



## “Brother Jonathan, Thomas Lobster” Pre-Visit Package





## Words to Know

**Militia:**  
a part-time citizen army. In Massachusetts, all able-bodied males between 16 and 60 were required to serve.

**Minute Man:**  
a militiaman who has volunteered to serve in an elite company, better trained and equipped than the militia, which is ready to fight at a “minute’s warning.”

**Regular:**  
a full-time, professional soldier, as opposed to a part-time citizen soldier in the militia – hence the British soldiers were often referred to as the “Regulars.”

**Company:**  
a military unit, numbering anywhere from 35 – 100 men, commanded by a captain.

**Regiment:**  
a military unit, made up of several companies, commanded by a colonel. Regiments are sometimes also referred to as battalions.

**Brigade:**  
a military unit made up of two or more regiments, commanded by a brigadier general.

**Infantry:**  
all soldiers who march and fight on foot, whose principle weapon is the musket and bayonet.

**Light Infantry:**  
specially trained British soldiers who work in small groups, spread out, take cover, and skirmish with the enemy.

**Grenadiers:**  
the picked men of a regiment, infantry soldiers chosen for height, strength, courage, and intelligence. In the early part of the 1700’s, they used to throw grenades (hand-held bombs), though by the Revolution, they had given this up (too dangerous!). However, the term “Grenadier” remained in the army as a title of honor. They can be identified by the tall, bearskin hats that they wear.

**Muster:**  
a gathering, usually for training purposes, of the local militia. This was done by company about once every two months, and by regiment, once, maybe twice per year.



British Grenadier  
Painting by Don Troiani

## Information for the teacher: Using the vocabulary in a classroom activity

Have your own militia muster. Divide the class into “companies” of three soldiers each and elect one soldier as captain for each company. Next, appoint yourself colonel of this newly raised “regiment.” Militia and minute man companies and regiments were usually named after their commanding officer. For example: *Smith’s Company (Town of Lincoln), Pierce’s Regiment.*

Next, muster the regiment. Each company should be arranged one beside the other with their captain on the right. Once assembled, call out in a loud, authoritative voice, “*Attention to orders!*” (this means be quiet) Make sure every soldier stands up straight and tall. You will then read to them the Oath of Enlistment. The following text was actually used by the Concord Minute Men when they mustered into service in January of 1775.

After reading the Oath of Enlistment to the class, have them sign their names, one at a time, to a muster sheet. Impress upon them that back in 1775, signing such a sheet meant they might have to risk their lives in battle.

Plan to follow this activity up during your visit. Select ahead of time one student as the “muster master” for your class regiment. At the direction of the park ranger, the muster master will have the task of forming the regiment (as was done in the classroom) and calling the roll. Each student will answer, “Here!” when his/her name is called. The park ranger will then lead the regiment in marching drill.



*Whereas it is the advice of the Provincial Congress that one quarter part of the militia of this province at least, should enlist as minutemen we therefore in conformity to said advice have as such set our hands unto the following articles which we are determined to stand by vis.*

*1. That we whose names that are herunto subscribed will defend Majesty King George the Third his person crown and dignity.*

*2. That we will at the same time to the utmost of our power and ability defend all and every of our charter rights liberties and privileges and will stand at a minutes warning with arms and ammunition thus to do.*

*3. That we will at all times and at all places obey our officers chosen by our selves and other superiour officers in ordering and disciplining us and that we will appear when and where said officers should appoint for that purpose.*

*Concord January ye 30:1775*

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3. that we will at all times and in all places obey our officers Chosen by our selves and other Superiour officers in ordering and Disciplining us and that we will appear when and where said officers shall appoint for that purpose

Concord January ye 30: 1778

~~John Brown jun~~  
 Charles Flint  
 Amos Davis  
 Phineas Allen  
 Brassery Robinson  
 Nathan Stow  
 Ruben Hunt  
 David Brown  
 David Wheeler jun  
 Stephen Jones  
 Jonas Balemon  
 William Meser  
 Edward Flint  
 John White  
 William Buttrick  
 Joseph Davis jun  
 William Buttrick  
 John Minot jun

John Buttrick  
 Emerson Cogswell  
 Daniel Gray  
 Abigail Brown  
 Jotham Wheeler  
 Abraham Davis  
 Edward Flint jun  
 Ezekiel Hager  
 Stephen Barrett  
 Pearchie Brown  
 Humphrey Barrett jun  
 Amos Barrett  
 Peter Wheeler  
 David Melvin jun  
 Thomas Preser  
 Ebenezer Stow  
 Lemme White  
 Joseph Dudley  
 Aaron Wright



## Just the Essentials: Clothing and Equipment of Revolutionary War Soldiers

**Minute men** and **militia** were citizen soldiers and did not have uniforms. When they showed up for duty, they wore their own clothes, over which they carried their weapons and equipment. When they were called out to serve, they had to have enough ammunition, food, water, and other items of comfort (blanket, extra clothing etc.) for at least one day's service.



**No Two Dressed Alike!**

**British soldiers**, on the other hand, always wore uniforms. This allowed them to tell friend from foe - - but why RED? Well, for one thing, it looked good and added to the frightening appearance of the army in battle. ALSO, Battlefields in the 1700's were smoky, confusing places. Red uniforms made it easier for British officers to see their men through the smoke of battle. As a result, they were better able to control the action, and could avoid shooting their own troops!



### What's with those hats?

These British Regulars are **grenadiers**; you can tell by the very odd hats they are wearing. These hats are made from bear fur and add to the ferocious appearance of the grenadiers in battle. During the early 1700's, decades before the American Revolution, grenadiers actually threw grenades (hence the name). In those days, the grenadier hats made it easier for a soldier to sling his musket over his shoulder and throw his grenade without knocking his hat off - thus dropping his grenade and blowing himself and his friends up.

# Colonial Militiaman

**Knapsack: 20 lbs**  
Contains food, clothing, and blanket

**Cartridge box: 10 lbs**  
Contains ammunition

**Musket: 10 lbs**  
This is the principle weapon of Revolutionary soldiers. A trained soldier can load and fire three times per minute.



# Colonial Militiaman



**Canteen: 2 lbs**  
Contains water

**Socket bayonet: 1 lb**  
A special blade that fits onto the end of the musket for hand-to-hand combat. Because of the socket's design, the musket can still be fired when the bayonet is "fixed."

# British Regular

**Cocked hat:**

a very fashionable hat for soldiers and civilians

**Facings:**

The turned back flaps on a regimental coat. They were colored to show which regiment a soldier belonged to. This soldier belongs to the 63rd regiment, whose coats had dark green facings.

**Socket bayonet**

**Cartridge box:**  
Contains ammunition



# British Regular



**Canteen:**  
Contains water

**Haversack:**  
contains food rations

**Second cartridge box**

# Questions For Thought

*Look at the pictures of the Colonial minute man and British regular and answer the following questions.*

1. How many pounds of equipment would a minute man carry into battle?
2. In what ways are the clothing and equipment of Colonial and British soldiers different?
3. In ways are the clothing and equipment of Colonial and British soldiers similar?
4. Equipment and weapons were expensive back in 1775 and not every minute man had all the stuff he needed when he was called to serve. If you were a minute man, what pieces of equipment so you think you could you do without if you had to? How might that affect you while serving as a soldier?
5. If you were going to fight a battle in the Revolutionary War, would you rather dress like a British soldier or a Colonial soldier? Explain your answer.



# Hurry Up!

Imagine you're a minute man in the town of Framingham, alerted that the British are marching to Concord. These days you'd hop in a car, bus or train and get there in 20 minutes. Ah! But this is 1775 and most people travel on foot!

*Below is a map showing all of the towns whose militia took part in the battle. The lines indicate where along the Battle Road they arrived.*



**Using the map and the scale of miles, calculate the approximate number of miles the militia had to travel that day to reach the battlefield from the following towns:**

- Acton: arrived at North Bridge, Concord – 9:00 a.m.
- Billerica: arrived at Meriam’s Corner, Concord – 12:30 p.m.
- Sudbury: arrived at Brooks’ Hill, Concord – 12:45 p.m.
- Woburn: arrived at Bloody Angle, Lincoln – 1:00 p.m.
- Dedham: arrived at Menotomy – 3:30 p.m.
- Danvers: arrived at Menotomy – 4:00 p.m.
- Dracut: arrived at Cambridge – 5:30/6:00 p.m.

**Now, let’s say a militiaman, weighed down with equipment and weapons, can walk 4 mph (miles per hour) on average.**

1. Divide each distance by 4 to find out how long it took each town to arrive.
2. Subtract that time from their approximate time of arrival and estimate the latest they could have started their march.

### **Remember**

These times are approximate! Also, the roads back then were often winding and the actual distance they marched was probably longer; but at least you’ll get the idea!

### **Hey! What about us?**

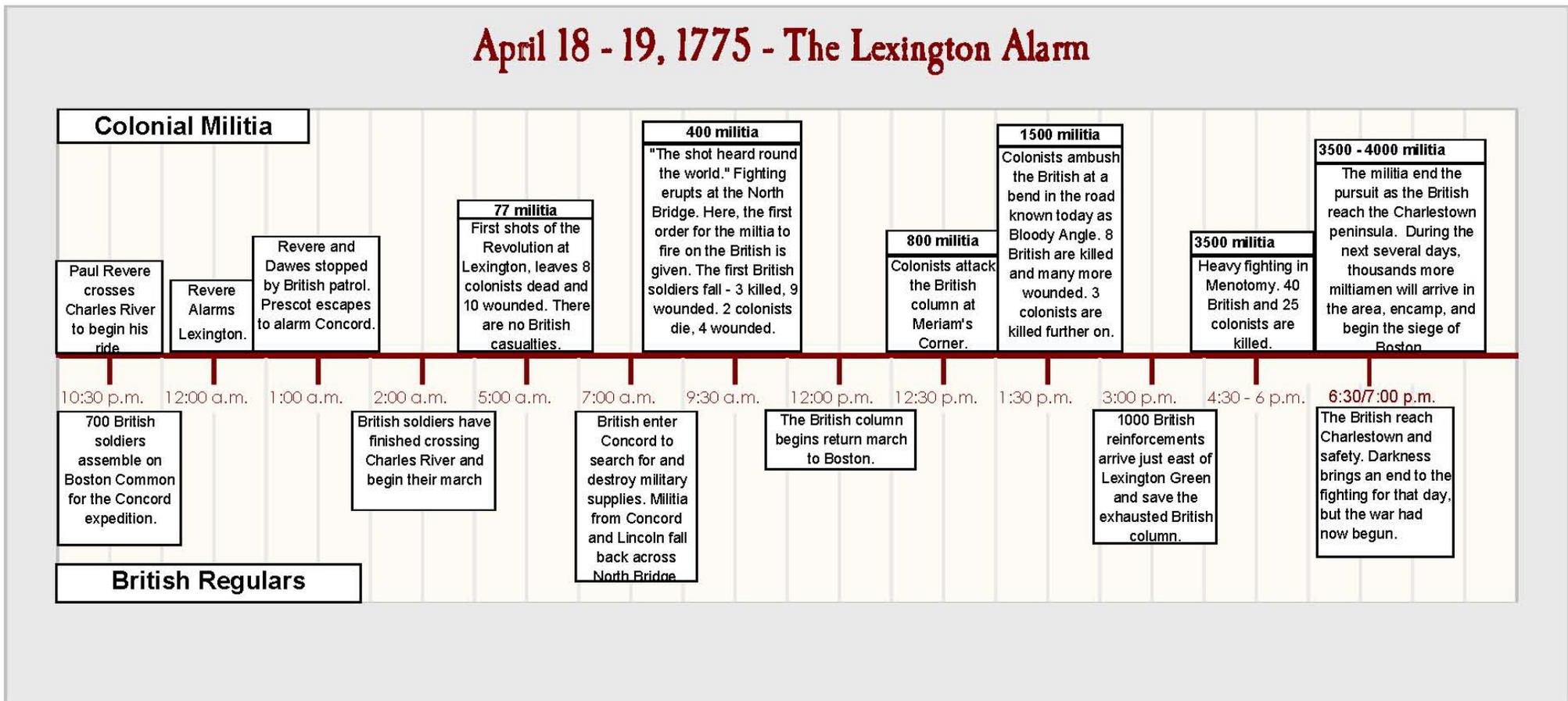
If you are from one of the towns that took part in the battle but are not listed above, here they are. Feel free to replace one of the towns listed with your town.

- Lexington: Lexington Common – 5:00 a.m.
- Concord: mustered at Concord – 3:00 a.m.
- Lincoln: arrived at North Bridge, Concord – 4:00 a.m.
- Bedford: arrived at North Bridge, Concord – 8:00 a.m.
- Stow: arrived at Concord -10:30 a.m.
- Westford: arrived at Concord -10:30 a.m.
- Framingham: arrived at Brooks’ Hill, Concord – 12:45 p.m.
- Reading: arrived at Meriam’s Corner, Concord – 12:30 p.m.
- Chelmsford: arrived at Meriam’s Corner, Concord – 12:30 p.m.
- Cambridge: arrived at Lincoln – 1:30 p.m.
- Newton: arrived at Lexington – 1:40 p.m.
- Brookline: arrived at Menotomy – 3:30 p.m.
- Watertown: arrived at Menotomy – 3:30 p.m.
- Medford: arrived at Menotomy – 3:30 p.m.
- Malden: arrived at Menotomy – 3:30 p.m.
- Roxbury: arrived at Menotomy – 3:30 p.m.
- Needham/Natick: arrived at Menotomy – 3:30 p.m.
- Lynn: arrived at Menotomy – 3:30 p.m.
- Beverly: arrived at Menotomy – 3:30 p.m.
- Menotomy: arrived at Menotomy – 3:30 p.m.



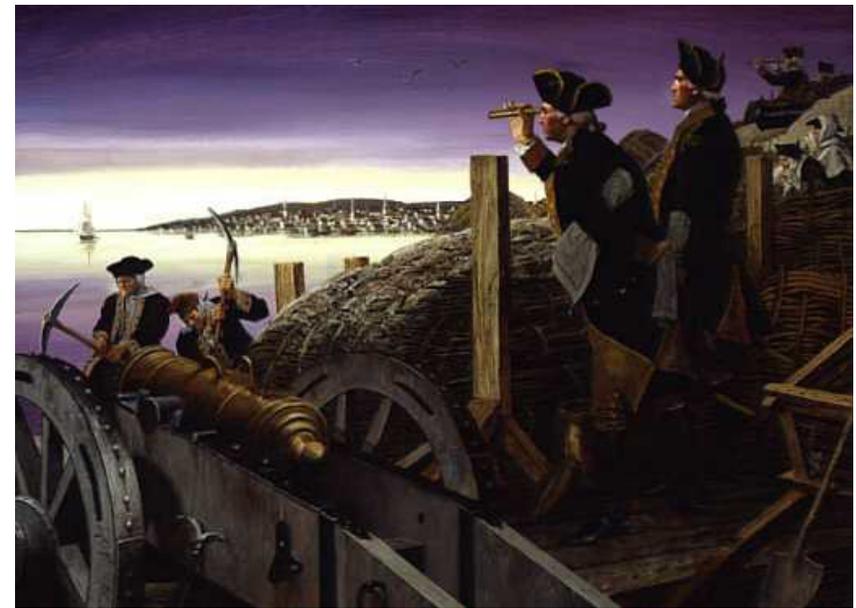
## Revolutionary Timelines

Timelines are important because they help us visualize historical events in the order they happened. Plotting the American Revolution on a timeline can teach us a lot about it. Below is a timeline of the key events of April 18 and 19, 1775 - from Paul Revere's famous ride to the final shots of the day. Can you tell from this timeline how many hours the British were up and marching?



Match each of the following Revolutionary events with the year they happened.

- A. The Declaration of Independence
- B. The Boston Massacre
- C. George Washington inaugurated 1st President of the USA
- D. The Boston Tea Party
- E. The Battle of Saratoga
- F. The Constitutional Convention
- G. Treaty of Paris – The War ends!
- H. The French and Indian War ends
- I. Alliance made between France and the USA
- J. The Stamp Act
- K. The British Surrender at Yorktown



Fortifying Dorchester Heights - Siege of Boston - March 1776

## The American Revolution

