

Study Guide for Social Studies
Chapter 6 Lesson 4
“The Road to War”

Second Continental Congress

- This meeting was called by the colonists because of the fighting at Lexington-Concord.
- The colonists decided they should prepare for war with the British.
- The first step was to form an army made up of full-time soldiers.
- George Washington was chosen to be the **commander-in-chief** (the leader) of the army.

The Battle of Bunker Hill (fought on Breed’s Hill; was named wrongly)

- Was the first major battle of the war.
- Colonial soldiers were ordered to build **earthworks**, or walls made of earth and stone which helped colonists protect themselves. (Pretty good thinking!!!!)
- As the British soldiers approached the colonists, the colonists were ordered not to shoot until they could see the white’s of the British eyes because they didn’t want to run out of ammunition, and the colonists wanted to make their shots more accurate.
- Later the colonists were forced to retreat because they ran out of ammunition.
- The British won this battle but learned that the colonists would not be easy to defeat.

The Olive Branch Petition (named this because the **olive branch** is an ancient symbol for peace)

- It was sent to King George III by the colonists.
- It asked for peace.
- The British leaders were so angry over the Battle of Bunker Hill that they ignored it.