Seeds of Revolution

Part 3: The Boston Massacre to the Battle of Concord
First Bloodshed

- March 5, 1770
  - Colonists protesting outside customs house in Boston start throwing snow and rocks at soldiers
  - Soldiers open fire killing 5 colonists
  - Event called “Boston Massacre”
The Colonists React

• June 1772 – Gaspee Affair
  – Colonists burn the HMS Gaspee, a ship that had been enforcing trade laws

• December 1773 – Boston Tea Party
  – Colonists raid a merchant ship and dump cargo of tea into Harbor
The British React

• The Intolerable Act
  – Massachusetts Government Act – Restricted Town Hall meetings
  – Administration of Justice Act – All British Soldiers who committed a crime were tried in Britain.
  – Boston Port Act – Closed Boston harbor till the cost of the tea was repaid
  – Quartering Act of 1774 – Governors could place soldiers in homes without consent of homeowner.
Colonists Re-React

• Meeting of the Continental Congress (Sept 1774)
  – Argued whether to fix relations with England or attempt to establish a new government
  – Decided to stop all trade with Britain
The March to War

• April 14, 1775
  – British General Thomas Gage gets orders to disarm and arrest rebel leaders
  – Colonists find out orders and begin hiding weapons, leaders flee into countryside
The Midnight Ride

• April 18th, 1775
  – Rebels hear of British plan to go to city of Concord and Lexington to disarm rebels and capture two leaders
  – Paul Revere and William Dawes ride out to warn of the British movements
  – Revere eventually captured but bluffs his way out
Lexington Green

- Battle of Lexington
  - British arrive in Lexington and are met by town militia
  - As militia is leaving a shot rings out and the two sides exchange fire
  - Officially starting the American Revolution
War Quickly Spreads

• British Leave Lexington and head to Concord
  – Met by militia there
  – Eventually fighting breaks out there too
  – British retreat to Boston
    • Heavy Casualties