The Battle of Bunker Hill took place on June 17, 1775, just a few months after the start of the American Revolutionary War. This is a great Omnibus (History) lesson for homeschoolers. Your students will study this battle and recreate a war diorama.

The city of Boston was being besieged by thousands of American colonists. The British were trying to keep control of the city and control its valuable sea ports. The British decided to take control of two hills, Bunker and Breeds, in order to gain a tactical advantage. The American colonists heard about it and went to defend the hills.

A two-day battle between the British forces under the command of General William Howe and the American colonial forces under Colonel William Prescott will forever be known as the Battle of Bunker Hill. The American colonies had occupied Breed’s Hill in Charlestown on June 16, 1775, in order to protect the shipyard of nearby Boston. The next morning, the British troops attacked the American troops by crossing the river with three thousand armed soldiers. They were unable to endure the slaughter from the Patriots and retreated to Charlestown, which was being fired upon by British fleets. The British fleets burned the a great part of the city of Charlestown to ashes.

The American commander, William Howe, led three charges up Breeds Hill. The American colonists fought back the first two charges victorious, driving the British troops in retreat. But they soon began to run out of ammunition and had to retreat at the third charge. They took the hill but suffered heavy losses. The American colonists fired until they were out of ammunition, then would quickly retreat. To conserve ammunition, Prescott told his men, “Don’t fire until you see the whites of their eyes.” Many more colonists, who were untrained farmers, joined the army after this battle and the revolution continued to grow in strength. All were encouraged and determined to fight for liberty.

Even though the battle was fought on Breed’s Hill, it has been remembered as the Battle of Bunker Hill.
BUNKER HILL DIORAMA

Make a model replica of the battle by recreating a war diorama. Gather supplies such as a box, clay, paper mache, cardboard, plastic figures, paint, and scissors.

Lyrical Legacy: This song was composed by a British Officer the day after the Battle.

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BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL.
Composed by a British Officer, the day after the Battle, June 17, 1775.

IT was on the seventeenth, by break of day,
The Yankees did surge in,
With their strong backs they had drawn up,
To burn the town and drive us.

But soon we had an order came,
An order to defeat them;
Like rebels stout, they stood it out,
And thought we'd soon beat them.

About the hour of twelve that day,
An order came for marching,
With three good guns and sixty rounds,
Each man had to discharge them.

We marched down to the Long Wharf,
Where boats were ready waiting;
With separation we embarked,
Our ships kept extending.

And when our boats all filled were,
With officers and soldiers,
With a good troop as England had,
To oppose, who dared contain us.

And when our boats all filled were,
We rowed in line of battle,
Where showers of ball like hail did fly,
Our canons loud did retch.

There was Copp's hill nearer Charlestown,
Our twenty-four they played;
And the three ships in the stream,
That very well behoved.

The cabins figure clear'd the shore,
All at the time of landing,
With grape shot and cannon balls,
None Yankees ever could stand them.

And when we landed on the shore,
We didn't go all together;
The Yankees they all shot their works,
And thought we'd never come thinner.

But when the Yankees they came to know
Brave Howe, our bold commander;
With great zeal and industry,
We made them to surrender.

Brave William Howe, on our right wing,
Cry'd bravely like thunder;
You soon will see the rebels fly,
With great zeal and wonder.

Now some by bleeding on the ground,
And some hill for a resting;
Our bills and dales, and mountains high,
Ging, ging, ging! Brave Howe's a coming.

Brave Howe is so considerate,
As to guard against all danger;
He allow'd each half a gill this day,
To run we are no strangers.

They began to play on our left wing,
Where Pigot, he commanded;
But we return'd it back again,
With courage most undaunted.

To our grape-shot and musket balls,
To which they were not strangers,
They thought to come with never a head,
But soon they found their danger.

And when the works were got into,
And put them to the right, sir;
They pepper'd on, poor British slove,
And should we could light, sir.

And when the works we got into,
With some hand knights and floggers;
Their works we found both firm and strong,
Too strong for British Rangers.

But as for our Artillery,
They gave all way and run,
For while their ammunition hold,
They gave us Yankee tim.

Run our ammunition, he got broke,
For his mischance, poor, sir;
The shot he was not twice pound gun,
Were made for twenty-Þov, sir.

There's some in Boston, please to say,
As we the field were taking,
We went to kill their cannon, sir,
While they draw bay were making.

For scarce about woods I saw ever,
To hang them all I'd rather;
By making say with musket balls,
Lord Howe comically did believe.

But back to him by head and feet,
For he's despised by many.

The name of Bunker Hill be devils,
Where he was shot'd most pleasingly.

And now my song is at an end,
And to conclude my duty;
I'm only thinking ignorant,
That I most sincerely pray,
As for our King and William Howe,
And General Gage, if they're taken,
The Yankees will hang their heads up high,
On that fine hill old'd Beacon.
What is the date of the Battle of Bunker Hill?

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Where was the Battle of Bunker Hill fought?
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Why would both the British and the colonists have wanted to control the Charlestown Peninsula?
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Which army shows more determination to win the war?
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Which direction did the British commander send his troops up the hill? Was this wise?
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Why were the Americans told, “Don’t shoot till you see the whites of their eyes?”
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Why did the colonists hold their fire until the British were almost upon the redoubt?
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What was the final outcome of the Battle of Bunker Hill?
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