

Name: _____ Date: _____

Bunker Hill Bravery Bolsters Adams' Argument

In June of 1775, soon after the opening of the second Continental Congress, a British force containing about 3,000 troops attacked the rebel fortifications at Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill. The British wanted to remove the rebels from their entrenched positions overlooking the City of Boston.

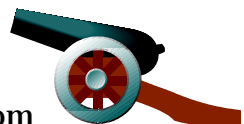
The British had to make three separate assaults to achieve their desired objective. With growing concern, British General Howe watched the heavy toll that his men were paying for possession of that small plot of land. By the end of the battle the General was wading through fields of dead soldiers.

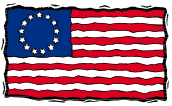
Removal of the patriot forces at Bunker Hill cost Howe about 40% of his soldiers, or 1,000 men, in addition to his entire personal staff. At Bunker Hill Howe saw that the officers and leaders of the American rebellion were not hesitating to shed their own blood in the quest for victory.

John Adams also took note of the officers' valor. The bravery of the rebel officers prompted John Adams to address the members of the Continental Congress. He requested their help with the "defense of liberty."

The delegates responded to Adams' request by calling for the formation of a Continental Army. Many delegates were opposed to the new army, fearing that it would corner the colonists into a position of constant rebellion. A bitter debate followed Adams' appeal for Congressional assistance, and the matter was put to a vote. A slim majority voted to establish the Continental Army, and selected George Washington of Virginia to serve as the supreme commander of that army.

One year later, when the delegates voted for the Declaration of Independence, the existence of the Continental Army became of paramount importance. The Army allowed the colonists to defend their claim of independence.





Reading Comprehension/U.S. History/Revolutionary War 1

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answers

1. Breeds; Bunker
2. Howe
3. Adams
4. Army
5. George Washington

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. b
5. c

