

The Road to Revolution

part 2



Sons of Liberty

secret colonial organizations formed to protest the British, often through violent means



Committees of Correspondence

colonial committees that communicated with other colonies about British activities

Boston Tea Party

December 16, 1773

British Parliament granted the East India Company a monopoly on all tea exported to the colonies



price increase + tax (Townsend Acts) = angry colonists



men disguised as Indians and led by Samuel Adams boarded British ships in Boston and dumped their tea into the harbor

Boston Tea Party

Coercive / Intolerable Acts

1774



to punish the colonists for the Boston Tea Party, Parliament did the following:

closed the port of Boston until the tea was paid for

banned most town meetings

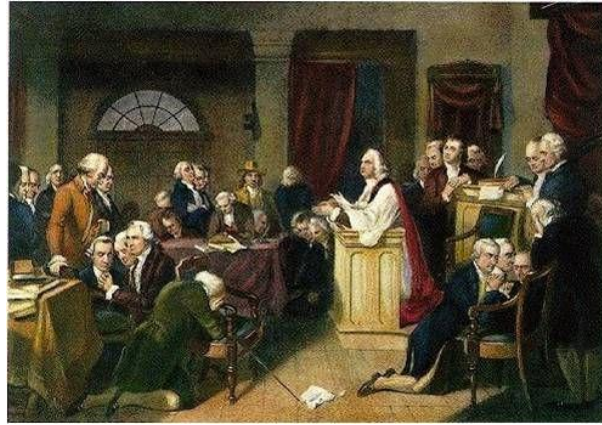
required Bostonians to continue to quarter British troops in their private homes

First Continental Congress

September of 1774

55 delegates met in Philadelphia to decide how to respond to the Coercive Acts

at the meeting they came up with:



Declaration and Resolves

listed why the colonies were upset with Britain

The Association

a group that would organize boycotts of British goods throughout the colonies

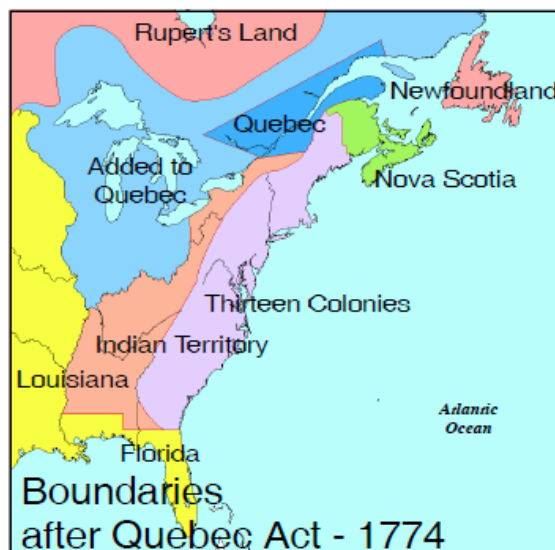
Quebec Act

1774

extended the border of Quebec south to the Ohio River

allowed French Canadians to use the legal system they were used to

recognized Catholicism
colonists feared same rules might be passed on them



Lexington and Concord

April 19, 1775

Massachusetts colonists were collecting munitions in Concord

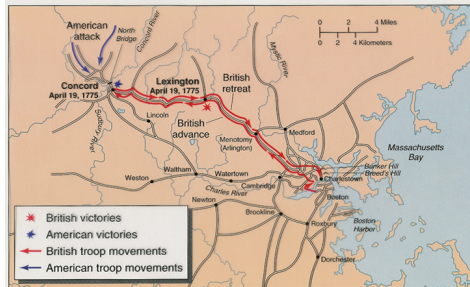
British General Thomas Gage sent Redcoats to confiscate them

British troops met Minutemen mustered on the town green at Lexington

a Minuteman (mistakenly) fired a shot and the British troops returned fire at the Minutemen

British charged with bayonets, leaving eight dead and 10 wounded

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote that it was "the shot heard 'round the world"



Lexington and Concord

Concord Hymn

by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1837)

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set to-day a votive stone;
That memory may their deed redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those heroes dare
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and thee.

Battle of Bunker / "Breed's" Hill

June, 1775

Bunker and Breed's Hills are both just outside Boston



colonial troops marched up Breed's Hill
were surrounded by British
held their ground until they ran out of ammunition
lost the hill but killed many British soldiers



Colonial Forces
115 killed,
305 wounded,
30 captured
Total: 450

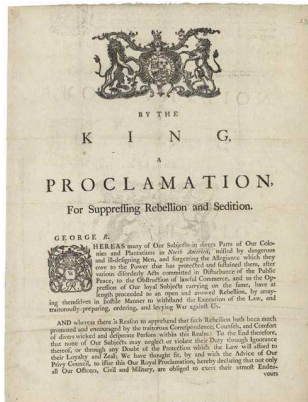
British Army
226 killed,
828 wounded
0 captured
Total: 1,054



Second Continental Congress

May of 1775 – July 1781

created:



Olive Branch Petition

July, 1775
asked King George III
to stop the fighting
until an agreement could be worked out
the king ignored it

The Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms

also July, 1775
explained why the colonies
had started fighting
while insisting that
they did not want independence



Common Sense

by Thomas Paine

pamphlet written in January, 1776

listed reasons to separate from Britain
in language that everyone could
understand

had the largest sale and circulation of
any book published in American history
at that point

