Chapter 5, Lesson 3 Notes - A CALL TO ARMS

I. A MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA
   1. September 1774 – Continental Congress – goal: set up political body that would represent Americans and challenge British control

II. THE DELEGATES VOTE
   1. Statement of grievances – delegates called for repeal of 13 acts of Parliament
   2. Voted to boycott British trade
   3. Endorsed Suffolk Resolves prepared by people of Boston and other Suffolk County towns in Massachusetts
      i. declared Coercive Acts to be illegal
      ii. called on residents to arm themselves against British
      iii. After, many colonies organized militias

III. THE COLONIAL MILITIAS
   1. Militias were important part of each town’s defense
   2. Members trained and had drills; practiced using muskets and cannons
   3. Each member was required to provide his own weapon and ammunition

IV. FIGHTING BEGINS
   1. Many colonists felt fighting would break out in New England
   2. Some militias were known as minutemen because they boasted they would be ready to fight at a minute’s notice

V. GREAT BRITAIN SENDS TROOPS
   1. April 1775 – several thousand British troops in and around Boston
   2. Thomas Gage ordered to seize weapons from Massachusetts militia and arrest leaders
      i. Gage learned militia stored arms and ammunition at Concord
      ii. Sent 700 troops under Lt. Col. Francis Smith to seize and destroy all that they could find

VI. THE BRITISH ON THE MOVE
   1. April 18, 1775 – Dr. Joseph Warren – colonial protest leader – saw British troops marching out of city
   2. Warren alerted Paul Revere and William Dawes – members of the Sons of Liberty
      i. Revere and Dawes rode to Lexington – east of Concord – spread word that British were coming - British patrol captured Dawes and Revere
      ii. Samuel Prescott carried news to Concord

VII. LEXINGTON AND CONCORD
   1. Redcoats ran into 70 waiting minutemen led by Captain John Parker
      i. Shot fired – still not clear from where
      ii. Both sides exchange fire
      iii. 8 Minutemen killed
   2. British continued to Concord
      i. Short battle; British took heavy losses
      ii. British troops began heading back to Boston
      iii. Colonists hid behind trees and fired at soldiers
iv. British - 174 wounded; 73 dead
3. Ralph Waldo Emerson - “shot heard ‘round the world”
4. Battle for Independence has begun

VIII. MORE MILITARY ACTION
1. Benedict Arnold – captain in Connecticut militia – went to seize Fort Ticonderoga (rich in military supplies) near Lake Champlain in New York
2. Arnold joined forces with Ethan Allen of Vermont and “Green Mountain Boys”
   i. Fort Ticonderoga surrendered on May 10, 1775
3. Arnold later became a traitor to Patriot cause by selling military information to British
   i. Crime discovered in September 1780 – he fled to British-controlled New York City
   ii. He led raids against Americans in Virginia and Connecticut

IX. THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL
2. Redcoats assembled on Breed’s Hill
3. Prescott ordered, “Don’t fire until you see the whites of their eyes”
4. Battle of Bunker Hill - British victory
   i. Heavy losses - more than 1,000 dead and wounded
   ii. Defeating Americans on battlefield would not be quick or easy

X. CHOOSING SIDES
1. Colonists have major decision: rebel or remain loyal
2. Loyalists – those who sided with Great Britain
   i. Did not think unfair taxes and laws justified rebellion
3. Patriot – supported the war
   i. Believed colonists had right to govern themselves
   ii. Determined to fight until independence was won
4. Not just a war between America and Britain - civil war – Patriots against Loyalists