

The Revolution Begins

The Big Idea: The tensions between the colonies and Great Britain led to armed conflict in 1775.

Main Ideas

- The First Continental Congress demanded certain rights from Great Britain.
- Armed conflict between British soldiers and colonists broke out with the “shot heard ’round the world.”
- The Second Continental Congress created the Continental Army to fight the British.
- In two early battles, the army lost control of Boston but then regained it.

Main Idea 1: The First Continental Congress demanded certain rights from Great Britain.

- **First Continental Congress** was a meeting in Philadelphia of delegates from all colonies except Georgia.
- Delegates halted trade with Britain and alerted the colonial militia to prepare for war.
- They drafted Declaration of Rights that included the right to “life, liberty, and property.”
- Colonists who chose to fight for independence from Britain became known as **Patriots**.

Main Idea 2: Armed conflict between British soldiers and colonists broke out with the “shot heard ’round the world.”

The Ride of Paul Revere

- Massachusetts governor, Thomas Gage, sent British troops to seize weapons at Concord.
- Paul Revere and two others rode to warn colonists.
- Local militia, **minutemen**, readied for battle.

Battles at Lexington and Concord

- April 19, 1775– British troops arrived in Lexington and colonists fire the “shot heard ’round the world.”
- British **Redcoats** continue on to Concord but are forced to retreat back to Boston. Their red uniforms made an easy target for Patriot marksmen.

Main Idea 3: The Second Continental Congress created the Continental Army to fight the British.

Second Continental Congress

- Delegates from twelve colonies met in Philadelphia in May 1775.
- Some called for peace, others for war.
- Compromised—created army but also sent Olive Branch Petition to King George

Continental Army

- Congress created the **Continental Army**.
- Named a Virginian, **George Washington**, to command army and prepare for the war

Main Idea 4: In two early battles, the army lost control of Boston but then regained it.

Battle of Bunker Hill

- Patriots attacked British at Fort Ticonderoga on May 10, 1775, to seize large supply of weapons.
- Colonial forces fortified Breed’s Hill to prevent British escape from Boston.
- Army of 2,400 Redcoats fought 1,600 Americans at the **Battle of Bunker Hill**.
- Americans forced to retreat, but only after causing more than 1,000 British **Dorchester Heights**
- General Washington arrived in Boston and took command.
- Cannons were brought in from Fort Ticonderoga.
- In March 1776, Washington moved his army to Dorchester Heights and positioned the cannons on Nook’s Hill.
- The British were forced to retreat from Boston.
- casualties.