



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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Concord January 30: 1778

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

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