

## The Revolutionary War Video Series

### Part 1: Rebels and Redcoats

1. Why can the American Revolution also be called a civil war?
2. Why did the British march to Concord on April 19, 1775?
3. What happened on the green of Lexington on April 19, 1775?
4. Why did the Redcoats maintain their formation as they returned to Boston from Concord?

### Discussion Questions

1. A. How do you think the actions of the British Parliament affected the colonists?  
  
B. What were the colonists' responses to those actions?  
  
C. Who do you think was more justified in their actions, the colonists or Parliament? Support your answer with specific examples.
2. Debate the decision of General Howe in ordering the British to march to Concord to seize munitions. What other choices could General Howe have made?
3. What effects did the Boston Massacre have on the people of the colonies? Explain how this could have contributed to cause the American Revolution.

## **Part 2: An Army of Amateurs**

1. Why did the British government need to tax the colonists?
2. Why did Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen attack Fort Ticonderoga?
3. Why did some rebels at the Battle of Bunker Hill have to fore glass, rocks, or nails from their muskets?
4. How did the Continental Congress pay for the army without having the power to tax?

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Compare and contrast British soldiers and colonial soldiers. Discuss to what extent their differences or similarities might have had an impact on the outcome of the war.
2. Analyze why some colonists remained loyal to the king while others rebelled against him.
3. Debate the Continental Congress' choice for commander of the army. Based upon his military record, was he the best person for the job?

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### Part 3: Declarations of Independence

1. What were George Washington's reactions when he was asked to take charge of the Continental Army?
2. Who were the two military leaders chosen by Washington to lead the attack on Canada?
3. What did Thomas Paine's pamphlet, *Common Sense* attack?
4. Who were three of the people Congress appointed to draft a Declaration of Independence?

### Critical Thinking Questions (paragraph answers)

Benjamin Franklin and his son William took different sides in the American Revolution. They did not speak to each other after the war began. How do you think your relationship would be affected if you disagreed with a member of your family about politics?

George Washington, Benedict Arnold, Thomas Paine, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson were rebels. In your opinion, were they correct in their beliefs, their cause?

## **Part 4: Victory or Death**

1. How did the British respond to the Declaration of Independence?
2. What was the first formal battle the Americans fought and lost during the Revolution?
3. Why did Congress establish a day of prayer in the winter of 1776?
4. What was the importance of the Battles of Trenton and Princeton?

### **Critical Thinking Questions (paragraph answers)**

To preserve his army, George Washington used the tactic of retreating from the battlefield. Give a specific example and then give your opinion of this military tactic.

Joseph Plumb Martin was 15 when he joined the army and he remained in the army for the entire war. A constant problem for the Continental Army was recruiting and retaining soldiers. Why do you think Martin stayed? What would you have done?