RS#18: Educational materials developed through the Baltimore County History Labs Program, a partnership between Baltimore County Public Schools and the UMBC Center for History Education.

YOU, THE DETECTIVE: ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

Directions: You have taken on the role of a detective—interviewing witnesses (examining primary sources) and secondary sources, establishing the motives of the British and American colonists (by analyzing the importance of events and incidents), and gathering and preparing notes throughout the Road to Independence History Lab. Review and use the material you have gathered throughout the completion of the history lab to respond to the question below. Make sure to support your answer with material gathered from your detective files.

From the years 1763-1775 there were many areas of discontent between the King George III and the colonists in North America. Armed conflict erupted at Lexington and Concord, which were the first actions of the American Revolution, with the colonists seeking independence from the British crown.

“...The sword is now unsheathed (drawn), and our friends are slaughtered by cruel enemies. Expresses (messengers) are hastening from town to town, in all directions through the country...rousing people To Arms! To Arms.” (Quoted in the Military Journal of the American Revolution, 1775.)

War now seems inevitable, but this question remains...

Who was most responsible (the British or American colonists) for moving these two groups towards armed conflict and could this conflict have been avoided? Support your argument with facts from the History Lab!
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**Constructed Response Scoring Rubric**

**Score 3**
The response demonstrates an understanding of the complexities of the text.  
Addresses the demands of the question  
Effectively uses text-relevant information to clarify or extend understanding

**Score 2**
The response demonstrates a general understanding of the text.  
Partially addresses the demands of the question  
Uses text-relevant information to show understanding

**Score 1**
The response demonstrates a minimal understanding of the text.  
Minimally addresses the demands of the question  
Uses minimal information to show some understanding of the text in relation to the question

**Score 0**
The response is completely incorrect, irrelevant to the question, or missing.