Shots and Change

Trace how fighting in Massachusetts pushed colonists toward revolution

5.C.3.3.B "Describe how the British raids and armed encounters at Lexington and Concord became catalysts for the revolution."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the British mission, circle the fighting at Lexington and Concord's North Bridge, and number two results of the fighting that pushed colonists toward revolution.

From a Raid to a Revolution

1. In April 1775, Massachusetts colonists were already angry about British taxes and laws. Many kept weapons and trained in local groups called militias. British leaders wanted to stop this resistance. On the night of April 18, British soldiers marched from Boston toward Concord to seize colonial military supplies. Riders, including Paul Revere, spread the warning, so militia members could gather before the soldiers arrived.

2. At dawn on April 19, British soldiers met militia members on Lexington's town green. No one knows who fired the first shot. The soldiers fired, and eight colonists were killed. The British continued toward Concord, where colonists had moved many supplies. At Concord's North Bridge, militia members and British soldiers exchanged fire. The British pulled back, but their march was not over.

3. As British soldiers returned to Boston, more militia members fired at them from roadsides and other positions. The soldiers fought back. News of the fighting spread to nearby colonies, and thousands of colonists joined the militia gathering around Boston. For many colonists, the attempt to seize supplies and the fighting showed that their disagreement with Britain had become an armed struggle. These events helped set the colonies on a path toward independence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the British mission to Concord help bring soldiers and militia members together?

2. How did the encounter at Lexington show that the disagreement with Britain had changed?

3. How did the encounter at Concord's North Bridge show that resistance had become an armed struggle?

4. How did the fighting on the return to Boston help resistance grow?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence message to a neighbor who has not heard the news. Connect the British attempt to seize supplies, the fighting at Lexington and Concord, and the growing resistance around Boston to explain why these events pushed the colonies toward revolution.

ANSWER KEY

Shots and Change

GRADE 5 · 5.C.3.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the British mission, circle the fighting at Lexington and Concord's North Bridge, and number two results of the fighting that pushed colonists toward revolution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the British mission to Concord help bring soldiers and militia members together?	**British soldiers marched to seize military supplies. Riders warned the colonists, so militia members gathered before the soldiers arrived.**
2	How did the encounter at Lexington show that the disagreement with Britain had changed?	**British soldiers fired, and eight colonists were killed. The disagreement had become deadly fighting.**
3	How did the encounter at Concord's North Bridge show that resistance had become an armed struggle?	**Militia members and British soldiers exchanged fire, and the British pulled back.**
4	How did the fighting on the return to Boston help resistance grow?	**More militia members fought the British soldiers. News spread, and thousands of colonists joined the militia around Boston.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

British soldiers marched toward Concord to take our military supplies, and riders warned us so militia members could gather. Colonists were killed at Lexington, and militia members exchanged fire with British soldiers at Concord's North Bridge. As thousands joined the militia around Boston, the fighting showed that our disagreement with Britain had become an armed struggle that could lead to independence.

Accept answers that accurately connect the attempt to seize supplies and the armed encounters to the spread of militia resistance. Students need not name who fired the first shot at Lexington, which remains unknown.