



BATTLE NARRATION CARDS

Lexington & Concord

Even though there had been some Americans killed at the Boston Massacre five years earlier, the Battles of Lexington and Concord were the first battles of the American Revolution. The Battles happened on April 19, 1775. The British were planning on arresting Samuel Adams and John Hancock in Lexington, but Paul Revere rode his horse to warn the town that the Regular British Army was marching into the area. The Americans stood in a flat field to defend themselves against the British. No one knows who fired the first shot. Eight Americans were killed, and ten others were wounded in the Battle of Lexington.

The British continued to march on to Concord to destroy weapons and ammunition they believed were stored in the area. When the British arrived in Concord, another battle happened. This time, the Americans were defeating the British regulars. The British had to retreat about sixteen miles back to Charlestown. By the time they reached Charlestown, 73 British soldiers had died, 174 wounded, and 26 others were missing. The Battle of Concord later became known as the "shot heard 'round the world."

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Trenton & Valley Forge

When most of the American and British troops stopped fighting for the winter, General Washington took advantage of the break to do a surprise attack on the German Hessians, who were soldiers hired by England to fight against the Americans. On Christmas night, 1776, Washington and the American soldiers rowed across the Delaware River. Once they were across, they marched on to Trenton and attacked the German Hessians. The American army captured over 900 enemy soldiers. The Battle of Trenton was one of the first major American victories.

The next winter, General Washington and his troops waited at Valley Forge for winter to end. The American soldiers did not have enough food or shoes for the cold. Many of the soldiers had to wrap their feet with rags because of the freezing weather. General Washington had to do many things to keep his troops inspired to fight. Valley Forge was not a battle, but it was a very important part of the Revolution. Because of the courage and leadership of General Washington, the troops made it through this difficult winter.

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Battle of Yorktown

The American Revolutionary War had been going on for more than six years. The British were tired of fighting the Americans, as well as other people around the world. Their army and navy were split up and fighting in many places. The leader of the British troops, General Charles Cornwallis felt that he could win the war quickly. He invaded from the southern colonies and began to march his troops north. At the same time, the French navy attacked the British ships and defeated them. The Americans, along with General Rochambeau and the French troops, attacked Cornwallis and his men in Yorktown, Virginia. After days of fighting, they surrounded the British and forced them to surrender.

Cornwallis was so ashamed of losing the war that he sent his second in command, Brigadier General Charles O'Hara, to surrender. General O'Hara tried to give the sword to General Rochambeau, who refused to accept it, and pointed to General Washington. But General Washington also refused to take it! Washington had Brigadier General Benjamin Lincoln, **HIS** second in command, accept the sword. Then the war was over!

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