

The Battle of Bunker Hill

Lesson #3 of the 1775 Perspectives Module

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How did the Battle of Bunker affect the early American Revolution?

OVERVIEW

On June 17, 1775, the American patriots were defeated at the Battle of Bunker Hill, but they proved they could hold their own against the superior British Army. The British sustained twice as many casualties as the Americans and lost many officers. After the engagement, the patriots retreated and returned to their lines outside the perimeter of Boston.

The fierce fight confirmed that any reconciliation between England and her American colonies was no longer possible.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this lesson, the students will be able to:

1. Knowledge
 - Briefly explain the outcome of the Battle of Bunker Hill and describe what some eyewitnesses or participants experienced.
2. Comprehension/Application/Analysis
 - Examine multiple primary sources to gain perspectives on the battle and its outcomes.
3. Evaluation
 - Discuss findings from primary sources and how the Battle of Bunker Hill influenced the American Revolution.

ACTIVITIES

1. Use the [Lesson's PowerPoint](#) to explore the context and history; the PowerPoint introduces context and foundational knowledge of the Battle of Bunker Hill.
2. The primary sources for this perspectives lesson plan offer multiple perspectives from different people who fought or observed the battle; students can be divided into groups to read and fill out the worksheet.

British	<i>1775: "In His Majesty's Name, Offer and Promise, His Most Gracious Pardon"</i>
British	<i>Bunker Hill: "Very Fatal to the 1st Battalion of Marines"</i>

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST: 1775 PERSPECTIVES – BUNKER HILL LESSON PLAN
TEACHING GUIDE

British	<i>Bunker Hill: "To Acquaint Your Lordship of an Action on the 17th"</i>
American	<i>Bunker Hill: "We Entrench'd & Made a Fort"</i>
American	<i>Bunker Hill: "My Brother was Missing"</i>
American	<i>1775: "Dr. Warren...Fell Gloriously Fighting For His Country"</i>
American	<i>"1775: The Committee of Safety's Account of The Battle of Bunker Hill"</i>
American	<i>Dedication Speech for the Unveiling of the Bunker Hill Monument</i>

3. Distribute the [lesson's worksheet](#).
4. Students will read a primary source and fill out the worksheet which will guide them through exploring the document.
5. Encourage a class discussion from the worksheet, draw group conclusions, answering the questions:
 - Who won the Battle of Bunker Hill? Depending on who wrote a particular document, what reasons were given for the outcome of the battle?
 - What were some reactions to the Battle of Bunker Hill in these primary sources?
 - What did people think would happen next after the Battle of Bunker Hill?
 - What have you heard about the Battle of Bunker Hill? Does it seem to be a verifiable history fact or a legend?

STANDARDS

Please visit the [Lesson Plan Page](#) and select the "Common Core and NCSS Standards for Social Studies" to view the details.

RESOURCES

Visit the [Lesson Plan Page](#) to find all resources in one convenient place. You'll find everything mentioned or linked in this Lesson Plan along with additional videos, articles, primary sources, and biographies.

Quick Links

- [PowerPoint](#)
- [Primary Source Worksheet](#)
- [Battle of Bunker Hill Map](#)

OPTIONAL HOMEWORK/ASSESSMENT/ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Option 1: Joseph Warren's Death

Joseph Warren, a prominent leader in the Sons of Liberty and in Massachusetts, was killed during the Battle of Bunker Hill. Explore the reports and reactions to his death as people memorialized him as an early “martyr” of the American cause.

- [Joseph Warren \(short biography\)](#)
- [Bunker Hill: "My Brother was Missing"](#)
- [1775: "Dr. Warren...Fell Gloriously Fighting For His Country"](#)
- [1775: The Committee of Safety's Account of The Battle of Bunker Hill](#)

Note how Warren was mentioned in the primary sources, then do some extra research to discover if or how he is remembered today. In their own words, invite students to summarize (written or verbally) Warren's influence on the Revolution, even through his death.

Option 2: Sketch a Map

Using these historic and modern maps, have students sketch a map or create one digitally. Then using notes from primary sources, add callout boxes or tabs to place some primary source quotes on the mapped locations. (Examples might include Charlestown, the redoubt, the slope of Breed's Hill, British landing places, etc.)

- [Bunker Hill \(historical\)](#)
- [Bunker Hill \(modern\)](#)
- [Vicinity of Boston \(historical\)](#)

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