



Key Battle: **Bunker Hill**

Lost... Are we on Bunker Hill or Breed's Hill?

Where?

- Two large hills just outside of Boston, Massachusetts (Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill). Most of the fighting happened on Breed's Hill, but the soldiers thought they were on Bunker Hill the whole time. That's how the battle got its name.

When?

- June 16, 1775 - just a few months after the start of the American Revolution.

Who?

Colonel William Prescott led the Minutemen (American militia) from Boston. General William Howe led the British "regulars", or soldiers.

What?

The colonists had surrounded Boston because they wanted to weaken the British control of the nearby ports. British General William Howe told his troops to take control of two nearby hills. He wanted have a strong position in case the Americans attacked. In the middle of the night on June 16, 1775, American troops snuck in behind the British and built dirt walls to prepare for the battle the next morning. This move surprised the British! Unfortunately, it did not surprise them enough to immediately defeat the British. The colonists had to retreat. They did not completely lose, though! The British lost more men in this battle than the Americans did. In fact, the British lost more men in this battle than they did in almost any other battle during the American Revolution.

Key Battle Details

Because they did not have much ammunition, Colonel William Prescott told the American troops not to fire their guns "until you see the whites of their eyes".

Even though the colonists lost the battle, the British lost way more lives. This battle also showed the British that the colonists were not afraid to fight in a typical battle (since the Battle of Concord was more of a surprise attack). Many more men joined the American Army after this exciting battle for the colonists.

FAST FACT

- The dirt walls that the American militia built during the night before the battle were over 6 feet tall!