

# Lesson 3: The Revolution Begins

## Vocabulary

**American Revolution** a war Americans fought for independence from Great Britain

**Battle of Bunker Hill** a battle in the American Revolution that the British won

### Paul Revere's Ride

On April 18, 1775, 700 British soldiers began marching from Boston to Concord, Massachusetts. They were coming to take and destroy weapons that Patriots were storing in Concord. The Patriots heard reports that the British were also going to arrest the Patriot leaders Samuel Adams and John Hancock. Adams and Hancock were both in Lexington, Massachusetts, a city between Boston and Concord. Paul Revere and William Dawes set out to warn the militias in Lexington and Concord. As he rode, Revere shouted a warning to the people. Revere reached Lexington first. He warned Adams and Hancock, who left before the soldiers arrived. Revere, Dawes, and William Prescott then rode to Concord but were stopped by British soldiers. Revere was captured, but Dawes got away. Prescott also was able to get away. He completed the ride to Concord to warn the colonists.

### The Shot Heard Round the World

On April 19, 1775, the Lexington militia prepared for battle. British soldiers marched into Lexington and faced the colonists. A shot was fired. The British won the battle that followed. Eight colonists were killed and nine were wounded. Only one British soldier had been injured. The British then marched on to Concord. When they reached Concord, they were outnumbered by the militias already there. After a short battle, the British returned to Boston. The Patriots fired on the British as they marched back to Boston and killed or injured 250 British soldiers. These battles marked the

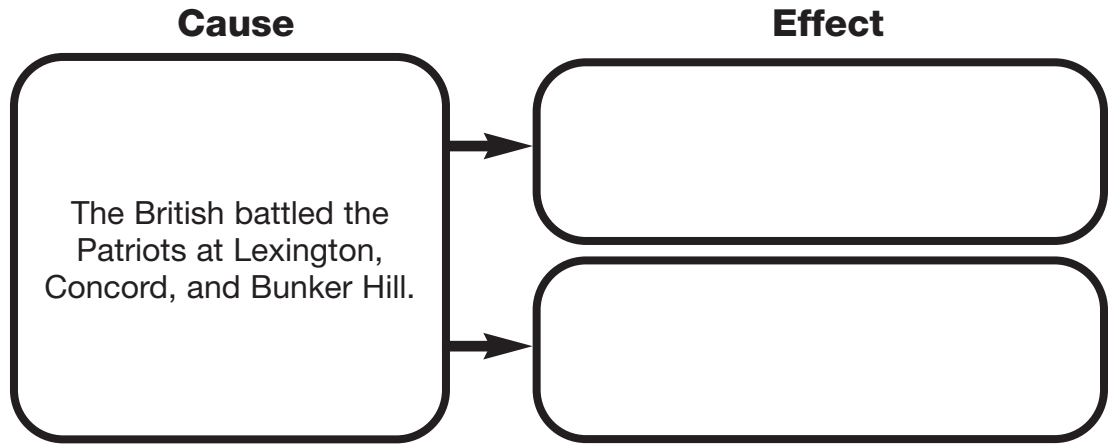
beginning of the **American Revolution**, the war Americans fought for independence.

### The Battle of Bunker Hill

On June 16, 1775, Patriot soldiers went to Charlestown to get control of Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill. They wanted to fire cannons into Boston from nearby hilltops. This would force the British to leave. Overnight, the Patriots built a fort on Breed's Hill. The next day, more than 2,000 British soldiers attacked the fort. The Patriots drove the British back two times, but the British took the fort on the third attack. The British won the battle that became known as the **Battle of Bunker Hill**. Yet the British had suffered heavy losses. The Patriots were proud of the way they had fought against the British Army.

# Lesson 3: Review

1.  **Cause and Effect** Fill in the two missing effects of the first battles of the American Revolution.



2. How did Paul Revere warn the colonists that the British were coming?

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3. What happened at the Battle of Lexington?

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4. What events marked the beginning of the American Revolution?

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5. **Critical Thinking: Fact or Opinion** Before the Revolution began, one British leader said, “the very sound of cannons” would cause Patriots to run away “as fast as their feet will carry them.” Was this a fact or an opinion? How can you tell?

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