

The Battle of Bunker Hill

June 17, 1775 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

defend — protect or speak in support of someone

cost — what must be given or lost to get something

courage — acting even when something is difficult or frightening

Look closely



Thomas Hyde Page's map of Boston and its harbor, circa 1775. The map offers geographic context, not a picture of the event.

Read the story

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.

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: British forces leave Boston

March 17, 1776

George Washington's army pressured British forces in Boston. Henry Knox helped bring cannon from Fort Ticonderoga. The Americans fortified Dorchester Heights. British troops and many Loyalists then left by sea.

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 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. The battle's familiar name can confuse geography. Salem Poor's service drew praise from officers. Ask what a military victory cost and whose contributions later accounts remember.

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: Thomas Hyde Page, Boston, its environs and harbour, c. 1775. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division. Public domain.

[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.