

Name: _____
Social Studies

Date: _____
Period: _____

Who Fired the First Shot of the American Revolution?

CLAIM: AT THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD, THE AMERICAN MILITIAMEN FIRED THE FIRST SHOT ON THE BRITISH

Directions: Read over each of the following documents. Decide which *two* documents best support the claim above. Put a check mark next to the two documents you chose. Place an **X** next to the one you did not chose. On the back of this paper, explain why you placed an **X** next to this document.

DOCUMENT #1: A COLONIAL ONLOOKER

I... saw three British officers on horseback advance to the front of the regulars, when one of them, being within six rods of the said militia, cried out, "Disperse, you rebels, immediately". At the same time, he brandished his sword over his head three times. Then he pointed it down towards the militia, and immediately on which the regulars fired a volley at the militia and then I ran off, as fast as I could, while they continued firing till I got out of their reach.

DOCUMENT # 2: A BRITISH OFFICER

At 5 o'clock we arrived and saw a number of people, I believe between 200 and 300, formed in a common in the middle of the town. We still continued advancing, keeping prepared against an attack, tho' without intending to attack them. But on our coming near them, they fired one or two shots, upon which our men, without any orders, rushed in upon them, fired and put them to flight. Several of them were killed.

DOCUMENT #3: A BRITISH COMMANDER

When I arrived at the end of the village, I observed drawn up upon a green, nearly 200 rebels. When I came within about 100 yards of them, they began to file off towards some stone walls on our right flank. The 10th Light Infantry, observing this, ran after them. I instantly called to the soldiers not to fire, but to surround and disarm them. Some of the rebels who had jumped over the wall, fired four or five shots at the soldiers, which wounded a man of the Tenth and my horse was wounded in two places, and at the same time several shots were fired from a meeting house on our left.

