Beyond the Hill

A Patriot loss that showed a lasting commitment

5.C.4.4.A "Explain how the Battle of Bunker Hill, although a Patriot loss, confirmed colonial commitment to the patriot cause."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show the Patriots lost the battle, and circle two details that show their commitment to the Patriot cause.

What Bunker Hill Showed

1. In June 1775, colonial fighters gathered on the hills near Boston, where British troops were stationed. The colonists wanted to stop the British from controlling the high ground. On June 17, British soldiers marched toward the colonial defenses on Breed's Hill. Smoke from muskets filled the air as the British attacked. The battle is called the Battle of Bunker Hill, even though most fighting happened on Breed's Hill.

2. British soldiers attacked the colonial position more than once. The colonial fighters held their ground and pushed back the first two attacks. As the fighting went on, their ammunition ran low. On the third attack, the British took the hill, and the colonists retreated. This made the battle a Patriot loss. Yet the British paid a heavy price: more than 1,000 British soldiers were killed or wounded.

3. The loss did not make the colonists give up. Although they had retreated, their fighters had faced a larger, trained army and resisted two attacks. Many colonists saw this as proof that they could fight British troops. Colonial leaders continued building an army, and Patriots kept fighting for their cause. Bunker Hill showed that losing one hill was not the same as losing the will to resist British rule.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can the battle be called a Patriot loss even though the colonists held off two attacks?

2. How did the colonists' actions during the attacks show their commitment to resisting British rule?

3. Why might the heavy British losses have encouraged colonists after their own fighters retreated?

4. What did colonial leaders do after the loss that showed the Patriot cause was not over?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a brief note from a colonial leader to people who heard only that the Patriots lost. Explain why the retreat did not mean the colonists had given up, using two different details from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond the Hill

GRADE 5 · 5.C.4.4.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show the Patriots lost the battle, and circle two details that show their commitment to the Patriot cause. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can the battle be called a Patriot loss even though the colonists held off two attacks?	**The British took the hill on the third attack, and the colonists retreated.**
2	How did the colonists' actions during the attacks show their commitment to resisting British rule?	**They held their ground against trained British troops and pushed back two attacks.**
3	Why might the heavy British losses have encouraged colonists after their own fighters retreated?	**The losses showed that colonial fighters could put up a strong fight against British troops.**
4	What did colonial leaders do after the loss that showed the Patriot cause was not over?	**They continued building an army to resist British rule.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

We lost the hill when our ammunition ran low, but our fighters did not give up easily. They pushed back two British attacks, showing they were willing to face trained troops. More than 1,000 British soldiers were killed or wounded, showing that our fighters could challenge them. We will keep building our army and resisting British rule.

Accept notes that acknowledge the Patriot loss and explain how two accurate passage details show the colonists' continued commitment. Students may use the two attacks, the heavy British losses, or the continued building of an army.