

The Battle of Bunker Hill

By Cathy Pearl



¹ The Patriots had lost early battles in the war. They weren't going to give up. The American soldiers went to Boston. They surrounded the town. British soldiers could not attack. They were trapped in Boston. It did not look like the war would end quickly. The Americans did not want to lose.

² In 1775, the Patriots were in charge of two hills near Boston. Hills were important in the war. They were easier to defend. The British general wanted to be in charge of the hills. He decided to attack the Americans. He would force them to leave the hills.



³ The British soldiers attacked on June 17. They sent a lot of soldiers up the first hill. It was named Breed's Hill. This is where most of the battle was fought. The soldiers marched in a straight line. There were people beating drums. Other soldiers carried flags.

⁴ The soldiers got close to the Americans. That is when the Americans fought back. There were 1,600 Patriots on the hill. They fired their guns as fast as they could. The British soldiers had to slow down. Soon, they had to retreat.

⁵ The British soldiers did not give up. They started up the hill a second time. The Patriots waited for them to get close. Then they shot at the soldiers again. The British soldiers made it a little closer to the top of the hill. But they had to give up again. Soon, they had to retreat to the bottom of the hill.

⁶ The British general would not give up. He told the soldiers to attack for a third time. The soldiers had to crawl over the bodies of the soldiers that had already been shot. This time they made it to the top of the hill. The Patriots had run out of gunpowder. They could not fight back against the British any longer. They had to retreat off Breed's Hill.

⁷ The British soldiers then attacked Bunker Hill. There were not as many Patriots there. They did not have any ammunition either. The British quickly made it to the top of that hill, too.

⁸ The British soldiers had won the battle. The British army had lost a lot. At the beginning of the battle, there were almost 2,400 British soldiers. At the end, almost 1,100 had been killed or hurt. The Patriots had done much better. Fewer than 400 soldiers had been killed or wounded.

⁹ The Battle of Bunker Hill was the first large battle of the American Revolution. It showed the British that the Americans were not afraid to fight. It also showed the Americans that the British would not be easy to defeat. Both sides would struggle while trying to win the war.

Name _____



Date _____

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1. How many times did the British soldiers try to get up Breed's Hill? <input type="radio"/> A One <input type="radio"/> B Three <input type="radio"/> C Two	2. The British army ran out of ammunition during the battle. <input type="radio"/> A False <input type="radio"/> B True
3. Who won the battle of Breed's Hill? <input type="radio"/> A American Patriots <input type="radio"/> B Native Americans <input type="radio"/> C British army	4. Why were the hills important in the war? _____ _____
5. How many British soldiers were killed or hurt in the battle? <input type="radio"/> A 1,600 <input type="radio"/> B 1,100 <input type="radio"/> C 2,400	6. How many Patriots were hurt in the battle? <input type="radio"/> A 2,400 <input type="radio"/> B 400 <input type="radio"/> C 1,600

Britain won the hills, but many soldiers were hurt and killed. Do you think they really won the battle? Why or why not?

Do you think Britain should have attacked the hills three times? Were the hills really that important?