

Name _____



Lexington and Concord

By Cathy Pearl

The colonists were getting ready for war. Each colony started a militia. The militias started to train. They needed to learn how to fight. They were getting ready to fight a war. The militia would be fighting sooner than they thought.

The colonists started to gather weapons. They put these weapons in Concord. Concord was about twenty miles from Boston, Massachusetts. The colony began to train people to fight. The people were called minutemen. They were called this because they were ready to fight in a minute.

England sent more troops to Boston. Soon, there were four thousand troops in the city. An English general heard about the weapons. He decided to surprise the colonists. He sent seven hundred troops to Concord. They were to destroy the weapons.

The troops left at night on April 18, 1775. They thought no one saw them leave. They were wrong. Colonists were watching the soldiers. They hung lamps in a church. The lamps meant the soldiers were leaving.

Paul Revere jumped on his horse. He rode to Lexington. It was about five miles from Concord. He warned the colonists that the soldiers were coming. The soldiers arrived in Lexington on April 19. Seventy minutemen were waiting. No one knows who fired first. When it was over, eight colonists were dead. The soldiers went to Concord and destroyed the weapons. It looked like they had won the battle.

They didn't know the battle wasn't over. The soldiers started to march back to Boston. Outside Concord there were three hundred minutemen waiting for them. The soldiers had to retreat. They tried to get back to Boston. In the forests, there were four thousand colonists hiding. They shot at the soldiers all the way back to Boston. In the



end, the English soldiers were defeated. Seventy-three soldiers had been killed. About two hundred were injured or missing.

The minutemen were considered heroes. They had fought in the first battle of what would be the Revolutionary War. Sixty years after the battle, a famous poet would write about what they had done.

A difficult time was ahead for the colonists. The war would be long. Many men would die. The battles at Lexington and Concord had ended any hope of stopping the war. It was too late. They had come too far. Their only choice now was to fight for freedom.

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Questions

- _____ 1. What night did the soldiers leave for Concord?
 - A. April 18
 - B. April 19
 - C. September 23
- _____ 2. Who won the battles in the end?
 - A. The minutemen
 - B. The English soldiers
 - C. No one won
- _____ 3. Why did the soldiers march to Concord?
 - A. They didn't march to Concord.
 - B. They marched to Concord to burn houses.
 - C. They marched to Concord to destroy weapons.
- _____ 4. Lexington and Concord were the first battles in what war?
 - A. Revolutionary War
 - B. World War I
 - C. War of 1812

