

The shot “heard round the world” had started a **revolution**, or great change. The American Revolution would certainly bring great changes to North America.

## The Second Continental Congress

By the time news of the battles of Lexington and Concord reached the other colonies in May, the Second Continental Congress was already in session in Philadelphia. Representatives hoped to deal with the growing threat of war, but even as they discussed the problem, fighting spread to New York and continued in Massachusetts.

Representatives at the Second Continental Congress voted on June 14, 1775, to create an American army, called the Continental Army. George Washington was chosen to lead it.

## The Battle of Bunker Hill

On June 17, 1775, one of the fiercest battles of the American Revolution took place north of Boston. To gain control of Charlestown Peninsula, Americans had secretly built a fort on Breed’s Hill. The British were ordered to attack the fort and drive the Americans away.

In the Battle of Bunker Hill, British ships shot cannons, and redcoats charged up Breed’s Hill. The Americans fought bravely but ran out of gunpowder and had to retreat. More than 200 British soldiers and about 140 Americans were killed. Despite their loss, Americans proved they could fight a trained army.



### NORTH CAROLINA AND THE CONTINENTAL ARMY

The First North Carolina Regiment was raised on September 1, 1775. Joining Washington’s army in the north, they saw action in many battles outside North Carolina.

#### CRITICAL THINKING:

How do you think service affected soldiers’ attitudes about North Carolina’s relationship to other colonies?

▼ *The Battle of Lexington* by Doolittle and Barber, shows minutemen and redcoats in battle. Notice how the two sides differ in position, dress, and number of men.

