

Study Guide



Chapter 5, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 141–145

A CALL TO ARMS

KEY TERMS

militia	Groups of citizen soldiers (<i>page 142</i>)
minutemen	Militia companies, or citizen soldiers, ready to fight on a minute's notice (<i>page 142</i>)
Loyalists	Those colonists who decided to support Britain (<i>page 145</i>)
Patriots	Colonists determined to fight against Britain for American independence (<i>page 145</i>)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever had a disagreement with a friend or family member? What did you do to try to make peace with this person? Did your actions work? Did you have to compromise with this person in order to make everyone happy?

In the last section, you read about how the colonists reacted to the taxes and restrictions placed on them by the British Parliament. This section focuses on the establishment of the Continental Congress and the events that led up to the American Revolution.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how the colonists tried to keep their rights and avoid war.

Resolutions Passed by the Continental Congress	
1.	
2.	
3.	

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READ TO LEARN

- **The Continental Congress** (pages 141–142)

In September 1774, 55 political leaders, or delegates, from every colony except Georgia met in Philadelphia and established the Continental Congress. The delegates formed this united political organization to represent the interests of all American colonists against the British. While the colonies did not agree on all issues, they knew they had to work together to protect their freedom. The delegates at the Continental Congress accomplished three important things:

- A.** They wrote a statement of grievances, or complaints, calling for the repeal of 13 acts of Parliament passed since 1763.
- B.** They voted to boycott all British goods and trade, not allowing any British goods to be brought into the colonies or any colonial goods to be shipped to Britain.
- C.** They passed a resolution to form *militias*, or their own armed forces of citizen soldiers.

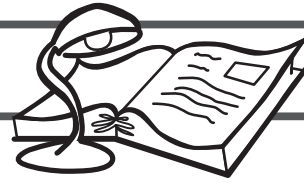
1. What was the most important decision made at the Continental Congress? Why?

- **The First Battles** (pages 142–144)

New England colonists were expecting the fighting with the British to break out in their colony, so they began training, making bullets, and collecting rifles and muskets. Some militia companies bragged that they would be ready to fight on a minute's notice, and thus became known as *minutemen*.

King George and Parliament sent several thousand troops to the Boston area and had more on the way. The troops were sent to take all weapons from the Massachusetts militia and arrest all leaders. They hoped to stop the rebellion. Seven hundred British troops were sent to Concord, where arms and ammunition were being stored by the colonists. Dr. Joseph Warren saw the British troops march out of the city, and he warned Paul Revere and William Dawes, leaders of the Sons of Liberty. They rode on horseback to Lexington, east of Concord, to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that the British were coming.

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Seventy minutemen were waiting for the British troops at Lexington. Shots were fired. When it was over, eight minutemen were dead. The British troops marched on to Concord and destroyed any supplies that were left. As they headed back to Boston, minutemen hidden along the route fired at them and killed 73 and wounded at least 174. The Battles of Lexington and Concord began the American Revolution, America's fight for independence from Britain.

2. Who won the battles of Lexington and Concord? Were the armies evenly matched? Explain.

• More Military Action (pages 144–145)

The Green Mountain Boys, a group of New Englanders led by Ethan Allen, captured the British Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain a few weeks later. They surprised the British who surrendered easily. Twenty thousand people answered the call for volunteers made by the committees of correspondence. The militias met in Boston where both sides waited for the other to make the next move.

About 1,200 militiamen set up a fort at Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill across Boston Harbor on June 16, 1775, under the command of Colonel William Prescott. The next day, British soldiers with bayonets, or spear-like weapons, charged the militiamen on Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill. The militiamen fired on them, held off during two attacks, but were forced to retreat after they ran out of ammunition. Even though the British won the battle, more than 1,000 British soldiers were dead or wounded. It was not an easy victory.

Across the colonies, people were choosing sides. Some colonists, known as **Loyalists**, did not want to rebel and remained loyal to the king. Others, called **Patriots**, were ready to fight until America won its independence from Britain.

3. Why was the Battle of Bunker Hill a moral victory for the Americans?
