

Lesson 10: The Battle of Bunker Hill

Content Question

What are two different depictions of the Battle of Bunker Hill?

Topical Essential Questions

Why are Black men and women hardly portrayed in artifacts and sources about the American Revolution? How does this portrayal impact our interpretation today?

Overarching Essential Questions:

What are the causes of the American Revolution?

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to analyze and explain the two perspectives and depictions of the Battle of Bunker Hill through a primary source investigation.

Students will be able to discuss the ramifications in present time for the lack of inclusion of Black men and women in the events leading up to the American Revolution.

Do Now:

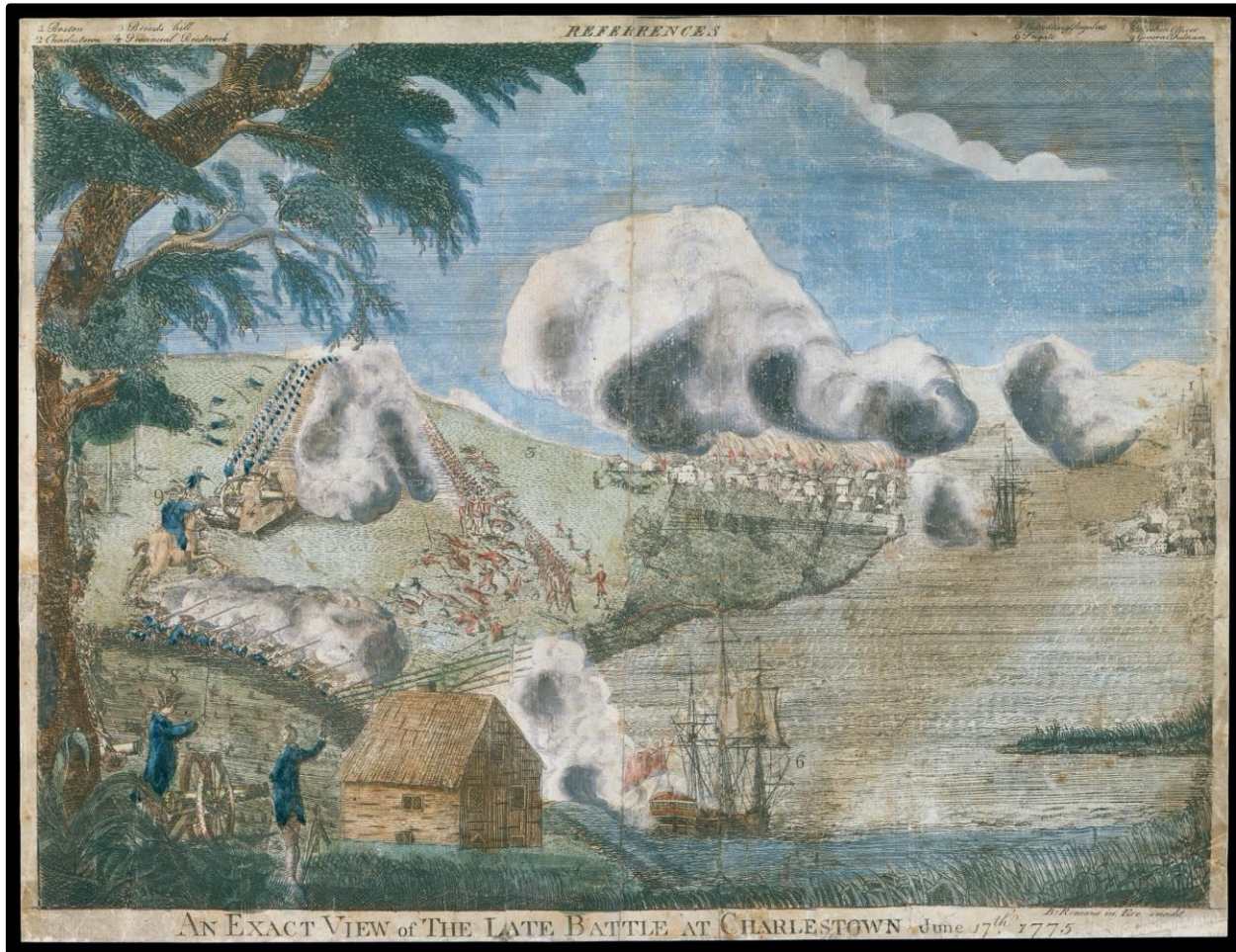
Do you think that war was the only solution to solving the problems the colonists had against the British or could there have been alternative solutions? What could these solutions have looked like?

Read, highlight, and annotate the summary.

After the Boston Tea Party in 1773, British troops quartered in the town of Boston using their warships to keep Boston harbor closed. These actions cut off trade, crippled the economy, and put colonists out of work. British soldiers and colonists, now living in proximity, frequently brawled in the streets and in the taverns. People who had never paid much attention to political affairs now became overt or secret supporters of one side or the other. Biased broadsides and newspaper reports fostered enmity. Tensions came to a head on April 18, 1775, when British General Thomas Gage, appointed royal governor of Massachusetts, sent 700 British soldiers to Lexington and Concord to confiscate arms and ammunition being accumulated by the colonists.

Some of the colonists, forewarned about British troop movements, were waiting on the Lexington Green when the British arrived the next morning. To this day no one knows for sure who fired first, but a shot rang out. The British soldiers fired a volley into the colonial militia, killing eight men and wounding 10. The British then moved on to Concord where minutemen drove back three British infantry units guarding Concord's North Bridge. On their subsequent march back to Boston they were peppered by patriot snipers. By the time the redcoats reached Boston, they had suffered 273 casualties compared with fewer than 100 for the patriots.

Engravings in local newspapers and broadsides incorrectly reported that the British, after attacking Lexington and Concord, raided and pillaged property all the way back to Boston. That news enraged patriots throughout the colonies. Within 48 hours, militiamen from Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts gathered in and around Cambridge, across the Charles River from Boston. The many differences that had separated the various colonies, including different religions, systems of government, and lifestyles, were set aside for a greater cause.



Discuss what you see in this image. Remember that the British are the “red coats” and the American militiamen are the ones in blue.

What is this image depicting?

Why did Bernard Romans depict the battle in this way?

Why did Romans choose this moment in the battle to depict?



Painted by John Trumbull
Published by John Trumbull, Jan 7th 1848, 210th Street, New York.
Engraved by James Nelson
The Battle of Bunker's Hill
near Boston
La Bataille de Bunker's Hill
pres de Boston

Discuss what you see in this image. Remember that the British are the “red coats” and the American militiamen are the ones in blue.

- What is this image depicting?
- Why do you think John Trumbull choose this moment in the battle to depict?
- How does Trumbull’s depiction of the Battle of Bunker Hill differ from Bernard Romans’ depiction?
- How is this painting similar to the Death of General Wolfe painting by Benjamin West?

Exit Slip: How will you bring the voices of marginalized communities such as Black men and women and Indigenous men and women into your final project?