



Teacher's Guide

Boston and the Beginnings of Revolution **Drive Thru History/American History**

Grade Levels:

7-12

Subject Areas:

United States History

Synopsis:

From the tower of the Old North Church where Robert Newman gave the signal that the British were coming, Dave recalls the beginnings of the American Revolution. He explains that Boston Puritans felt they had a God-given right to revolt against tyrants who taxed them without representation. At the Hancock Clark House in Lexington, Dave reviews the biographies of John Hancock and the Reverend Jonas Clark, and the reasons why the British accused them of treason. On Lexington Green, Dave reviews the history of the "shot heard 'round the world", and at Old North Bridge, Concorde, the American success and the subsequent British retreat. Next, at Bunker Hill, Dave provides a detailed account of the heavy fighting and numerous casualties in a conflict where the Americans established themselves as a solid fighting force. He closes with the story of Henry Knox who, with the approval of George Washington, brought British cannons 300 miles from Fort Ticonderoga to Dorchester Heights in Boston.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Understand that the Puritans felt they had a God-given right to revolt against tyrants
- Explain why the British were committed to battles in Lexington and Concorde
- Explain the importance of the Battle of Bunker Hill
- Understand that the Revolutionary War would not have been successful without the cannons provided by Henry Knox

Vocabulary:

nemesis, broadsides, audacious, revolution, Revolutionary War

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Why is Boston so dear to all students of American history?

What historical sites would you visit if you could travel to Boston?

What makes Lexington and Concorde important sites in American history?

Who were some of the heroes of the opening years of the American Revolution?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Why is the Newman window a highlight of many visitors' trips to Boston? What is the significance of the quotation, "one if by land; two if by sea"?

What role did Henry Knox play in the success of the American Revolution? What other patriots played a key role in the early beginnings of the American Revolution?

Why did British troops advance on Concorde? What did they hope to achieve there? How successful were they?

Why were Boston Puritans the first to protest British rule in the American colonies?

Further Activities:

Further investigate the biographies of any of the American heroes mentioned in this program.

Describe the lives of women who lived in Boston at the time their husbands and fathers were considering revolution.

With an emphasis on arms and armaments, further investigate American military history.

Investigate the history of the Battle of Ticonderoga fought during the French and Indian Wars in 1758.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

Colonial Life series