

Study Guide



Chapter 4, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 126–133

THE REVOLUTION BEGINS

KEY TERMS AND NAMES

committee of correspondence committees designed to communicate with other colonies about British activities (page 127)

Boston Tea Party a raid by colonists on British tea ships (page 127)

Intolerable Acts a group of laws that led the colonists to believe that the British were trying to seize control of the colonial governments (page 128)

minutemen a special unit of the militia trained to fight at a minute’s notice (page 129)

Loyalist Americans who backed Britain (page 129)

Patriot Americans who believed the British had become tyrants (page 129)

Battle of Bunker Hill battle between the colonial militia and the British troops (page 131)

Declaration of Independence document that stated the American colonies were free of British rule and were now the United States of America (page 133)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Who was Paul Revere? What was the purpose of Paul Revere’s ride?

The last section described the growing tensions between the British Parliament and the colonists. This section discusses the first battles between Britain and the colonies.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes. Several battles between the British and the colonists occurred before the colonies declared their independence. List the battles and their results in the chart.

Battle	Results
Battle at Lexington	1.
Battle at Concord	2.
Battle of Bunker Hill	3.

Study Guide

Chapter 4, Section 2 (continued)



READ TO LEARN

- **Massachusetts Defies Britain** (page 126)

In 1772 the British introduced new policies that again angered the American colonies. The British sent customs ships to patrol North American shores to stop smugglers. One such ship was the *Gaspee*. It was stationed off Rhode Island. Rhode Islanders were upset about the ship because it often searched ships without a warrant. As a result, when the *Gaspee* ran aground in June 1772, colonists seized and burned the ship.

The British were furious. They sent a commission to investigate and to bring suspects to Britain for trial. Colonists were furious because they believed that it took away their right to a trial by jury of their peers. Rhode Island's assembly sent a letter to other colonial assemblies for help. When the Virginia House of Burgesses received the letter, Thomas Jefferson suggested that each colony set up a **committee of correspondence** to communicate with the other colonies about British activities. The committees helped unify the colonies. They also helped colonial leaders coordinate their plans to resist the British.

In May 1773, England's new prime minister, Lord North, decided to help the British East India Company, which was almost bankrupt. British taxes on tea had caused colonists to smuggle in cheaper Dutch tea. To help the company sell its tea, Parliament passed the Tea Act of 1773. The act allowed East India Company tea to be sold at lower prices than smuggled Dutch tea, and could be sold directly to shopkeepers. American merchants were angered. In October 1773, the East India Company shipped 1,253 chests to several colonial cities, including Boston. The committees of correspondence alerted the colonies that the tea was on the way. Colonists in some colonies forced the ships to turn back. The tea ships arrived in Boston Harbor in December 1773. On the night before the customs officials were planning to take tea ashore, about 150 men boarded the ships and dumped 342 chests of tea into the harbor. The raid became known as the **Boston Tea Party**.

The Boston Tea Party led Parliament to pass four new laws that were known as the Coercive Acts. The acts shut down Boston's port and banned most town meetings. They also violated the colonists' right to trial by a jury of one's peers and the right not to have troops quartered in one's home. Then in July 1774, the British introduced the Quebec Act. It said that a governor and council appointed by the king would run Quebec. The Quebec Act and the Coercive Acts seemed to show that the British were trying to get control of the colonial governments. The two acts became known as the **Intolerable Acts**.

The colonies responded by calling the First Continental Congress on September 5, 1774. Fifty-five delegates met in Philadelphia. Although they all opposed the Intolerable Acts, their response to it varied. Moderates believed a compromise was possible. Radicals believed it was time for the colonies to fight for their rights. After a few days, the delegates approved the Continental Association. This was a plan for every county and town to form committees to

Study Guide



Chapter 4, Section 2 (continued)

enforce a boycott of British goods. The delegates also agreed to hold a second Continental Congress if things were not resolved.

4. What led to the First Continental Congress?

• The Revolution Begins (page 129)

While the Continental Congress was meeting, the Massachusetts assembly organized the Massachusetts Provincial Congress. They formed the Committee of Safety, chose John Hancock to lead it, and gave him the power to call up the militia. Militias began to drill and practice shooting. The town of Concord set up a special unit of men called **minutemen**. They were trained to be ready at a minute's notice. The British were angered over what they considered rebellious acts.

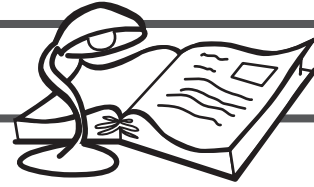
Many colonists were angry, too. They still felt loyal to the king and believed that the colonists should uphold British laws. Those who backed Britain became known as **Loyalists**, or Tories. On the other side were the **Patriots**, or those who believed that the British had become tyrants. They were also known as Whigs. Both groups represented a cross section of colonial society. The Patriots were strong in New England and Virginia. Most Loyalists lived in Georgia, the Carolinas, and New York. Many Americans did not support either the Loyalists or the Patriots.

The British government ordered British General Gage to arrest the Massachusetts Provincial Congress. On April 18, 1775, British troops set out for Concord past the town of Lexington. Patriot leaders heard about the plan and sent Paul Revere and William Dawes to warn the colonists in Lexington and Concord.

On April 19, British troops arrived in Lexington, where 70 minutemen were waiting on the village green. The British ordered them to leave. As the minutemen began to back away, a shot was fired. No one is sure who fired it. The British soldiers then fired at the minutemen, killing 8 and wounding 10. Then the British headed to Concord, where they found most of the military supplies gone. When they tried to cross the bridge on the north side of town, they ran into about 400 minutemen. A fight broke out, and the British were forced to retreat. News of the fighting spread across the colonies. Militia from all over New England came to help fight the British. By May 1775, militia troops had surrounded Boston and had trapped the British inside.

After the battles at Lexington and Concord, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. The Congress voted to name the militia surrounding

Study Guide



Chapter 4, Section 2 (continued)

Boston the Continental Army. It appointed George Washington as general and commander in chief of the army. In the meantime, the British sent in reinforcements and decided to gain control of the area around Boston. They decided to take the hills north of the city. When the militia heard of these plans, they started building earthen forts at the top of Breed's Hill near Bunker Hill. General Gage sent 2,200 troops to the top of the hill. The soldiers, wearing heavy pack and woolen uniforms, began an uphill attack in sweltering heat. When the British came close to the minutemen, the Americans fired. They turned back two British advances. The **Battle of Bunker Hill** gave Americans confidence. It showed that the colonists could stand up to the British armies.

5. What effect did the Battle of Bunker Hill have on the colonists?

• The Decision for Independence (page 131)

In July 1775, the Continental Congress sent a document, known as the Olive Branch Petition, to the British king. The document said that the colonists were still loyal to the king and wanted to work things out peacefully. King George III refused to consider the petition. Instead, he issued a statement that said the colonists were now enemies.

A compromise did not seem likely, so the Continental Congress began to act like a government. In December 1775, the king ordered trade with the colonies to be shut down. It ordered the navy to blockade the coast. The British also recruited German mercenaries, or soldiers for hire, from Germany. Most mercenaries were Hessians, from the German region of Hesse.

As the fighting continued, more and more Patriots began to think that it was time for the colonies to declare independence. By January 1776, the public opinion also began to change because of a pamphlet called *Common Sense*, published by Thomas Paine. In *Common Sense*, Paine said that the British king was the enemy, not just Parliament. He said that the king was responsible for British actions against the colonies. The pamphlet sold 100,000 copies within three months. It helped to convince many Patriots and other colonists that it was time to declare independence. On July 4, 1776, a committee approved a document Thomas Jefferson had drafted on independence. The Continental Congress issued the **Declaration of Independence**, and the American Revolution had begun.

6. What effect did the pamphlet *Common Sense* have on the colonies?
