Double Column Notes (Cornell Note System) using handout.

Lecture Notes:

\*Tensions are high between the colonies and Britain. Militias ( a force of armed civilians that pledged to defend their communities) were formed all over New England. Some were minutemen – militia that were trained to be ready to fight in a minute’s warning

1. What rights were threatened by the Intolerable Acts?

\*Britain was unhappy with the colonists after the Boston Tea Party. King George III declared that “We must either master them or totally leave them to themselves and treat them as aliens.” – Britain chose to master the colonies.

\*To punish the Massachusetts colony (and to warn other colonies), Parliament passed a series of laws in 1774 called the Coercive Acts. However, because these acts were so harsh, the colonists called them the Intolerable Acts.

\*The Intolerable Acts stated that:

1. The port of Boston would be closed until the colonists paid for the destroyed tea.

2. Committees of correspondence were banned.

3. British troops could be housed wherever necessary.

4. Allowed British officials accused of crimes to stand trial in Britain.

5. To enforce these acts, Parliament appointed General Thomas Gage as governor of Massachusetts.

\*Other colonies offered Massachusetts support in the form of food and money. A meeting was called to discuss what to do next.

\*The First Continental Congress – September 1774 in Philadelphia. Delegates from all of the colonies except Georgia attended. The delegates voted to ban all trade with Britain until the Intolerable Acts were repealed. They also called for each colony to begin training troops. Although most delegates were not ready to call for independence, they were going to uphold their colonial rights. They agreed to meet seven months later.

\*The colonists hoped the boycotts would work as they had in the past….they did not. Parliament increased restrictions on trade and sent more troops. By the end of 1774, some of the colonists were preparing to fight.

\*Most colonial leaders believed that any fight with Britain would be short. They thought by showing Britain that they meant business, the Parliament would back down….few expected war. One who did was Patrick Henry who cried “Give me liberty or give me death!”

Questions to ask during lecture:

-Do you sense that the British control is about to slip, if so, How?

-Why do you think the colonists renamed the acts? Propaganda? Does that happen today?

5 minutes: Wrap up and let students know that we will finish notes over this section two days from today.

2. Why did the fighting begin at Lexington?

\*Both sides had spies. The British spies informed Gen. Gage that the Massachusetts militia was storing arms and ammunition in Concord. The spies also told him that Sam Adams and John Hancock were in Lexington. Gen. Gage ordered his troops to arrest Adams and Hancock in Lexington and then destroy the supplies in Concord.

\*The Sons of Liberty were ready. Paul Revere and William Dawes were sent to warn the colonists that the British were on the move. This was known as the “Midnight Ride.” Both Revere and Dawes rode Lexington and were joined by Dr. Samuel Prescott. The three of them rode ahead yelling “The redcoats are coming, the redcoats are coming!” Paul Revere was captured by the British, but Dawes and Prescott escaped. Prescott went ahead and delivered the news to Concord.

\*April 19, 1775 – Lexington. “The shot heard around the world”; More than 700 British redcoats reach the small town of Lexington. They are met by Captain John Park and about 70 militiamen. The British order the militiamen to put down their guns, but the Americans refused. No one is sure who fired the first shot, but after the short battle was over, eight militia men lay dead. The Battle of Lexington is known as the “shot heard round the world” because it was the beginning of the American Revolution.

\*After Lexington, the British began to march toward Concord and destroyed the supplies. On the road between Lexington and Concord, nearly 4,000 militiamen attacked the redcoats. They lined both sides of the road and shot at the troops while they were in formation. This only thing that saved the British was the fact that another 1,000 troops showed up and stopped the militiamen.

\*Lexington and Concord were the first battles of the War. Americans had to choose sides. Those who supported the British were called Loyalists. Those who sided with the rebels were called Patriots. This conflict would divide communities, families, and friends.