

colonists assumed that soldiers tried under this law would be punished lightly or would escape punishment entirely. The fourth law, a new Quartering Act, ordered local officials to provide food and housing, in private homes if necessary, for British soldiers stationed in the colonies.

The Intolerable Acts deepened colonial hostility toward Britain. Colonists everywhere responded with sympathy for Massachusetts. They sent food and money to Boston to help offset the effects of the port closing. The colonists also denounced the actions of King George III and Parliament as threats to colonial liberty. The Quebec Act, also passed in 1774, further angered colonists. It extended Quebec's boundary south to the Ohio River, thus overriding the claims of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Virginia to the disputed western lands. The law also granted full religious freedom to French Roman Catholics, upsetting many Protestant colonists.

The Intolerable Acts and the Quebec Act quickened the movement toward colonial unity. Colonists began to focus less on specific British policies. Instead, they concentrated their anger on what they saw as a growing pattern of oppression. Among those who questioned their loyalty to the Crown and Parliament, a new identity—not yet fully American, but no longer British—was developing.

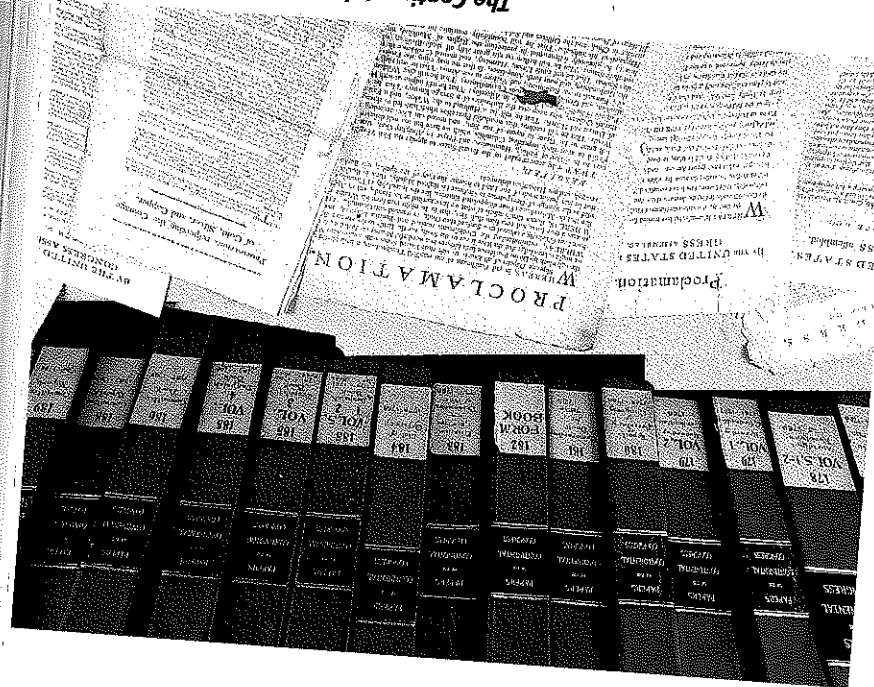
**READING CHECK: Making Generalizations** How did the Intolerable Acts increase colonial unity?

## The Revolutionary War Begins

Between September 5 and October 26, 1774, representatives from every colony except Georgia attended the **First Continental Congress** in Philadelphia. The Congress was not a lawmaking body but a convention where delegates could discuss their grievances and consider their options. Some delegates wanted the colonies to remain part of the British Empire. Others favored independence.

Both of these positions found their way into the Congress's final resolution—the Declaration of Resolves. Although the declaration expressed loyalty to the British Crown, it also stated that the colonists had rights as British subjects. In particular, the declaration maintained that the colonists had a right to the "free and exclusive power of legislation in their several provincial legislatures." To back up their demands, the delegates called for a ban on all trade with Great Britain. They pledged to meet again in May 1775 if their demands were not met.

For King George III, the Continental Congress was the last straw. In November 1774 he wrote to Lord North: "The New England Governments are in a State of Rebellion, blows must decide whether they are to be subject to this Country or independent." Acting on the king's wishes, Parliament ordered General Thomas Gage to put down the rebellion.



The Continental Congresses produced many papers, such as the ones pictured here.

## Mercy Otis Warren's Revolutionary Writings

The American Revolution inspired many talented writers. One of the best of these writers was Mercy Otis Warren, a poet and dramatist who was well acquainted with some of the Revolution's leaders. Warren wrote many of her poems and plays to increase public support for the cause of independence. In a number of these works, she used fictional characters and situations to represent real people and events. Warren paints an unattractive picture of British colonial officials in a stage direction from her play *The Group*, in which a group of evil leaders from the country of Blunderland represent corrupt British officials. She employs similar techniques in her poem about the Boston Tea Party, "The Squabble of the Sea Nymphs; or the Sacrifice of the Tuscararoes." The fictional Tuscararoes represent the Patriots and Amphytrite represents people loyal to Great Britain.



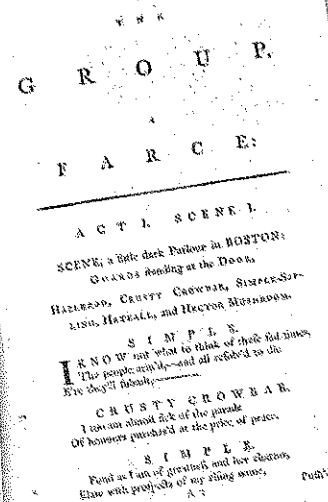
Mercy Otis Warren

### Stage direction from *The Group*

The Group enter attended by a swarm of court sycophants [flatterers], hungry harpies [monsters], and unprincipled danglers . . . hovering over the stage in the shape of locusts, led by Massachusetts in the form of a basilisk [lizard]; the

rear brought up by Proteus [someone who allies with a side in a conflict for money], bearing a torch in one hand and a powder flask in the other, the whole supported by a mighty army and navy from Blunderland, for the laudable purpose of enslaving its best friends.

The first page of *Mercy Otis Warren's The Group* lists the *dramatis personae*, or the characters, in the work.



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### from "The Squabble of the Sea Nymphs; or the Sacrifice of the Tuscararoes"

The champions of the Tuscararan race,  
(Who neither hold, nor even wish a place,  
While faction reigns, and tyranny presides,  
And base oppression o'er the virtues rides; . . .  
And avarice [greed] o'er the earth and sea prevails; . . .)  
Lent their strong arm in pity to the fair, . . .  
Pour'd a profusion of delicious teas,  
Which, wafted by a soft favonian breeze,  
Supply'd the wat'ry deities, in spite  
Of all the rage of jealous Amphytrite.

### UNDERSTANDING LITERATURE

1. What does the imagery used to describe the creatures surrounding the Group reveal about Warren's view of British officials?
2. How do the feelings of the Tuscararoes represent the Patriots' views of Great Britain?
3. How does Warren use language in these two pieces to try to win public support for the Patriot cause?

**Lexington and Concord.** Determined to reassert royal authority, General Gage decided to seize rebel military supplies stored in Concord, Massachusetts. On April 18, 1775, under cover of night, some 750 British troops left Boston and rowed across the Charles River. However, the Patriots, or colonists who supported independence, had stationed watchmen on the far shore. As soon as Gage's force emerged from the darkness, Patriots Paul Revere and William Dawes—later joined by Samuel Prescott—galloped off to alert sleeping households, shouting the alarm: "The British are coming!" Patriots throughout the countryside hurriedly gathered to confront the British.

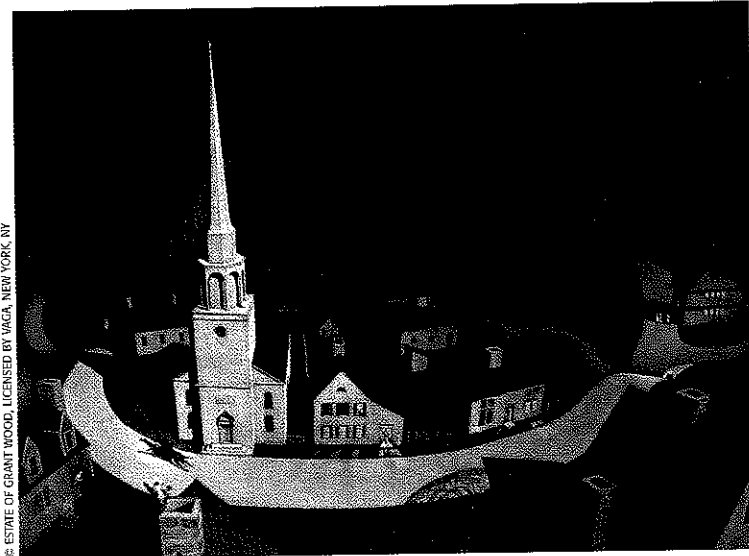
On April 19, Captain John Parker and about 70 minutemen—members of the militia who promised to be ready at a minute's notice—waited for the British soldiers on the Lexington village green. When the British patrol arrived, its commander shouted, "Lay down your arms, you . . . rebels, and disperse!" The colonists began to leave, still holding their guns. Suddenly someone—each side later accused the other—fired "the shot heard round the world." A barrage of British gunfire followed. When the smoke cleared, 8 colonists lay dead, and 10 others were wounded.

The British troops, called Redcoats because of their bright red uniforms, marched on to Concord. They destroyed some of the Patriots' supplies, then started back toward Boston. From behind stone walls along the route, hundreds of minutemen fired steadily at the retreating troops. The red uniforms and orderly marching formations used by the British made them easy targets. The Patriots were quite successful, suffering fewer than 100 casualties in the day's fighting, while killing or wounding 273 British soldiers. The Patriots' success earned them the respect of their enemy. A humbled British officer wrote: "Whoever looks upon them [the Patriots] as an irregular mob will find himself much mistaken."

✓ **READING CHECK: Evaluating** What was the significance of "the shot heard round the world"?

**The Second Continental Congress.** The news of Lexington and Concord had spread through the colonies when the **Second Continental Congress** opened in Philadelphia on May 10. Radicals such as Samuel Adams pushed for an immediate declaration of independence from Britain. Others, led by John Dickinson of Pennsylvania, successfully urged restraint. Nonetheless, by the middle of June the delegates had agreed to establish the Continental Army "for the defense of American liberty."

**George Washington** of Virginia was the delegates' unanimous choice to command this new army. Though not a fiery speaker or a profound political thinker, Washington inspired confidence. He had acquired military experience and a reputation for bravery while fighting for the British in the French and Indian War. After meeting him, Abigail Adams wrote to her husband: "The gentleman and soldier look agreeably blended in him. Modesty marks every line and feature of his face."



### INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

**Revere's ride.** In this painting Paul Revere rides through a sleepy village to warn the Patriots of coming British troops. **How do the elements in the painting convey the drama of Revere's ride?**



After his service in the French and Indian War, George Washington retired to his estate, Mount Vernon. The Revolutionary War brought him back into military service.



Revolutions

Two aspects of the American Revolution have influenced many revolutionary movements over the last 225 years. First, it was an anticolonial war waged by colonists who demanded independence. During the 1800s and 1900s, revolutionary leaders in Africa, Asia, and Latin America looked to the United States for inspiration as they fought for independence from colonial powers. South American Simon Bolívar, a revolutionary, helped several colonies win independence from Spain in the early 1800s. He referred to his North American neighbor as a “land of freedom and home of civic virtue.” Second, the American Revolution replaced a royal system of government with one based on a written constitution. Later revolutions in France, Mexico, and other nations followed similar patterns.

In another way, however, a number of revolutions in the 1900s differed from the American Revolution. Although the American Revolution made fundamental changes in how Americans were governed, it did not involve a rearrangement of the country’s basic social and economic structure. In contrast, communist revolutions in China, Cuba, and Russia rejected capitalism and instituted economic systems that involved tight government control.

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

**Battle of Bunker Hill.** Flames erupt on Bunker Hill in this British engraving. *How does this painting illustrate the difficulties of the battle?*



A poster from the French Revolution

With war at hand, Washington devoted himself to the “glorious cause” of American rights.

**The Battle for Boston.** On June 17, 1775, Patriot forces were again put to the test. Atop two hills overlooking Boston Harbor—Bunker Hill and Breed’s Hill—New England militiamen dug in, awaiting an attack by British troops. To save ammunition, an American commander ordered his men: “Don’t one of you fire until you see the whites of their eyes.”

British troops commanded by General William Howe advanced in three bold assaults. Corporal Amos Farnsworth of the Massachusetts militia later recalled the **Battle of Bunker Hill**.

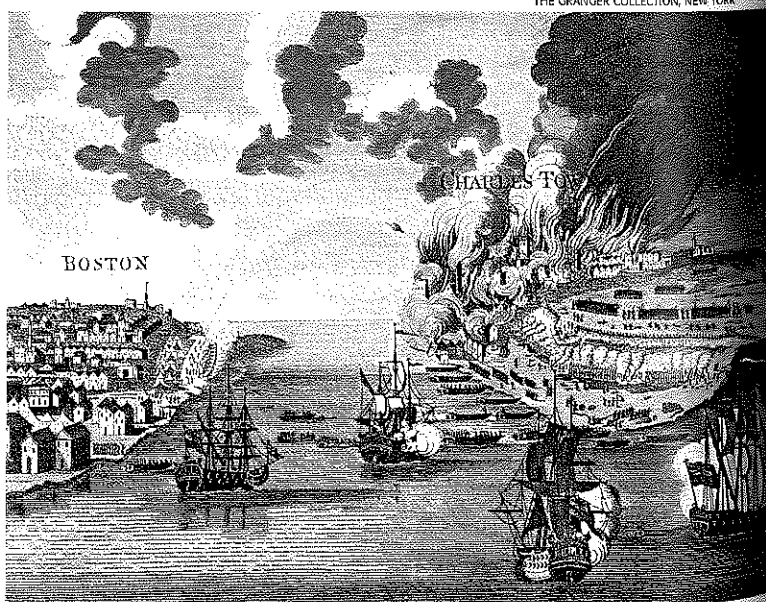


“We . . . sustained the enemy’s attacks with great bravery . . . and after bearing, for about 2 hours, as severe and heavy a fire as perhaps ever was known, and many having fired away all their ammunition . . . we were overpowered by numbers and obliged to leave.”

—Amos Farnsworth, diary entry, June 16, 1775

The British took both hills but suffered 1,054 casualties. Fewer than 450 Americans were killed or injured. The Battle of Bunker Hill did not resolve anything. The British had captured the hills, but at a terrible cost. British general Gage wrote that “the number of killed and wounded is greater than our forces can afford to lose.” Despite losing control of Charlestown, Massachusetts, the Patriots, were encouraged by their efforts. General Nathanael Greene of Rhode Island wrote that “upon the whole, I think we have little reason to complain. . . . I wish we could sell them another hill at the same price.”

Even after the battle, some colonists worked to avoid a permanent break with Britain. They persuaded the Continental



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Congress to send a final plea to King George. The **Olive Branch Petition** stated the colonists’ loyalty to the king and asked for his help in ending the conflict.

The king rejected the petition and ordered the Royal Navy to blockade all shipping to the colonies. He also sent Hessian (HE-shuhn) mercenaries—hired soldiers primarily from the German state of Hesse—to help defeat the Americans.

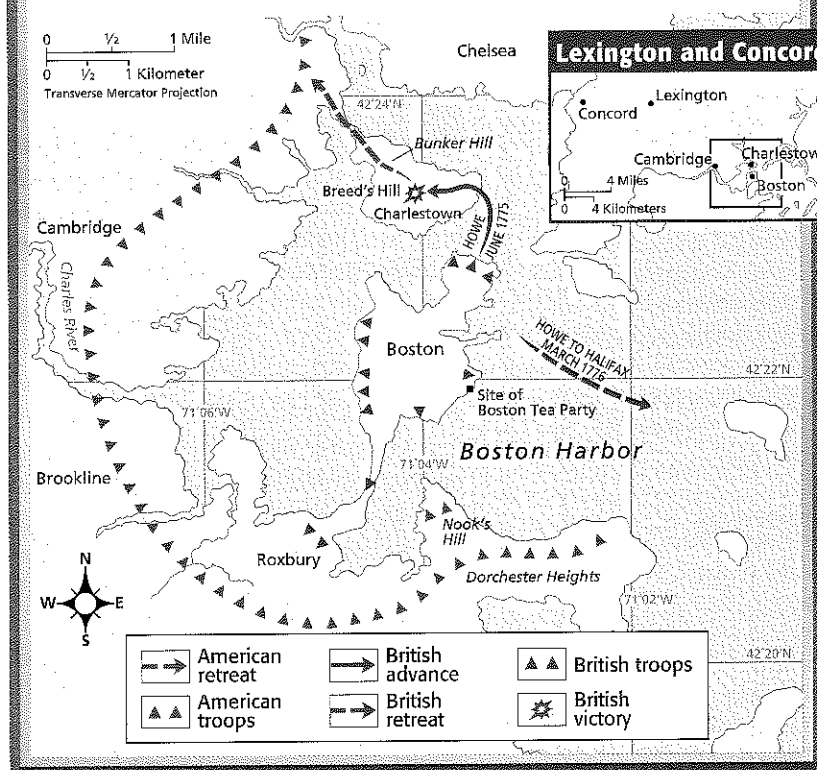
Meanwhile, General Washington planned new military maneuvers. In a surprise move on March 4, 1776, he positioned troops and cannons on Dorchester Heights, which overlooked Boston. From there, the Patriots could easily fire on British forces in the city. Washington hoped to force Howe and his men to take the hill or flee Boston. Howe chose to flee. On March 26, the British, joined by some 1,000 colonists loyal to the Crown, sailed for Nova Scotia. They left, according to Washington, “in so much . . . confusion as ever troops did.”

✓ **READING CHECK: Summarizing** How did the Second Continental Congress try to avoid war?

The Siege of Boston, 1775–1776

**Interpreting Maps** When Washington’s troops occupied Dorchester Heights in March 1776, the British decided to retreat by sea.

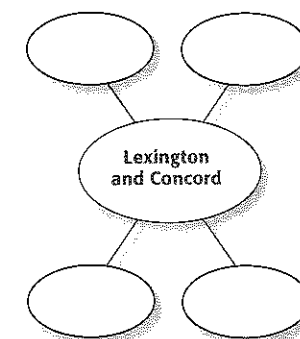
**LOCATE** What does Dorchester Heights overlook?



SECTION 2 REVIEW

- Define and explain:** minutemen
- Identify and explain:** George III, Committee of Correspondence, Tea Act, Boston Tea Party, Intolerable Acts, Quebec Act, First Continental Congress, Patriots, Paul Revere, Second Continental Congress, George Washington, William Howe, Battle of Bunker Hill, Olive Branch Petition

- Analyzing Information** Copy the following web. Use it to list the factors that contributed to the outbreak of fighting at Lexington and Concord.



- Finding the Main Idea**
  - How did colonists respond to the passage of the Tea Act and the Intolerable Acts?
  - How did the Patriots attempt to use geography to their advantage at Bunker Hill and at Dorchester Heights?
  - What arguments might some members of the Second Continental Congress have used to persuade the other delegates to send the Olive Branch Petition to King George III?

- Writing and Critical Thinking**

**Supporting a Point of View** Imagine that you are a member of Parliament. Write a speech attempting to justify the government’s actions in the colonies.

**Consider:**

  - why Parliament passed some laws colonists opposed
  - how the British government viewed the colonies
  - how the British government reacted to the fighting at Lexington and Concord

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