



# Major Battles



**T**he colonies and Britain drifted slowly to war. Their anger built over time; tensions rose. Colonists in Massachusetts were called to arms. They were told to defend their **liberties** by force if they had to.

The **Battles of Lexington and Concord** happened in April of 1775. It was a year before the **Declaration of Independence** was even written. British General Gage ordered his troops to search Concord. It was a town near Boston. The troops were sent to seize weapons. **Paul Revere** was a silversmith in Boston. He was also a Patriot. He rode hard through the night to warn everyone that the British were coming. In the morning, 80 men of the **colonial militia** were lined up to meet the 700 British troops. The British fired, killing eight and wounding ten. The British continued to Concord. Word spread and other colonists came to help. The British troops were outnumbered. They had to retreat and fight their way back to Boston. Nearly 300 British troops were killed or wounded. Lexington became famous. They called that first shot, "**the shot heard round the world**".



Paul Revere

**Who was Paul Revere and why was he important?**




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The Revolution had started.

The British retreated to Boston. In June 1775, the Americans surrounded Boston with 15,000 volunteers. The British had around 6,400 troops in Boston. The Americans gained control of **Bunker Hill**. It overlooked the **Boston Harbor** at **Charlestown**. With cannons, they could shoot British ships in the harbor. General Gage sent 2,400 British soldiers to take the hill. After two tries, the British forced the Americans to retreat off the high ground. But the British lost over 1,000 men in the attack. The Americans lost around 450 men. The British troops had to leave Boston in 1776.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Activity Two



## Be a Reporter

In the time leading up to and during the American Revolutionary War, there were many key events and battles. Each helped to shape the outcome of the war in a different way.

Pick any key event or battle that happened during the American Revolution or during the time leading up to the Revolution. It may be something that you are very interested in or maybe something that you would like to learn more about.

For example, you could write about:

- the signing of the Declaration of Independence
- the Battles of Lexington and Concord
- the Boston Tea Party
- the Boston Massacre
- the siege and surrender at Yorktown
- wintering at Valley Forge with General Washington
- crossing the Delaware River with Washington before a battle
- the Battle of Bunker Hill
- the night ride of Paul Revere

Pretend that you are a newspaper reporter and write a story about the event taking place.

Remember your five W's when you are writing your article:

- Who is involved in your event?
- What is happening? Give some good details.
- Where does your event take place?
- When does the event happen?
- Why are the event and the action taking place?

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Activity Three

## Biography

There are many famous figures that were involved in the American Revolutionary War. Pick **ONE** of the figures that you personally find interesting. Use various resources like your class computer, the library, and books to research your chosen figure.

For example:

- George Washington
- Thomas Jefferson
- King George III
- General Thomas Gage
- General William Howe
- Benjamin Franklin
- Sam Adams
- Paul Revere
- John Hancock

Pick anyone that you would like to learn more about! (If your chosen figure isn't listed in the examples above, get permission from your teacher.)

Using the information that you have found about your chosen figure, write a short biography about that person. A biography is a paper that describes a person's life, achievements and significance to the world today.

Think about things like:

- Where was he born?
- When was he born?
- Where was he trained or educated?
- Where was he from?
- Where did he live?
- What were his great accomplishments?
- What was his legacy?

Your biography should be at least a half-page in length and should not be any longer than two pages.

**Have fun!**