

RS#18: Educational materials developed through the Baltimore County History Labs Program, a partnership between Baltimore County Public Schools and the UMBC Center for History Education.

YOU, THE DETECTIVE: ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

Directions: You have taken on the role of a detective— interviewing witnesses (examining primary sources) and secondary sources, establishing the motives of the British and American colonists (by analyzing the importance of events and incidents), and gathering and preparing notes throughout the Road to Independence History Lab. Review and use the material you have gathered throughout the completion of the history lab to respond to the question below. Make sure to support your answer with material gathered from your detective files.

From the years 1763- 1775 there were many areas of discontent between the King George III and the colonists in North America. Armed conflict erupted at Lexington and Concord, which were the first actions of the American Revolution, with the colonists seeking independence from the British crown.

“...The sword is now unsheathed (drawn), and our friends are slaughtered by cruel enemies. Expresses (messengers) are hastening from town to town, in all directions through the country...rousing people To Arms! To Arms.” (Quoted in the *Military Journal of the American Revolution, 1775.*)

War now seems inevitable, but this question remains...

Who was most responsible (the British or American colonists) for moving these two groups towards armed conflict and could this conflict have been avoided? Support your argument with facts from the History Lab!



A large, rounded rectangular writing area with horizontal lines for text. The top-right and bottom-right corners are folded over, resembling a scroll or a piece of paper.

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A large, rounded rectangular box with a decorative scroll-like border on the right side. The interior of the box is filled with horizontal lines, providing space for a written response.

Constructed Response Scoring Rubric

Score 3

The response demonstrates an understanding of the complexities of the text.

Addresses the demands of the question

Effectively uses text-relevant¹ information to clarify or extend understanding

Score 2

The response demonstrates a general understanding of the text.

Partially addresses the demands of the question

Uses text-relevant¹ information to show understanding

Score 1

The response demonstrates a minimal understanding of the text.

Minimally addresses the demands of the question

Uses minimal information to show some understanding of the text in relation to the question

Score 0

The response is completely incorrect, irrelevant to the question, or missing.

Rubric- http://mdk12.org/assessments/k_8/readingscoring_bcr.html