



## The Start of the American Revolution

On April 19, 1775, tensions between England and the thirteen colonies finally boiled over into outright war. Early that morning a group of seventy-five soldiers, known as “Minutemen” because they could be ready to fight given a minute’s notice, gathered in Lexington, Massachusetts to face seven hundred advancing British troops. The British soldiers were on their way to Concord, where they hoped to seize a large store of weapons that the people of Massachusetts had gathered in case war broke out with England. As the British troops marched over Lexington’s village green, the Minutemen were given the order to retreat.



*A view of the south part of Lexington during the battles in 1775, by artist Amos Doolittle.*

In the confusion, a shot rang out from behind a stone wall. Today, this is known as “the shot heard ‘round the world’”. When the British responded with gunshots of their own, eight colonists were killed and ten were wounded.

After this battle, the British marched on to Concord. However, after their arrival they were met by another army of colonists. Because they were outnumbered, the British troops retreated to Boston under heavy musket fire from colonial forces. By the end of the day, 73 British soldiers were dead and 174 lay wounded. The Revolutionary War had officially begun. It had been just twelve years since the end of the Seven Years’ War, and in that short time disagreements over whether the King had the right to tax the colonists without their consent led to bloodshed. As one of a handful of revenue cutters in North America enforcing the Townshend Acts, the schooner Sultana witnessed many of the events leading to the American Revolution, a war that forever changed the course of history.



## The Start of the American Revolution

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:** Imagine that you are a colonist living in Concord, Massachusetts. On the morning of April 19, 1775, you receive news that 700 British soldiers are marching towards your home intent on seizing all the town's weapons. Describe the sights, sounds, and smells as you grab your musket, join the militia, and prepare for battle! In the box provided, create an illustration of the battle scene.

A large, empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for the student to draw an illustration of the battle scene.A series of horizontal blue lines for writing, providing space for the student to describe the battle scene.