

**THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (1775 - 1783) – LESSON 2**

**Objective:** To examine the strengths and weaknesses of the Continental and British armies.

**Do Now:**

The Continental Army had many problems and few advantages. However, the Continentals did have at least one important advantage.

**Making an Analogy:** Use the current standings from the Pacific division of the NBA to figure out what major advantage the Continental Army enjoyed during the Revolutionary War. Make a comparison!

TEAM	W	L	HOME	ROAD
<a href="#">L.A. Lakers</a>	16	3	13-2	3-1
<a href="#">Phoenix</a>	15	7	7-0	8-7
<a href="#">Sacramento</a>	9	11	8-3	1-8
<a href="#">L.A. Clippers</a>	9	12	6-7	3-5
<a href="#">Golden State</a>	6	14	4-5	2-9

Home field advantage is important in both sports and war. In sports, the home team has better knowledge of the field and/or stadium. In war, the side fighting on home turf has a greater knowledge of the land. In sports, the home team has the support of their fans. In war, the side fighting at home has the support of their citizens. In both sports and war, the team or army on the road may have had to travel a long distance and would rather be home. The side playing or fighting in their own territory is comfortable with their surroundings and has more to fight for.



“Nothing can be more hurtful to the service, than the neglect of discipline; for that discipline, more than numbers, gives one army the superiority over another.”

- GEORGE WASHINGTON

July 6, 1777

## Continental Army

### **Disadvantages**

- no navy
- untrained soldiers
- few cannons and little gunpowder

### **Advantages**

- fighting for their homes and freedom
- leadership of George Washington

## British Army

### **Advantages**

- highly trained, experienced soldiers
- plentiful weapons and supplies
- most powerful navy in the world

### **Disadvantages**

- the war was fought far from home
- less reasons to fight hard
- risked constant attack

## Battle of Bunker Hill

- Occurred on Breeds Hill on June 17, 1775.
- The Patriots were short on gunpowder and were warned by Colonel William Prescott,...



*Colonel William Prescott*

... "Don't fire till you see the whites of their eyes!"

- The British won the battle, but lost over 1,000 troops.
- This battle showed Britain that the Patriots would not be an easy enemy.



*The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker Hill*  
by, [John Trumbull](#) (1786)