

# Battles of Lexington and Concord

The Battles of Lexington and Concord signaled the start of the American Revolutionary War on April 19, 1775. The British Army set out from Boston to capture Samuel Adams and John Hancock, rebel leaders, in Lexington. They also wanted to destroy the colonists' storage of weapons and ammunition in Concord. Both cities were located in Massachusetts.

## Lexington

The Battle of Lexington was a small fight that can hardly be called a battle. It is important though because it is where the Revolutionary War started. There were only around 80 American Militiamen, led by Captain John Parker, in the town when the British arrived. About 25% of the men were related to Parker. They were up against a much larger British force, about 700 men, led by Major John Pitcairn. Neither of the sides actually planned to fight, but in the midst of the confusion, a gunshot went off forcing the British to attack. Some of the colonists were killed and the rest fled.

## "Shot Heard Around the World"

The gunshot is known as the "shot heard around the world" named by Ralph Waldo Emerson in his poem "Concord Hymn." It is unknown who actually fired the first shot. The British marched to the city of Concord after Americans fled from Lexington. When they first got to Concord, they met little resistance and started searching the town for the militia's hidden stash of weapons and munitions. The Americans had retreated to the outskirts of Concord and observed the British from the other side of the North Bridge. As the Americans waited, more militiamen arrived, making their forces stronger. The Americans decided to cross the North Bridge back into Concord, where they defeated the British troops, giving them renewed confidence.

## Outcome

The British commander, Colonel Francis Smith, realized the American militia was rapidly growing and it was time to retreat. Once they decided to do so, they started their long march back to the city of Boston. The Americans continued to gain forces and to attack and harass the British during their retreat. The British lost 73 men and 174 were wounded by the time they reached Boston. The Americans lost 49 men and 41 were wounded. The Battles of Lexington and Concord marked the start of the American Revolution. Thousands of militiamen surrounded Boston, and the Americans felt successful in fighting the British, giving them the courage to continue to unite and fight.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Battles of Lexington & Concord

Complete the chart about the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

Dates	
Location	
American Leaders	
British Leaders	
2 Facts about the Battle	
Outcome	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Battles of Lexington and Concord



**Multiple Choice:** Choose the best answer.

1) Which of the following best completes the analogy?

John Parker: Patriots:: \_\_\_\_\_: British

- A. Ralph Waldo Emerson
- B. John Pitcairn
- C. John Hancock
- D. Samuel Adams

2) Which of the following is an accurate statement about the Battle of Lexington?

- A. It was a large battle.
- B. British troops were outnumbered by Americans.
- C. It is unknown which side fired the first shot.
- D. No one died in the battle.

3) Why did the British mainly go to Concord?

- A. To destroy the colonists' munitions and weapons supply.
- B. To search the city for Samuel Adams and John Hancock.
- C. They heard rumors the militiamen were gathering there.
- D. They thought that was where George Washington had started training militiamen.

4) Which event renewed the militiamen's confidence in the Battle of Concord?

- A. They destroyed the British weapon and munitions supply.
- B. They defeated the British at the North Bridge.
- C. The British retreated at the Battle of Lexington.
- D. The British retreated to their headquarters.

5) Which of the following was NOT an outcome of the Battles of Lexington and Concord?

- A. The British retreated to Boston.
- B. American militiamen surrounded Boston.
- C. More American militiamen were killed than British soldiers.
- D. Americans were given the courage to unite and fight.

# CAPTURE OF FORT TICONDEROGA

## Date and Location

Fort Ticonderoga was located in upstate New York between Lake Champlain and Lake George. There were three battles that occurred there during the Revolutionary War. The capture of Fort Ticonderoga occurred early in the Revolutionary War on May 10, 1775.

## Green Mountain Boys

The Green Mountain Boys were a local militia led by Ethan Allen. They were given the task of taking over the fort for the Patriots. Colonel Benedict Arnold from Boston joined them. At first the Green Mountain Boys did not want to fight under Colonel Arnold, but eventually Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold agreed to a joint command. During the night the Green Mountain boys started sneaking across the river, but only about half of the men crossed the river by sunrise. Rather than wait on the rest of the force to cross, Ethan Allen decided to go ahead and attack. There was only one guard at the south gate when they first approached. His musket misfired and he ran away, so the fort was open for the Patriots. They quickly entered, taking the 48 British soldiers by surprise. No one was killed in the attack. The main reason for the Americans to take the fort was to get control of its cannons. The cannons were then moved to Boston where they were used to help end the Siege of Boston.



## American Control

The fort was held by the Americans and used to defend New York from a British attack from the north. 2,000 soldiers were guarding the fort under the command of General Arthur St. Clair. He requested more soldiers from George Washington, but Washington did not think the British would attack. However, the British did attack in early July of 1777. They brought a large force of 8,000 soldiers under the command of General John Burgoyne, who quickly realized Ticonderoga was vulnerable to an attack from the high ground of Mount Defiance. Artillery was positioned atop the mountain and they began to surround the fort. When St. Clair saw the British had large guns placed on top of Mount Defiance, he knew he had no chance to keep the fort. He ordered his men to retreat and give up the fort to the British. The loss of Fort Ticonderoga was a huge blow to the Americans.

## Outcome

A force of 500 men led by Colonel John Brown on September 18 attempted to take back the fort. There were around 700 British troops garrisoned at the fort. Even though Brown was unable to take the fort back, he did manage to rescue 118 American prisoners and captured 293 British troops. The fort was held by the British for the rest of the war, but held little significance, and was abandoned by the British after the surrender at Yorktown in 1781.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Capture of Fort Ticonderoga

Complete the chart about the Capture of Fort Ticonderoga.

Dates	
Location	
American Leaders	
British Leaders	
2 Facts about the Battle	
Outcome	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Capture of Fort Ticonderoga

**True or False:** Place a check in the correct column.

Statement	T	F
1. The main reason the Patriots wanted to take over Fort Ticonderoga was for British cannons.		
2. There were three Revolutionary War battles that occurred near Fort Ticonderoga.		
3. Fort Ticonderoga remained under American control the entire Revolutionary War.		
4. Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold led the Green Mountain Boys at Fort Ticonderoga.		
5. John Brown was successful at his attempt to take back Fort Ticonderoga.		
6. Fort Ticonderoga was located in New York between Lake George and Lake Champlain.		
7. Ten Patriots were killed trying to take over Fort Ticonderoga the first time.		
8. The British abandoned Fort Ticonderoga after the Revolutionary War.		

**Short Answer:** Answer each question.

9. What was the result of Ethan Allen's decision to go ahead with the siege of Fort Ticonderoga despite not having all his men?
10. Even though Brown was unable to retake Fort Ticonderoga, why was his mission partly successful?