

American Revolution

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Week 1

DAY 1: BATTLES OF LEXINGTON & CONCORD



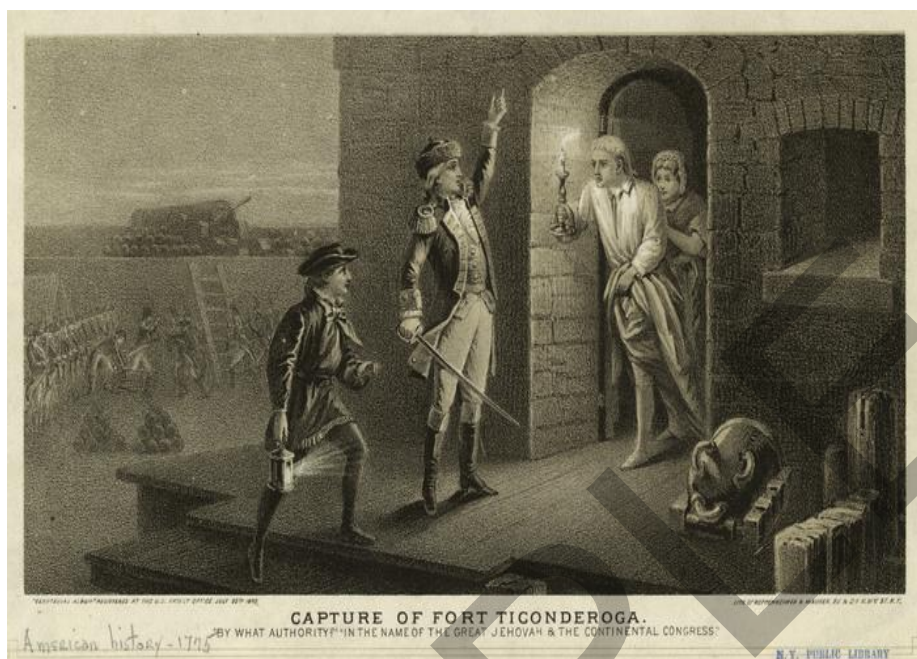
British at Concord
Image Courtesy Creative Commons

On April 19, 1775, General Thomas Gage ordered his men to find and destroy gunpowder and supplies hidden by the colonists. Almost 900 British soldiers, under the command of Major John Pitcairn, marched from Boston toward Concord. At the same time, Paul Revere rode hard and fast to alert all the colonists that the British were coming.

When the British arrived in Lexington, the **militia**, under the command of Captain John Parker, prepared to defend their town. Major Pitcairn ordered his soldiers to **disarm** the colonial militia. Captain Parker ordered his men to **disperse**, but then a shot rang out. No one knows who fired that first shot, but the British soldiers began firing at the militiamen, killing eight and wounding ten. The remainder of the militiamen scattered to the nearby woods. The British soldiers then **ransacked** the town, and so began the first battle of the Revolutionary War.

Later, British soldiers continued with their march toward Concord, as did the militiamen and the minutemen in particular. When the soldiers arrived in Concord, they were greeted with a different scene. The British military **tactics** involved forming a line when attacking the enemy, but the colonists fought by **flanking** the soldiers and hiding behind trees. These scare tactics produced considerable results, as the soldiers decided to **flee** the scene back to Lexington and then Boston. The Revolutionary War had begun.

DAY 2: TAKING OF FORT TICONDEROGA



Fort Ticonderoga
Image Courtesy Creative Commons

Three weeks after the Battles of Lexington and Concord, a man named Ethan Allen, along with his Green Mountain Boys, decided to capture British-occupied Fort Ticonderoga that stood between New York and Canada. Upon his arrival at the fort, Allen discovered that another man had the same idea. Benedict Arnold, along with his troop of men, was ready to attack the fort for the Americans as well.

After **squabbling** about who should attack the fort, Allen and Arnold agreed to attack it together. On May 10, 1775, they launched their attack against the British-controlled fort. They were successful in their **expedition** and captured the fort without a hitch. Through the takeover, Americans captured cannons, ammunition, and guns—all of which came in handy later in the war.

DAY 3: HENRY KNOX



Henry Knox
Image Courtesy Creative Commons

Henry Knox was born on July 25, 1750, in Massachusetts. Knox's father died when he was nine years of age. By the age of twelve, Knox began clerking in a bookstore to support his family. Knox loved books and eventually opened up his own bookstore.

After the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Knox decided to join the Americans against their fight with the British. He fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill and earned the **rank** of colonel because of his vast knowledge of artillery that he had collected by reading all about weaponry when working at his bookstore.

By November 1775, the Americans were running short on their supply of **artillery**. Knox came up with a plan to move the 59 cannons Ethan Allen had left at Fort Ticonderoga to Boston. Many thought his plan was insane. After all, moving 59 cannons across 300 miles in the middle of a harsh winter was virtually impossible. Wasn't it? Not so, thought Knox. General George Washington agreed.

With Washington's permission, Knox and his troop of two thousand men set out to get the much-needed cannons. They traveled through tough **terrain**, harsh conditions, and freezing weather to Fort Ticonderoga and dragged back cannons to Boston by loading them on 42 sleds pulled by 400 oxen. With extra fire power, the Americans beat back the British. In two weeks, the British fled Boston, and Knox became Washington's closest friend.

In 1776, Knox helped lead Washington and his men across the Delaware River. He fought against the Hessian soldiers at the Battle of Trenton and assisted with the training of American soldiers at the winter of Valley Forge. Knox was also present at the battles of Princeton, Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth.

After the Revolutionary War, Knox first commanded West Point then became the secretary of war. Through it all, he remained good friends with Washington. He encouraged Washington to accept the position of president of the United States.

By 1796, Knox **retired** from public life to his farm in Maine. One day, while having a meal with family and friends, Knox accidentally swallowed a chicken bone. The bone **ruptured** his intestines, and he died on October 25, 1806.

SAMPLE

DAY 4: ETHAN ALLEN



Ethan Allen
Image Courtesy Creative Commons

The exact date of Ethan Allen's birth in Litchfield, Connecticut is unknown. Historians believe that he was born in January of 1737 or 1738. By the time Ethan Allen had turned seventeen, his father died, leaving him with the responsibility of caring for his family. Allen worked on the family farm to support them.

Allen loved to read and hunt. He was athletic, strong, smart, and hot-tempered. He loved to go on long hikes. By 1767, he had hiked the area that would later become the state of Vermont, purchased land, and settled on the “green mountain.”

Since both New York and New Hampshire **staked a claim** on the “green mountain,” Allen decided to round up the Green Mountain Boys, a group of men defending the territory, and fight against New York’s control over the area. As part of their fight against the British, when the Revolutionary War began, Allen and his Green Mountain Boys decided to capture Fort Ticonderoga from the British for the Americans.

Allen was eventually **captured** by the British and sent to prison in Britain. While in prison, he wrote several **essential** essays and a book about his life in the British prison. He was later freed and exchanged with British prisoners in America. For his service, General George Washington rewarded Allen with the rank of colonel.

Allen spent the remainder of his life trying to have Vermont admitted to the union as an independent state, without much success. Later, he tried to convince Canada to **annex** Vermont as an independent republic. By 1789, time had run out, and Allen died of a stroke. Vermont was finally admitted to the union two years after his death.

DAY 5: REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer the following review questions from this week's study:

1. On the map below, identify the 13 colonies in America:



Image Courtesy Creative Commons

2. Who fired the first shot in Lexington?
3. Why did Ethan Allen want to take over Fort Ticonderoga?
4. What important service did Henry Knox provide for the Americans in November 1775?
5. Who did Ethan Allen argue with upon arriving at Fort Ticonderoga?

Define the following terms:

Staked

Terrain

Disperse

Claim

Artillery

Ransacked

Captured

Rank

Militia

Annex

Squabbling

Tactics

Essential

Expedition

Flee

Ruptured

Disarm

Flanking

Retired