

## The Road to Lexington and Concord

**Specific Objective** Describe how the tensions between Britain and the colonies led to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

**Directions:** Read the summary below to answer questions on the next page.

### The Intolerable Acts

In response to the Boston Tea Party, Parliament passed a series of laws in 1774 called the Coercive Acts. Colonists found the acts so harsh, they called them the Intolerable Acts. The acts were an attack on colonists' traditional rights, because they

- closed Boston's port to trade until colonists paid for the tea that was destroyed
- banned town meetings in Massachusetts
- replaced the colonists' elected council with an appointed one
- gave the governor more power over colonists
- protected British officials accused of crimes from being tried by colonists
- allowed British officers to house troops in private homes

### The First Continental Congress

In reaction to the Intolerable Acts, delegates from every colony except Georgia met in Philadelphia in September 1774. At this meeting, called the First Continental Congress, delegates determined that all trade with Britain should be halted until the Intolerable Acts were repealed and each colony should begin training troops. The colonists were determined to uphold colonial rights. This meeting planted the seeds of a future independent government.

### The Battles of Lexington and Concord

The British learned that colonists had been stockpiling weapons in Concord, Massachusetts. On April 18, 1775, British General Gage ordered his troops to arrest colonial leaders Sam Adams and John Hancock in Lexington and to destroy the military supplies. News of the British troop movement spread quickly to colonists through a system of signals and riders. When riders Paul Revere and William Dawes were stopped on their "midnight ride" by a British patrol, Dr. Samuel Prescott broke away and carried the message to Concord, warning colonists. In Lexington, 700 British troops briefly fought 70 militiamen before heading to Concord. After destroying the weapons stored in Concord, the British troops were attacked by the nearly 4,000 Minutemen and militiamen who lined their return route to Boston. Lexington and Concord were the first battles of the Revolutionary War.

PRACTICE

## The Road to Lexington and Concord

**Directions:** Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

Use the quotation to answer question 1.

"If taxes are laid upon us in any shape, without our having a legal representation where they are laid, are we not reduced from the character of free subjects to the miserable state of tributary slaves?"

—Samuel Adams, the "Boston Instructions"

1. What is Samuel Adams protesting in this quote?
  - A. Parliament's demand that colonists house British troops
  - B. the authority of the royal governor
  - C. the closing of Boston Harbor
  - D. Parliament's practice of taxation without representation
2. Americans formed the First Continental Congress in reaction to
  - A. the Intolerable Acts.
  - B. the Boston Tea Party.
  - C. the British march on Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts.
  - D. the Sugar Act.
3. The First Continental Congress determined that
  - A. the colonies would continue to trade with Britain.
  - B. trade with Britain would be banned.
  - C. the colonies would unite to become an independent nation.
  - D. Sam Adams and John Hancock were under arrest.
4. The Intolerable Acts were enacted in response to
  - A. the Quartering Acts.
  - B. the Battles of Lexington and Concord.
  - C. the Boston Massacre.
  - D. the Boston Tea Party.
5. Why did British troops march on Concord, Massachusetts?
  - A. to house troops in private homes there
  - B. to destroy weapons the colonists stored there
  - C. to close the port of Boston
  - D. to arrest Paul Revere and William Dawes
6. Battles of Lexington and Concord marked
  - A. the anniversary of First Continental Congress..
  - B. the passage of the Intolerable Acts.
  - C. the beginning of the Revolutionary War.
  - D. the beginning of the Civil War.