

Name: _____

Date: _____

Who fired the shot heard round the World?

Directions: Read and annotate each document for clues as to who fired the shot heard round the world.

For each document create an argument picking by picking a side (Colonist or British) who fired the shot first.

Support your argument with evidence from the document and an analysis that explains how and why your evidence supports your argument.

Document 1:

[Affidavit] No. 4. Lexington, April 25, 1775.

I, John Parker, of lawful Age, and Commander of the **Militia** in Lexington, do **testify** and declare, that on the 19th Instant in the Morning, about one of the Clock, being informed that there were a Number of British Officers, riding up and down the Road, stopping and insulting People as they passed the Road; and also was informed that a Number of British Troops were on their March from Boston in order to take the supplies at Concord, ordered our Militia to meet on the lawn in Lexington to figure out what to do, and concluded not to be discovered, nor interfere with the British Troops (if they should approach) unless they should insult or attack us; and, upon their unexpected Approach, I immediately ordered our Militia to separate, and not to fire: Immediately said Troops made their appearance and rushed us, fired upon, and killed eight of our men without reason.

Vocabulary:

Militia: Volunteer Soldiers

Testify: To say something under oath in court

Inquiry Question: Who fired the shot heard round the world?

Argument: (Who fired the first shot)

The (**circle one**) **Colonist/British** fired the shot heard round the world because: _____

Evidence:

According to document 1: _____

Analysis: (How and why the side fired the shot)

This shows: _____

Document 2: Diary of a British Solider

19th. [April 1775]

Last night between 10 and 11 o'clock 600 of the most loyal British soldiers landed in Massachusetts. We sent 3 or 4 scouts gather intelligence on the towns; about 5 miles we came across Lexington, we heard there were some hundreds of People collected together intending to oppose us and stop our going on; at 5 o'clock we arrived there and saw a number of People, I believe between 2 and 300, formed in the lawn 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 'em to flight; several of them were killed, we cou'd not tell how many, because they were got behind Walls and into the Woods; We had a one man wounded, nobody else hurt.

Inquiry Question: Who fired the shot heard round the world?

Argument: (Who fired the first shot)

Evidence:

Analysis: (How and why the side fired the shot)

Document 3: Elijah Saunderson Testimony

Vocabulary:
Regulars: British Troops

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

I, Elijah Saunderson, above named, do further testify and declare, that I was on Lexington green, the Morning of the Nineteenth of April, and saw a Large Body of British Troops advancing toward Lexington Militia, many of whom were then separating. I heard one of the troops, whom I took to be an officer, say, "Damn them, we will have them," and immediately the **Regulars** shouted aloud, Run and fired upon the Lexington Company, which did not fire a Gun before the **Regulars** fired on them; Eight of the Lexington Company were killed while they were separating, and at a Considerable Distance from each other, and Many wounded, and although' a spectator, I narrowly Escaped with my Life.

Elijah Saunderson.

Inquiry Question: Who fired the shot heard round the world?

Argument: (Who fired the first shot)

Evidence:

Analysis: (How and why the side fired the shot)

Document 4: [Affidavit] No. 20.

Medford, April 25, 1775.

I, Edward Thoroton Gould, of his Majesty's own Regiment of Foot, being of lawful Age, do testify and declare, that on the Evening of the 18th. I landed near Cambridge (town in Massachusetts), from where we proceeded to Lexington; On our arrival at that place, we saw a Body of Colonial Troops armed, to the Number of about sixty or seventy Men; on our Approach, they separated, and soon after firing began, but which party fired first, I cannot exactly say, as our Troops rush'd on shouting, previous to the firing, which was continued by our Troops, so long as any of the colonials were to be seen. From there we marched to Concord.

Edward Thoroton Gould, Lieut. King's own Regiment.

Inquiry Question: Who fired the shot heard round the world?

Argument: (Who fired the first shot)

Evidence:

Analysis: (How and why the side fired the shot)
