

DAUGHTER OF LIBERTY

By J. M. Hochstetler

A Historical Study Guide

Daughter of Liberty includes many references to the causes, events, and persons involved in the Revolution. These questions are designed to assist you in more intensive study of the period. Many resources and links are listed on the Recommended Resources and Favorite Sites pages at www.jmhochstetler.com. Additional resources may be found through a Web search or at your local library.

1. Historical maps of the Boston area can be found at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/armhtml/armhome.html>. Do a geographic or subject search to find a map of the greater Boston area during the Revolution. Locate the towns of Boston, Lincoln, Lexington, and Concord. Note their relation to each other.
2. Explain each of the major issues that contributed to the American colonists' decision to rebel against England. Include writs of assistance, taxation, the quartering laws, and other concerns.
3. When did the Boston Massacre happen and what caused it? What was the outcome?
4. What act of rebellion caused Parliament to pass the laws the patriots called the Intolerable Acts? Why did the patriots do what they did? How did these laws affect Massachusetts, and what action did the patriots take against the British as a result of their imposition?
5. The following organizations enabled the patriots to solidify and direct resistance to England. Give a description of each.

Sons of Liberty
Committee of Correspondence
Committee of Safety
Provincial Congress
Continental Congress
Minute Men

6. Write a brief bio of each of the following leaders of the Revolution, explaining their role at the beginning of the conflict. Which do you admire, and why?

Joseph Warren

John Hancock

Samuel Adams
Paul Revere
James Otis

Henry Knox
George Washington
Patrick Henry

7. Most of the British officers who appear in *Daughter of Liberty* were real people. Many were admirable men who were simply trying to do their duty, but were caught up in an impossible situation. What was the attitude of those listed below toward the rebels before the march to Concord? Afterward? Were they wise in their actions and policies? Which do you admire and why?

Thomas Gage
John Pitcairn
Samuel Graves

Hugh, Earl Percy
Francis Smith
John Montresor

8. Write a brief bio of Margaret Gage. As a native-born American, she was sympathetic to the rebels. Do you believe she was responsible for leaking her husband's plans for the march to Concord to Warren, as is portrayed in *Daughter of Liberty*?
9. As they have been in every war, spies were an ongoing problem for both sides during the Revolution. Do a Web search on spies of the Revolution. Give names and several specific instances of how secret agents affected the course of events in the early Revolutionary period.
10. When did the British begin their march to Concord? Why did General Gage send troops there? Who ordered him to act, and what was his objective?
11. Who commanded the British troops on the march to Concord? Who was the second in command?
12. Who were the grenadiers? The light infantry? Why was their march delayed once they disembarked from the longboats onto the mainland? What consequences did this have in the secrecy and success of their mission?
13. Who sent out Revere and William Dawes to alert the patriots? Who were the two riders with Revere who escaped when he was captured outside of Concord that night?

14. What did John Hancock want to do that caused his confrontation with Samuel Adams and Revere at the Reverend Clarke's home? In *Daughter of Liberty*, Elizabeth voices the argument that caused him to change his mind. What was it?
15. Why did the Minute Men gather on Lexington Common? Who was in command? When Pitcairn ordered them to lay down their weapons, what did they do?
16. Who do you think fired first, and why? How many of the rebels were killed and wounded there? Were there any British casualties?
17. When they reached Concord, did the British find the rebels' hidden stores of munitions?
18. Why did the rebels march on the British detachment stationed at Concord's North Bridge? Who fired first, and what was the result? Why did the British detachment flee under rebel fire?
19. What do you think of Colonel Smith's leadership on this march?
20. Why did the British troops fire on the rebels at Merriam's Corner? What was the result?
21. Who commanded the relief column that met Smith's force at Lexington on their way back to Boston? Why was it delayed?
22. After reading the description of the Concord expedition in *Daughter of Liberty*, do you think it was wise for Gage to put troops under the command of officers with whom they were not familiar when they were marching out into hostile territory on a mission sure to arouse opposition? What could he have done differently that could have prevented what became a disaster for the British and caused the final break with England?
23. Do you believe Gage was a bad man—or merely a weak leader who was unequal to the position he was placed in?
24. Considering the policies George III and Parliament were pursuing at that time, could anyone ultimately have prevented the break between the colonies and England?

25. Three British generals, William Howe, Henry Clinton, and John Burgoyne, arrived in Boston soon after Concord. Summarize the conflicts among them and between them and Gage. Compare their opinions of the rebels and the policies each advocated.
26. Who was most likely responsible for the decision to place the rebel redoubt on the lower Breed's Hill instead of on Bunker's Hill, where they had been ordered to dig in? Which was the better defensive position and why? Why do you think the decision was made to fortify the lower, closer position, and how did that affect how the battle unfolded?
27. What day and time did the battle take place?
28. Who was in command of the rebel redoubt? Do you think he was an effective leader?
29. Why do you think General Howe chose a frontal assault on the rebel position instead of trying to flank it?
30. Why do you think Howe delayed so long in beginning the assault? What was the consequence?
31. How many assaults did the British make against the rebel force on Charlestown peninsula? Describe the rebel and British positions during the battle and how each attack unfolded.
32. Why were the rebels finally forced off Charlestown peninsula? Why do you think Ward did not send additional reinforcements and ammunition?
33. Compare British and rebel casualties as a result of the battle. Who is considered to have won? Was their victory worth the cost?

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