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.
Review

I. Complete the following statements.

1. In June of 1775 the British attacked rebels at _________ Hill and _________ Hill.
2. General ____________ commanded the attacking British forces.
3. After Bunker Hill, John __________ made a speech in the Continental Congress.
4. In response to this speech, the Congress established the Continental ________.
5. The Congress selected __________ ____________ to lead the Army.

II. Circle the letter of the word or words that correctly completes the statement.

1. The rebels at Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill were defending __________.
   a. New York  
   b. York  
   c. Philadelphia  
   d. Boston

2. The rebels on Bunker Hill killed__________ of Howe's men.
   a. 1,000  
   b. 100,000  
   c. 10,000  
   d. 100

3. Howe was impressed by the bravery of the rebel
   a. cavalry  
   b. riflemen  
   c. officers  
   d. none of the above

4. The officers’ bravery at Bunker Hill led to a speech by ____________.
   a. George Washington  
   b. John Adams  
   c. Sam Adams  
   d. General Howe

5. Defense of the Declaration of Independence was made possible by formation of ____________.
   a. the US Marine Corps  
   b. the US Air Force  
   c. the Continental Army  
   d. the French Foreign Legion
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