

Name:

Date:

THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

In 1775, many colonists wanted America to become its own country. The only way to gain their freedom was to go to war. The colonists would have to fight against the British army.

The problem was that the colonists did not have an army. Each town had a small group of armed men to defend it. In Massachusetts, some towns had special fighters who could get ready for battle quickly. They were called Minutemen. Colony leaders knew more soldiers were

needed, so they asked for volunteers. Soon, every town had Minutemen to protect it.



The British army had a secret plan. About 700 British soldiers began marching from Boston, Massachusetts, to Concord, Massachusetts. The soldiers wanted to take or destroy some military supplies the colonists had hidden. On the way, the soldiers were going to stop in Lexington, Massachusetts, to arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock. These men were two of the colonies' most important leaders.

The colonists in Boston found out what the British were planning to do. Paul Revere and two other men rode to Lexington and Concord. They went to warn the Minutemen that the British were coming.

When the British got to Lexington, they were surprised. The colonists already knew the army was coming. Seventy Minutemen stood waiting. Adams and Hancock had already left to keep from being captured. Someone fired a gun, and the fighting began. After this battle ended, the British marched on to Concord.

Minutemen were also waiting for the British in Concord. When the British soldiers got close to town, the Minutemen started firing at them. The battle began. The British took some of the supplies the colonists had hidden. The rest of the supplies had been moved to a safer place.

Then, the British headed back to Boston. All along the way, Minutemen shot at the British soldiers as they marched by. The Minutemen were hiding behind trees and stone walls. It was hard for the British to hit their targets since they could not see the Minutemen.

The Battles of Lexington and Concord were over. Now, the British knew the colonists were willing to fight them. There was no doubt that the colonists were serious about wanting their freedom from England. The American Revolution had begun.

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Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. The American Revolution began in _____.
- A. 1775
 - B. 1620
 - C. 1861
 - D. 1492
2. The colonists fought against the _____ army.
- A. French
 - B. Canadian
 - C. Spanish
 - D. British
3. The first battle of the American Revolution was at _____.
- A. Concord
 - B. Boston
 - C. Lexington
 - D. Yorktown
4. The British planned to arrest _____ and John Hancock.
- A. Paul Revere
 - B. George Washington
 - C. Samuel Adams
 - D. Benedict Arnold
5. When the British arrived in Lexington, the Minutemen were _____.
- A. standing ready to fight
 - B. working on their farms
 - C. firing their guns
 - D. looking for the hidden supplies

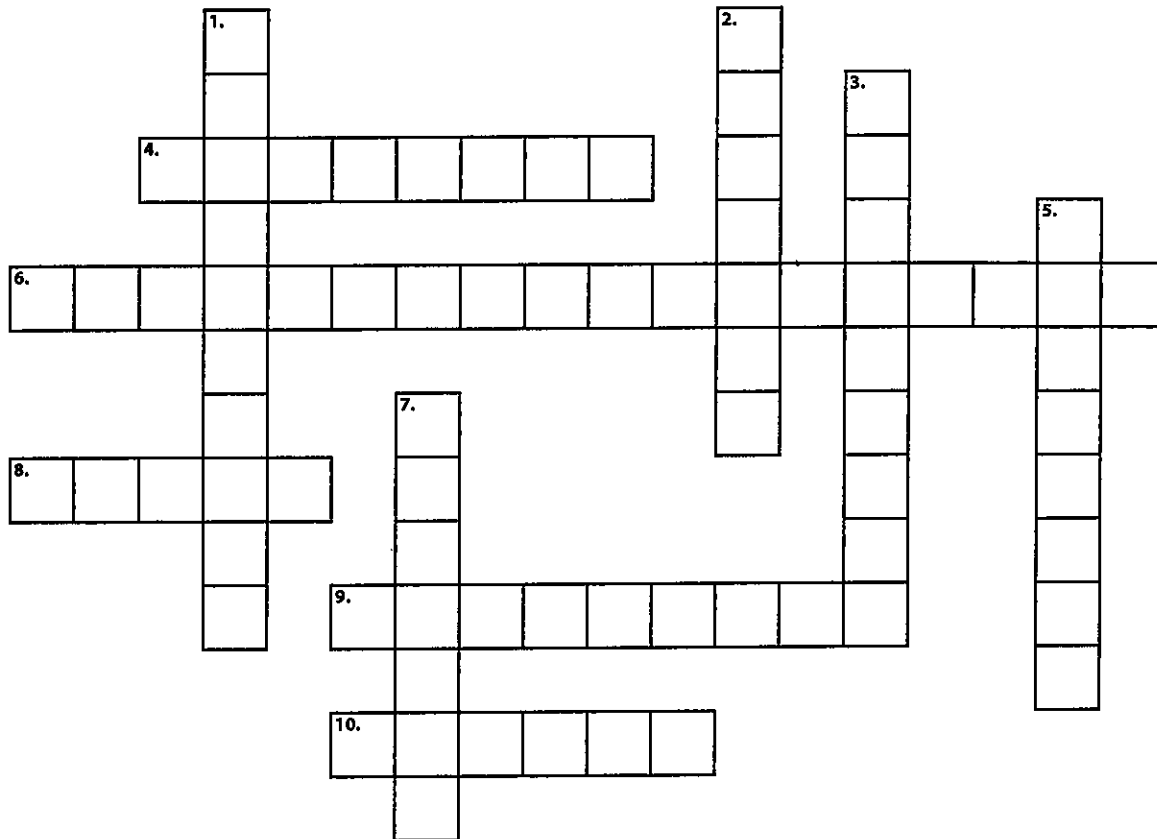
Name: _____

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Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

4. The British took some military _____, but the rest had been moved to a safer place.
6. The _____ began in 1775.
8. The Minutemen shot at the British soldiers from behind _____ and stone walls.
9. The British army planned to arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock in _____.
10. After the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the British marched back to _____.

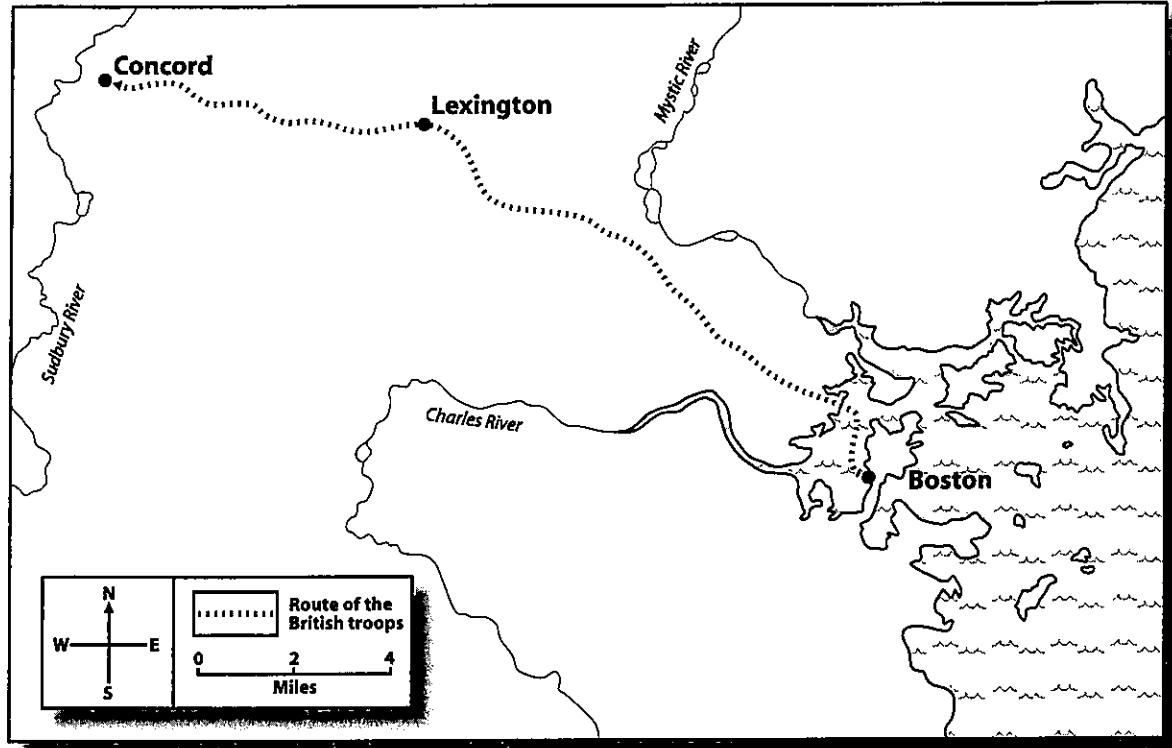
DOWN

1. _____ and two other men went to warn the people in Lexington and Concord that the British were coming.
2. The British planned to take military supplies the colonists had hidden in _____.
3. The _____ could get ready for battle quickly.
5. Colony leaders needed _____ to fight against the British army.
7. The colonists were serious about wanting their _____ from England.

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Map – The British Troops' March

Use the map to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.



1. About how far was it from Boston to Lexington?

2. About how far was it from Lexington to Concord?

3. About how many miles did the British soldiers have to march to go back to Boston from Concord?

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Extension Activities

Choose one of the following activities to complete. Write the answer in complete sentences.

1. Why is Paul Revere one of America's heroes? Look on the Internet or at the library to find three facts about Paul Revere.

2. Ralph Waldo Emerson, a famous American writer, wrote a poem called "The Concord Hymn." Look on the Internet or at the library to find out what this poem is about. Why did Emerson write the poem? In what year did he write it?

3. The Minutemen were some of the first people to use guerrilla warfare. Look on the Internet or at the library to find out what guerrilla warfare is. How does guerrilla warfare work?

QUIZ: THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write "true" or "false" in the blank.

- _____ 1. The American Revolution started in 1861.
- _____ 2. It took the Minutemen a long time to get ready for battle.
- _____ 3. The first battle of the American Revolution was at Lexington.
- _____ 4. Samuel Adams and John Hancock were arrested in Lexington.
- _____ 5. The Minutemen shot at the British soldiers from behind trees.

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

6. Paul Revere and two other men rode to _____ and Concord to warn the colonists that the British were coming.
- A. Lexington
 - B. Boston
 - C. Philadelphia
 - D. Yorktown
7. The colonists wanted their freedom from _____.
- A. Portugal
 - B. France
 - C. England
 - D. Spain

Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. On the march back to Boston, why was it difficult for the British soldiers to shoot back at the Minutemen?
