

Chapter 5 Section 3

I. The Continental Congress

- A. The Continental Congress was a group of prominent colonial leaders who met in September 1774 to establish a political group that would fight for American interests and challenge the British rule. Among the delegates who attended were Samuel Adams, John Adams, John Jay, Richard Henry Lee, Patrick Henry, and George Washington.
- B. The delegates worked together to draft a statement of grievances. They called for repeal of the 13 acts of Parliament. They voted to boycott all British goods and trade.
- C. They also passed a resolution to form militias, or groups of citizens, so that the colonies would have their own armed forces.

II. The First Battles

- A. The British also prepared themselves for battle. British General Sir Thomas Gage had 3,000 soldiers in and around Boston. In April 1775, his orders were to take away weapons and arrest the militia leaders.
- B. Paul Revere and William Daws rode to Lexington, a town near Concord, to warn Sam Adams and John Hancock that the British were coming.
- C. The redcoats approached Lexington and continued to Concord. They found that the gunpowder was removed, but they destroyed the remaining supplies.
- D. The minutemen were waiting all along the British return trail from Concord to Boston. They ambushed the British. More than 200 British were wounded, and 73 of them were dead. The battles of Lexington and Concord began the struggle for independence.

III. More Military Action

- A. Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain boys captured Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain on May 10, 1775.
- B. The colonial militia grew to about 20,000 after committees of correspondence enlisted more volunteers.
- C. The Battle of Bunker Hill took place on June 16, 1775. Although the British won the battle, they suffered heavy losses and learned that defeating the Americans would not be easy.
- D. Americans chose sides. Those who wanted to fight the British until they won their independence were called Patriots. Loyalists wanted to remain with Britain.