>Key Detail 3: _____</p>	<p>Were the British justified to single out and specifically punish Massachusetts? Why or why not? Cite evidence from the texts.</p>

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Ways to support your student:

(questions to ask, responses to look for, representations they should use, etc...)

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5 Causes to the American Revolution

Directions: Use your illustrations to create a timeline of 5 significant events that led to the American Revolution.

Key Terms

Prosecute - take to court

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Import - to bring goods or services into a country from another country to sell

Acts - written law

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Grade: 5 Subject: Social Studies

Goes with Pages: 1-7

Topic:**Battles of Lexington and Concord****What Your Student is Learning:**

Students will understand that:

- A government's actions can lead to rebellion and/or revolution by its citizens.

Students will be able to:

- Utilize map skills to determine patterns of conflicts and beliefs
- Utilize images to tell a narrative from multiple perspectives

Background and Context:

Students have been learning about Colonial America and the beginning of the United States. In previous lessons the students learned that the relationship between the colonies and Great Britain begin to have trouble after the French and Indian War. After the French and Indian War, Great Britain begin issuing taxes on and restricting the colonists in ways they had not before in order to pay for the war. This upset the colonists. They felt they were not properly represented in parliament in Great Britain and begin to rebel in multiple ways including; smuggling, boycotts, protests, and the most infamous Boston Tea Party. This rebellious behavior and Britain's reactions to ultimately lead to the drafting and issuing of the Declaration of Independence. The document written by Thomas Jefferson and announced the intent of the 13 colonies to be "free and independent" of Great Britain.

Ways to support your student:

(questions to ask, responses to look for, representations they should use, etc...)

What is rebellion?

What is revolution?

Define citizens.

When is it okay for citizens to rebel against their government?

How do maps help us learn?

Why are the Battles at Lexington and Concord significant?

Online Resources for Students:

Lesson Resources:

see below**Parent/Guardian Fact Sheet** (Also a resource for students)

Resources for further inquiry:

[National Geographic: The American Revolution](#)

Directions: Use the images and maps to describe the Battles of Lexington and Concord. As you interpret the images and maps, answer the following questions to help write your description.



- A. What was the cause of the Battle of Lexington and Concord? B. Who was at fault for the Battle that started the American Revolution? C. Who won?



Battle on Lexington Green: Battle of Lexington and Concord 19th April 1775 American Revolutionary War: picture by William Barnes Wollen

Title of the Painting:

Describe what you see?

Where is this battle taking place?

What are the American colonists wearing? What are they doing?

What are the British wearing? What are they doing?

Who seems to be winning? Who seems to be more prepared?

Who appears to be the aggressor (the first to attack)? Use the image to justify why you think that.

Based ONLY on the image and the questions in the directions, what narrative would you tell about the Battles of Lexington and Concord?

Parent/Guardian Guide

10 Facts About the Battles of Lexington and Concord

Fought at the towns of *Lexington* and *Concord* in *Middlesex County, Massachusetts*, the battles of Lexington and Concord remain highly significant historic events for being the *first military engagements* of the American Revolutionary War. There are many famous events that took place during the course of the battles like *Paul Revere's ride* and the first shot which was '*heard around the world*'. Here are 10 interesting facts about the causes, events, contribution of minutemen, casualties and result of the battles.

#1 The Intolerable Acts were a major cause for the battles

In response to the *Boston Tea Party*, during which in defiance of the *Tea Act of 1773* the Massachusetts colonists destroyed an entire shipment of tea sent by the British, the British Parliament enforced a number of laws to punish Massachusetts so that other colonies wouldn't dare to carry out such acts of defiance. The colonists responded to what they termed the *Intolerable Acts* by forming a rebel government known as the *Massachusetts Provincial Congress* and called for local militias to train for possible hostilities. In February 1775, the British government declared Massachusetts to be in a *state of rebellion*.

#2 The battles were fought for weapons and ammunition held at Concord

The advent of American Revolution split the people in the American colonies into two groups – the *Loyalists*, who remained loyal to the British Crown; and the *Patriots*, who violently rebelled against British control in America. On April 14, 1775, *General Thomas Gage*, the military governor of Massachusetts, was told to take action to disarm the patriots and to imprison their leaders. He decided to send a force to seize the weapons and ammunition held by the Provincial Congress *in the armory at Concord*, some 15 miles from Boston.

#3 The famous Paul Revere's Ride warned the patriots of British movement

On April 7, 1775, *Dr Joseph Warren*, an American physician, sent *Paul Revere*, a Boston silversmith, to warn the Massachusetts Provincial Congress of British army

movement in Boston leading to Concord residents moving the military supplies out of town. On the night of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere, along with *William Dawes*, was again sent to warn the patriots of the British expedition. Revere set forth on his horse, in what is known as the “*Midnight Ride*”, warning patriots along the way, many of whom set out on horseback to deliver warnings of their own. An 1861 poem by *Henry Longfellow* on Revere’s contribution titled *Paul Revere’s Ride* created the national legend of Paul Revere.

#4 The British commander during the battles was Colonel Francis Smith

General Gage gave orders for an expedition under the overall command of *Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith* to march to Concord to seize and destroy all Military stores present there. *Major John Pitcairn* was to command 10 elite light infantry companies while *Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Bernard* commanded 11 grenadier companies. En route to Concord, 700 men under Pitcairn, who were ordered to move ahead, entered Lexington at sunrise on *April 19, 1775*. They were met by around 80 *Lexington militiamen* under *Captain John Parker*, a veteran of the French and Indian War.

#5 Eight Americans were killed in the Battle at Lexington

Captain Parker was aware that he was outnumbered and outmatched. He didn’t want to sacrifice his men for no purpose. So he positioned his men such that they didn’t block the British troops and told them to not fire unless fired upon. A British officer rode forward, waving his sword and called for the assembled militia to disperse leading to disorder and yelling. Though Parker and Pitcairn ordered their men to hold fire, a shot was fired leading to a skirmish during which *18 Americans were hit, 8 fatally*, and the militia dispersed. Only one British soldier was wounded. It is not known who fired the first shot.

#6 North Bridge saw the first instance of Americans firing to deadly effect on the British

When British troops arrived at Concord, Lieutenant Colonel Smith ordered them to search for American military weapons and ammunition but most of the military supplies had been hidden or destroyed before their arrival. A British company of around 90 men under *Captain Walter Laurie* was confronted by around 400 American patriots at Concord’s *North Bridge*. A brief exchange of fire ensued which saw the *first instance of Americans firing to deadly effect on British regulars*, who were forced to withdraw.

Famous American poet *Ralph Waldo Emerson* called the first shot of this skirmish the “*shot heard round the world*” in his 1837 poem “*Concord Hymn*”.

#7 Americans inflicted damage on the British during their march back to Boston

After the search in Concord was done, the British regulars reassembled to return. No other incident of fighting took place at Concord. However the march back to Boston proved to be extremely difficult for the British. They were fired upon continuously from hidden positions by Americans, whose numbers kept enhancing as more militiamen kept arriving from neighboring towns. Smith’s men were finally rescued by reinforcements under *Brigadier General Hugh Percy*. During the course of the battles, the British suffered *273 casualties* to *America’s 95*.

#8 The Battles of Lexington and Concord were followed by the Siege of Boston

As only a few weapons could be seized by the British and as they suffered more casualties, the Battles of Lexington and Concord are considered a success for the American patriots. The militia from surrounding Massachusetts communities, which accumulated during the battles, blocked land access to Boston the following day beginning the *Siege of Boston*. The Continental Congress formed the *Continental Army* from the militia, with *George Washington* as its Commander in Chief. After eleven months of the siege, *the British were forced to abandon Boston* and sailed to Nova Scotia.

#9 Minutemen are most famous for their contribution in the battles

Daniel Chester French’s Minute Man statue at Concord

Minutemen were private colonists who independently organized to form well-prepared militia companies self-trained in weaponry, tactics and military strategies. Being highly mobile, they proved useful in responding immediately to war threats. As they were *known to be ready in a minute’s notice*, they were called minutemen. Minutemen formed

a large percentage of men who fought for America during the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Famous American sculptor *Daniel Chester French* produced one of his best-known statues, the *Concord Minute Man of 1775*, in commemoration of the centenary of the battles. The Minute Man statue *is still the symbol of the National Guard of U.S.*

#10 The battles are considered important historic events

Being the first military engagements of the American Revolutionary War, the Battles of Lexington and Concord remain highly significant historic events. Patriots' Day is celebrated annually in Massachusetts to commemorate their anniversary. The site of the battle in Lexington is now known as the Lexington Battle Green and is a National Historic Landmark. The land surrounding the North Bridge in Concord is now part of the Minute Man National Historical Park. In April 1925 the United States Post Office issued three stamps commemorating the 150th anniversary of the battles.

Source: <https://learnodo-newtonic.com/battle-of-lexington-and-concord-facts>

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Fight for Concord Bridge: Battle of Lexington and Concord 19th April 1775 American Revolutionary War: picture by Alonzo Chapell

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Being the first military engagements of the American Revolutionary War, the Battles of Lexington and Concord remain highly significant historic events. Patriots' Day is celebrated annually in Massachusetts to commemorate their anniversary. The site of the battle in Lexington is now known as the Lexington Battle Green and is a National Historic Landmark. The land surrounding the North Bridge in Concord is now part of the Minute Man National Historical Park. In April 1925 the United States Post Office issued three stamps commemorating the 150th anniversary of the battles.

Source: <https://learnodo-newtonic.com/battle-of-lexington-and-concord-facts>

Grade: 5 Subject: Social Studies

Goes with Pages: 1-7

Topic:**Battles of Lexington and Concord****What Your Student is Learning:**

Students will understand that:

- A government's actions can lead to rebellion and/or revolution by its citizens.

Students will be able to:

- Utilize map skills to determine patterns of conflicts and beliefs
- Utilize images to tell a narrative from multiple perspectives

Background and Context:

Students have been learning about Colonial America and the beginning of the United States. In previous lessons the students learned that the relationship between the colonies and Great Britain begin to have trouble after the French and Indian War. After the French and Indian War, Great Britain begin issuing taxes on and restricting the colonists in ways they had not before in order to pay for the war. This upset the colonists. They felt they were not properly represented in parliament in Great Britain and begin to rebel in multiple ways including; smuggling, boycotts, protests, and the most infamous Boston Tea Party. This rebellious behavior and Britain's reactions to ultimately lead to the drafting and issuing of the Declaration of Independence. The document written by Thomas Jefferson and announced the intent of the 13 colonies to be "free and independent" of Great Britain.

Ways to support your student:

(questions to ask, responses to look for, representations they should use, etc...)

What is rebellion?

What is revolution?

Define citizens.

When is it okay for citizens to rebel against their government?

How do maps help us learn?

Why are the Battles at Lexington and Concord significant?

Online Resources for Students:

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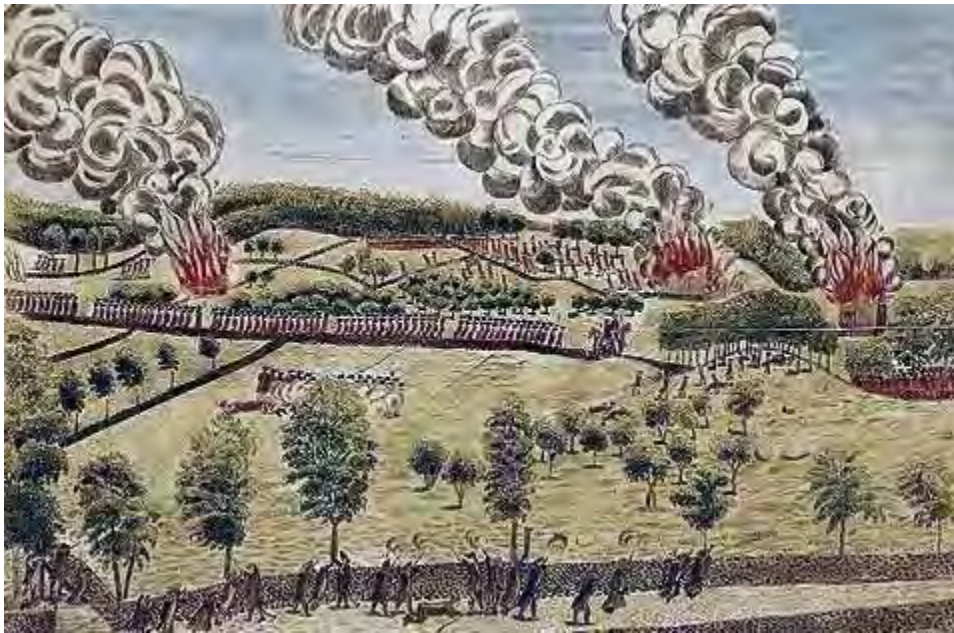
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[National Geographic: The American Revolution](#)

Directions: Use the images and maps to describe the Battles of Lexington and Concord. As you interpret the images and maps, answer the following questions to help write your description.

- A. What was the cause of the Battle of Lexington and Concord? B. Who was at fault for the Battle that started the American Revolution? C. Who won?



British retreat: Battle of Lexington and Concord 19th April 1775 American Revolutionary War: picture by Amos Doolittle from eyewitness accounts

Title of the Painting:

Describe what you see?

Where is this battle taking place?
What are the American colonists wearing? What are they doing?
What are the British wearing? What are they doing?
Who seems to be winning? Who seems to be more prepared?
Who appears to be the aggressor (the first to attack)? Use the image to justify why you think that.
Based ONLY on the image and the questions in the directions, what narrative would you tell about the Battles of Lexington and Concord?

Parent/Guardian Guide

10 Facts About the Battles of Lexington and Concord

Fought at the towns of *Lexington* and *Concord* in *Middlesex County, Massachusetts*, the battles of Lexington and Concord remain highly significant historic events for being the *first military engagements* of the American Revolutionary War. There are many famous events that took place during the course of the battles like *Paul Revere's ride* and the first shot which was '*heard around the world*'. Here are 10 interesting facts about the causes, events, contribution of minutemen, casualties and result of the battles.

#1 The Intolerable Acts were a major cause for the battles

In response to the *Boston Tea Party*, during which in defiance of the *Tea Act of 1773* the Massachusetts colonists destroyed an entire shipment of tea sent by the British, the British Parliament enforced a number of laws to punish Massachusetts so that other colonies wouldn't dare to carry out such acts of defiance. The colonists responded to what they termed the *Intolerable Acts* by forming a rebel government known as the *Massachusetts Provincial Congress* and called for local militias to train for possible hostilities. In February 1775, the British government declared Massachusetts to be in a *state of rebellion*.

#2 The battles were fought for weapons and ammunition held at Concord

The advent of American Revolution split the people in the American colonies into two groups – the *Loyalists*, who remained loyal to the British Crown; and the *Patriots*, who violently rebelled against British control in America. On April 14, 1775, *General Thomas Gage*, the military governor of Massachusetts, was told to take action to disarm the patriots and to imprison their leaders. He decided to send a force to seize the weapons and ammunition held by the Provincial Congress *in the armory at Concord*, some 15 miles from Boston.

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On April 7, 1775, *Dr Joseph Warren*, an American physician, sent *Paul Revere*, a Boston silversmith, to warn the Massachusetts Provincial Congress of British army

movement in Boston leading to Concord residents moving the military supplies out of town. On the night of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere, along with *William Dawes*, was again sent to warn the patriots of the British expedition. Revere set forth on his horse, in what is known as the “*Midnight Ride*”, warning patriots along the way, many of whom set out on horseback to deliver warnings of their own. An 1861 poem by *Henry Longfellow* on Revere’s contribution titled *Paul Revere’s Ride* created the national legend of Paul Revere.

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General Gage gave orders for an expedition under the overall command of *Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith* to march to Concord to seize and destroy all Military stores present there. *Major John Pitcairn* was to command 10 elite light infantry companies while *Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Bernard* commanded 11 grenadier companies. En route to Concord, 700 men under Pitcairn, who were ordered to move ahead, entered Lexington at sunrise on *April 19, 1775*. They were met by around 80 *Lexington militiamen* under *Captain John Parker*, a veteran of the French and Indian War.

#5 Eight Americans were killed in the Battle at Lexington

Captain Parker was aware that he was outnumbered and outmatched. He didn’t want to sacrifice his men for no purpose. So he positioned his men such that they didn’t block the British troops and told them to not fire unless fired upon. A British officer rode forward, waving his sword and called for the assembled militia to disperse leading to disorder and yelling. Though Parker and Pitcairn ordered their men to hold fire, a shot was fired leading to a skirmish during which *18 Americans were hit, 8 fatally*, and the militia dispersed. Only one British soldier was wounded. It is not known who fired the first shot.

#6 North Bridge saw the first instance of Americans firing to deadly effect on the British

When British troops arrived at Concord, Lieutenant Colonel Smith ordered them to search for American military weapons and ammunition but most of the military supplies had been hidden or destroyed before their arrival. A British company of around 90 men under *Captain Walter Laurie* was confronted by around 400 American patriots at Concord’s *North Bridge*. A brief exchange of fire ensued which saw the *first instance of Americans firing to deadly effect on British regulars*, who were forced to withdraw.

Famous American poet *Ralph Waldo Emerson* called the first shot of this skirmish the “*shot heard round the world*” in his 1837 poem “*Concord Hymn*”.

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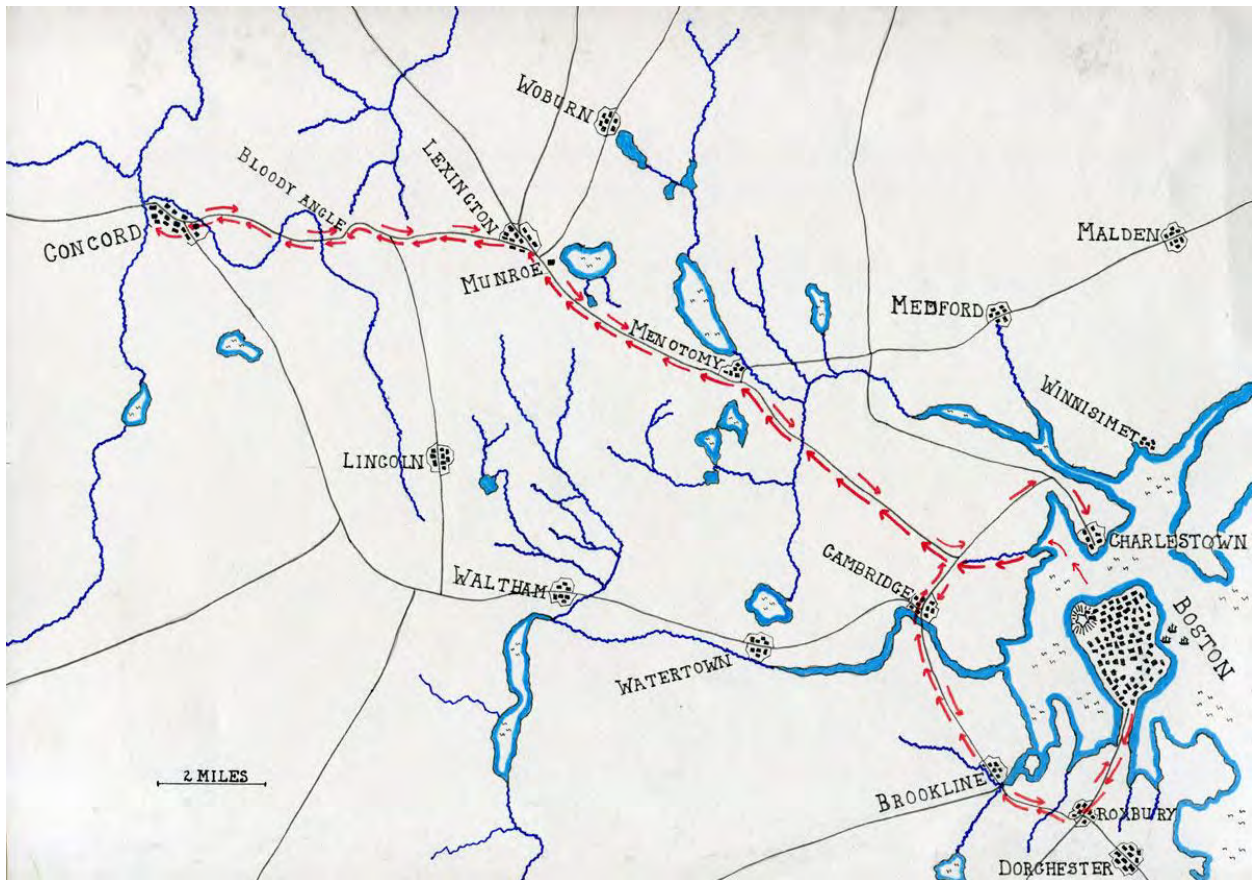
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Map of the British route to Concord: Battle of Lexington and Concord 19th April 1775 American Revolutionary War: map by John Fawkes

Title of the map:

Describe what you see.

What are the missing map components? How would the missing components help you to read and understand the map? What questions do you have about the Battles of Lexington and Concord due to the missing components?

How far apart are Lexington and Concord? Was Lexington and Concord one battle or two during the American Revolution?

How are the British and the Americans represented on the map?

Can you tell who seems to be winning? Why or why not?

What if anything does the map tell you? Use the map to justify why you think that.

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Grade: 5 Subject: Social Studies

Goes with Pages: 1-2

Topic:

The Break Up Letter: Declaration of Independence

What Your Student is Learning:

Students will understand:

- The philosophical principles of American democracy were laid with the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution.

Students will be able to:

- Analyze primary and secondary sources about the history of the United States.
- Interpret primary and secondary sources to distinguish between fact, opinion, and bias.

Background and Context:

Students have studied the causes for the conflict between the American colonists and Great Britain. By 1776, most of the American colonists were upset with Great Britain so the delegates at the Continental Congress requested members to draft a formal statement of the colonies' intentions to King George III. This formal statement became known as the Declaration of Independence.

Ways to support your student:

(questions to ask, responses to look for, representations they should use, etc...)

Watch the following video with your student. Stopping at certain points to see if your student can recognize mention the causes for the American Revolution. See if your student can recognize the grievances the colonists had with King George III. Also see if your student can recognize some of the key historical figures in the video. Finally, ask: **Why do you think the creator chose this particular song and title to describe the Declaration of Independence?**

<https://youtu.be/uZfRaWAtBVg> Too Late to Apologize: A Declaration

A parody about the Declaration of Independence with Thomas Jefferson singing

Online Resources for Students:

Full Text of the Declaration of Independence found here:

<https://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/>**The Break up Letter: The Declaration of Independence**

The Declaration of Independence was the official statement the American colonists sent to King George to declare their independence from Great Britain.

Directions: Thinking back on what you have learned about the colonists relationship with Great Britain, write a “break up letter” to King George III.

- a. Formally tell King George the purpose for your letter.
- b. Give King George III three reasons why you are breaking up with him (Hint: his actions between 1754 and 1776).
- c. Close the letter.
- d. Have fun with the letter and closing!

Dear _____

(Sign) _____

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