

Lexington and Concord

April 19, 1775 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

conflict — a serious disagreement or struggle

evidence — information that helps support or question a claim

defend — protect or speak in support of someone

Look closely



An old rectangular iron lantern with glass sides, a pierced metal top, and a hanging ring, in the Concord Museum.

Read the story

British troops and colonial militia fought in Lexington and Concord. Fighting continued along the road back toward Boston. These battles began the Revolutionary War. People still ask questions about the first shot.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. What happened in this reading? Tell one fact.
2. Who or what is this reading mostly about?
3. Choose a word from the word bank. Explain it in your own words.
4. Look at the picture and its caption. What does it help you notice? Is it from the time of the event?

Follow-up reading: The Battle of Bunker Hill

June 17, 1775

British troops captured a defended hill in Charlestown. Much of the battle happened on Breed's Hill. The British won the ground but suffered heavy losses. Many people fought, including Black soldiers.

How are the two readings alike or different? Tell a partner one connection. Which event came first?

Teacher guide & source trail

Original classroom adaptation. Suggested reading levels are instructional choices, not standardized readability certifications. Use professional judgment and learner feedback.

ELA practice: RI.2.1: ask and answer questions; RI.2.2: identify a main topic; RI.2.7: use images and words; W.2.2 and SL.2.1: explain and discuss.

These tasks support selected skills in the [Massachusetts 2017 ELA framework](#); they do not establish mastery of an entire standard.

Answer guidance

Factual anchor: British troops and colonial militia fought in Lexington and Concord. Fighting continued along the road back toward Boston. These battles began the Revolutionary War. People still ask questions about the first shot. Witnesses disagreed about the opening gunfire at Lexington. Historians should preserve that uncertainty. Landscape, military orders, and local warning networks help explain the day's events.

Accept accurate main ideas and explanations supported by the text. Vocabulary meanings are in the opening word bank. For picture questions, use the caption and credit below; distinguish what is visible from what is inferred. For comparison, accept a specific connection supported by both readings. Do not require personal accounts of trauma.

Continue the inquiry

[Research source for this event ↗](#)

[Research source for follow-up ↗](#)

[Event page, accessible HTML reading, and vocabulary game ↗](#)

Image: Daderot (photographer); lantern maker unknown. CCO 1.0 Universal

[Image source and rights record ↗](#)

The PDF contains selectable English text and embedded fonts. For adjustable text and browser reading tools, use the event's [HTML page](#). External sources may need adult guidance.