

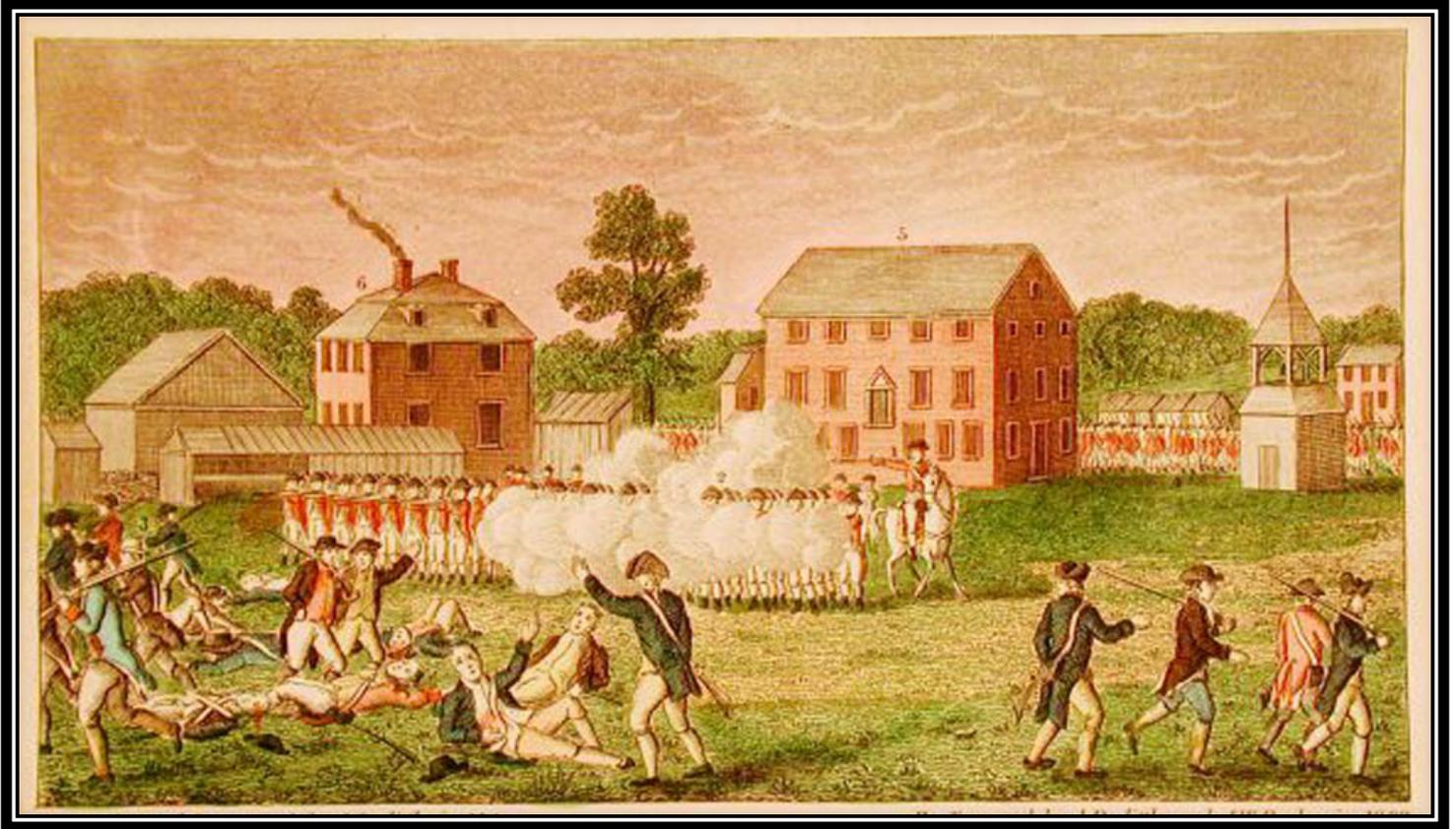
NAME:

BLOCK:

- CENTRAL HISTORICAL QUESTION(S) -

WHAT WERE CAUSES & EFFECTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION?

FEATURED BELOW: One of four engravings by Amos Doolittle from 1775. Doolittle visited the battle sites of Lexington & Concord and interviewed soldiers and witnesses. Contains controversial elements, possibly inaccuracies. Fire from the militia may have occurred but is not depicted.



LESSON OBJECTIVE(S)

1.) ANALYZE historical documents of the Battle of Lexington using Historical Thinking skills

2.) ARGUE who shot first at the Battle of Lexington

PART I: WARM UP

DIRECTIONS: Make note of the questions posed during the mini-discussion of this section. Use the space below.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT TIMELINE:
LANDMARK EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

1607 – First English colony established on North American soil.

1651 – English gov.t establishes Navigation Acts to prevent their N. American colonies from trading w/ other countries

1689 – Enlightenment philosopher John Locke from England publishes, Two Treatises of Government, arguing for gov.t power to come from consent of the people and man’s natural right to life, liberty & property.

1748 – Enlightenment philosopher Montesquieu publishes The Spirit of Laws, arguing for a separation of powers in gov.t between an executive branch (president, prime minister, etc.), legislative branch.

1750 – England establishes 13 prosperous colonies on the coast of N. America, growing the power of the England’s empire.

1756 – 1760’s – English economy is drained by The Seven Years’ War + French & Indian War in North America.

1762 – Enlightenment philosopher Rousseau, publishes, The Social Contract, arguing for a system of a more direct and representative democracy, calling for publicly held elections of the executive and legislative branches of government.

1764 – 1766 – The Tea Act, Sugar Act, Stamp Act & the Declaratory Act are passed by the English government, without the consent of the colonists, as a way to increase the taxes paid by colonists to the English government.

1770 – 1773 – Boston Massacre & Boston Tea Party occur in response to the growing violence between patriots & loyalists.

1774 – Bostonian sea captain, John Malcom, is brutally victimized by patriots for his loyalist views of the Tea Act.

1775 – April, Battle of Lexington & Concord occurs, marking the beginning of the American Revolutionary War.

1776 – January, Thomas Paine publishes “Common Sense,” arguing for independence from Britain and the creation of a democratic republic. Its publication in January 1776 immediately added fuel to the patriot movement.

1776 – Declaration of Independence is written by Thomas Jefferson w/ the intention of building a republic, listing reasons for declaring independence from English government and man’s right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

1783 – American Revolutionary War officially ends with the Treaty of Paris.

1787 – The U.S. Constitution is drafted in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, establishing a government for the United States of America based on system of checks & balances and separation of powers and meant to be run by a system of representative democracy.

1789 – French Revolution begins

TEXTBOOK ACCOUNT

On April 19th, 1775, war erupted at Lexington and Concord, two county towns west of Boston. The British governor of Massachusetts, General Thomas Gage, provoked the battles by sending troops to arrest known patriots, John Hancock and Samuel Adams in Lexington and to seize Patriot weapons stockpiled in Concord.....

By morning, about 70 Patriots had gathered on the Lexington Green. As the British soldiers, called Redcoats, marched into town at dawn, the British commander had ordered the Lexington militia to disperse. As they did, someone fired a shot. When the shooting stopped, eight Patriots were dead....

SOURCE: Emma Werner, Randy Roberts, Peter Levy, & Alan Taylor, 2008. *United States History*. Pearson Education, Inc., Pearson Prentice Hall, Boston, Massachusetts 02116. The excerpt above comes from a high school history textbook written by professional historians and professors of history.

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS: TEXTBOOK ACCOUNT

- 1.) Based on your knowledge thus far of *Historical Thinking*, what would be a good Sourcing question to ask about the textbook account of the Battle of Lexington?

- 2.) Based on your knowledge thus far of *Historical Thinking*, what would be a good Contextualization question to ask about the textbook account of the Battle of Lexington?

- 3.) Based on your knowledge thus far of *Historical Thinking*, what would be a good Close Reading question to ask about the textbook account of the Battle of Lexington?

- 4.) Based on your knowledge thus far of *Historical Thinking*, what would be a good Corroboration question to ask about the textbook account of the Battle of Lexington?

Document 1: BARKER'S ACCOUNT

19th. At 2 o'clock we began our march by wading through a very long ford up to our middles. After going a few miles we took three or four people who were going off to give intelligence. About 5 miles on this side of a town called Lexington, which lay in our road, we heard there were some hundreds of people collected together intending to oppose us. At 5 o'clock we arrived there and saw a number of people, I believe between 200 and 300, formed in a common in the middle of the town. We still continued advancing, keeping prepared against an attack though without intending to attack them. But on our coming near them they fired one or two shots, upon which our men without any orders, rushed in upon them, fired and put them to flight. We then formed on the Common, but with some difficulty, the men were so wild they could hear no orders; we waited a considerable time there, and at length proceeded on our way to Concord.

SOURCE: Entry for April 19th, 1775, from the diary of Lieutenant John Barker, an officer in the British army.

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS: BARKER'S ACCOUNT

- 1.) Based on your knowledge thus far of *Historical Thinking*, what would be a good **Sourcing** question to ask about Barker's account of the Battle of Lexington?

- 2.) Based on your knowledge thus far of *Historical Thinking*, what would be a good **Contextualization** question to ask about Barker's account of the Battle of Lexington?

- 3.) Based on your knowledge thus far of *Historical Thinking*, what would be a good **Close Reading** question to ask about Barker's account of the Battle of Lexington?

- 4.) Based on your knowledge thus far of *Historical Thinking*, what would be a good **Corroboration** question to ask about Barker's account of the Battle of Lexington?

1.) WHAT DOES THE OTHER DOCUMENT CLAIM?

2.) THINKING HISTORICALLY, WHAT ARE ASPECTS OF THE OTHER DOCUMENT THAT MAKE IT **RELIABLE**? (source information? contextual information? close reading information? corroborating information?)

3.) THINKING HISTORICALLY, WHAT ARE ASPECTS OF THE OTHER DOCUMENT THAT MAKE IT **UNRELIABLE**? (source information? contextual information? close reading information? corroborating information?)

4.) AFTER HEARING MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS, WHAT IS YOUR FINAL CLAIM?

Document A: MINUTEMEN ACCOUNT

We Nathaniel Mulliken, Philip Russell, (Followed by the names of 32 other men present on Lexington Green on April 19, 1775)...All of lawful age, and inhabitants of Lexington in the County of Middlesex...do testify and declare, that on the nineteenth of April about five o'clock in the morning, hearing our drum beat, we proceeded towards the Green, and soon found that a large body of troops were marching towards us. Some of our company were coming to the Green, and others had reached it, at which time, the company began to disperse. While our backs were turned on the British troops, we were fired on by them, and a number of our men were instantly killed and wounded, not a gun was fired by any person in our company on the British soldiers to our knowledge before they fired on us, and continued firing until we had all made our escape.

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

SOURCE: Sworn by 34 minutemen (*residents of Lexington*) on April 25 before three Justices of the Peace.

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS: MINUTEMEN ACCOUNT

1.) Based on your knowledge thus far of *Historical Thinking*, what would be a good Sourcing question to ask about the Minutemen account of the Battle of Lexington?

2.) Based on your knowledge thus far of *Historical Thinking*, what would be a good Contextualization question to ask about the Minutemen account of the Battle of Lexington?

3.) Based on your knowledge thus far of *Historical Thinking*, what would be a good Close Reading question to ask about the Minutemen account of the Battle of Lexington?

4.) Based on your knowledge thus far of *Historical Thinking*, what would be a good Corroboration question to ask about the Minutemen account of the Battle of Lexington?

1.) WHAT DOES THE OTHER DOCUMENT CLAIM?

2.) THINKING HISTORICALLY, WHAT ARE ASPECTS OF THE OTHER DOCUMENT THAT MAKE IT **RELIABLE**? (source information? contextual information? close reading information? corroborating information?)

3.) THINKING HISTORICALLY, WHAT ARE ASPECTS OF THE OTHER DOCUMENT THAT MAKE IT **UNRELIABLE**? (source information? contextual information? close reading information? corroborating information?)

4.) AFTER HEARING MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS, WHAT IS YOUR FINAL CLAIM?

BRITISH SOLDIERS

LEXINGTON MINUTEMEN