

PAUL REVERE’S RIDE - FACT OR FICTION?				Student/Class Goal Virtually all students, at one point of time in their schooling, are exposed to Longfellow's ballad, "Paul Revere's Ride." Being able to discern what an author has crafted from actual historical events is an important skill for students as they evaluate the accuracy of print.	
Outcome <i>(lesson objective)</i> Students will recount the circumstances prior to, during and after Paul Revere's ride, then list and compare differences between Longfellow's poem and the historical event				Time Frame Three 45 minute sessions	
Standard <i>Read with Understanding</i>				NRS EFL 4-6	
Purpose	Benchmarks	Word Knowledge	Benchmarks	Comprehension	Benchmarks
Purpose for reading	4.1, 5.1, 6.1	Decoding skills	4.3, 5.3, 6.3	Strategy use	4.11, 5.11, 6.11
Select text		Word parts		Text structural elements	
		Context clues	4.5, 5.5, 6.5	Genres	6.13
		Reference materials		Literary analysis	6.14
		Word relationships		Drawing conclusions	4.15, 5.15, 6.15
		Content vocabulary		Making connections	4.16, 5.16, 6.16
		Figurative language			
		Fluency			
Materials Historical Accounts <i>Tracking Paul Revere</i> Handout <i>Paul Revere’s Ride</i> by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, illustrated by Ted Rand <i>Paul Revere’s Ride</i> Venn Diagram					
Learner Prior Knowledge Ask students what they know about Paul Revere. Read a brief biography from the Paul Revere House , skipping any sections about the ride. Ask students to identify any facts they did not know and keep a class list on the board. Would he have been remembered for other achievements even if he had never been on that famous ride? Review the political/military circumstances surrounding Paul Revere’s ride, students should be aware of terms such as revolution, patriots, loyalists, the British, independence, etc.					
Instructional Activities Step 1 - What are the essential differences between Longfellow's account of Paul Revere's ride and historical fact? How accurate is the poem? Is it responsible for Revere's ride achieving such iconic status? Why does Revere's ride occupy such a prominent place in the American consciousness? Divide the class into at least 3 groups, assigning each of the following historical accounts to a group: 1. “The Midnight Ride of April 18, 1775” from Charles Gettemy's The True Story of Paul Revere TEACHER NOTE Although a lengthy and difficult [Fleisch-Kincaid 11.2] account, it is the most detailed and arguably the most colorful. Assign to a group accordingly. Choose vocabulary from each article that might limit comprehension and discuss word meaning with each group. 2. Paul Revere by John Singleton Copley Fleisch-Kincaid 6.4] 3. The Real Story of Paul Revere’s Ride [Fleisch-Kincaid 11.3]					

TEACHER NOTE The online multimedia presentation, [Paul Revere: Messenger of the Revolution](#), might also be used with auditory learners as a resource.

Using the handout *Tracking Paul Revere*, students make notes of the details in their account's version. Work together as a class to construct the best possible version of what really happened on the ride. Creating a timeline together might give students a clearer concept of the facts.

Step 2 - Read Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's famous poem *Paul Revere's Ride* aloud to the group before students examine the text.

TEACHER NOTE A version of the poem can be found on the CD *Best Loved Poems Jacqueline Onassis* by Caroline Kennedy, published by Hyperion and is read by Ted Kennedy.

What stands out for them and what do they recall about the poem? Pass out copies of the text and assign sections to volunteers to read aloud as the class follows along. Focus the discussion on literary, not historical, elements at this time.

Students can review the poem on their own. They can make notations about memorable place names, historical importance Longfellow gives the ride, personal qualities of the characters and Longfellow's attitude toward the event.

Longfellow published his poem in 1861 when the country was in a state of turmoil over the Civil War. Do the students think he was trying to renew national unity? What does he mean by the "word that shall echo forevermore!"? What details in the poem do they recall from the other accounts of Revere's ride?

Step 3 - Distribute copies of a Venn diagram for students to note differences and similarities between the poet's account and the class summary. Students can work in triads to complete, then a composite diagram can be created on the board. Together come up with a hypothesis about the iconic status of the ride.

Assessment/Evidence *(based on outcome)*

Group summary from the readings
Venn diagram of accounts
Teacher observations
Class hypothesis

Teacher Reflection/Lesson Evaluation

Not yet completed.

Next Steps

Write a poem that tells a story, especially a story from history. Feel free to begin with "Listen my children and..." as in this example about Rosa Parks.

"Listen my children and we will discuss
Someone who refused the back of the bus."

Technology Integration

Venn Diagram Teaching Strategy http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/strategies/venn_diagrams.pdf
Poetry Thematic Collection <http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/tradebooks/matrices/MatrixPoetry.doc>

Purposeful/Transparent

Students have some understanding of historical events, but often haven't considered multiple accounts of the event to determine if what they read is true or false.

Contextual

Evaluating what one reads is an important skill for students to develop and hone in their everyday lives.

Building Expertise

Students will have had experience with comparing and contrasting, but this learning activity deepens the understanding of author's point of view.

The True Story of Paul Revere

By Charles Gettemy

<http://www.earlyamerica.com/lives/revere/chapt3/>

CHAPTER III

The Midnight Ride of April 18, 1775

BOSTON was in a ferment during the winter of 1774-1775. The long series of grievances endured from the mother country had led to the adoption of the Suffolk Resolves in September.

In October the provincial congress was organized, with Hancock as president; a protest was sent to the royal governor remonstrating against his hostile attitude, and a committee of public safety was provided for. In February this committee was named, delegates were selected for the next continental congress, and provision was made for the establishment of the militia. Efforts made by the patriots and to disband the militia had proved futile, and the fire of opposition to the indignities heaped upon the people by the crown was kept alive by secret organizations. "Sons of Liberty" met in clubs and caucuses, the group which gathered at the Green Dragon Tavern being the most famous. They were composed chiefly of young artisans and mechanics from ranks of people, who, in rapid succession of events, were becoming more and more restive under the British yoke.

None of these patriots chafed more impatiently or was more active in taking advantage of each opportunity that offered to antagonize the plans of the royal emissaries than Paul Revere, now aged forty. In the early months of 1775 he was one of a band of thirty who had formed themselves into a committee to watch the movements of the British soldiers and the Tories in Boston. In parties of two and two, taking turns, they patrolled the streets all night.

Finally, at midnight of Saturday, the 15th of April, the vigilance of these self appointed patrolmen was rewarded. It became apparent then that something unusual was suddenly occurring in the British camp. One of the English officers wrote in his diary:

"General Orders." The Grenadiers and Light Infantry in order to learn Grenadiers. Exercise and new evolutions are to be off all duties till further orders' This I suppose is by way of a blind. I dare say they have something for them to do."

But the movement did not serve to blind the vigilant and suspicious patriots. "The boats belonging to the transports were all launched," says Revere in his narrative, "and carried under the sterns of the men-of-war." (They had been previously hauled up and repaired.) We likewise found that the grenadiers and light infantry were all taken off duty. From these movements we expected something was to be transacted." The following day, Sunday, the 16th, Dr. Warren dispatched Revere to Lexington with a message to John Hancock and Samuel Adams.

This ride of the 16th has never received much attention. It is not famed in song and story, and Revere himself alludes to it only incidentally. He probably made the journey out and back in the daytime jogging along unnoticed and not anxious to advertise the purpose of his errand. Yet there can be no doubt that, in its relation to the portentous events which followed three days later, it was at least of as great importance as the more spectacular "midnight ride" of the 18th.

The movement of the British on the night of the 15th aroused the suspicion of the patriots, of whom Warren was chief, who had remained in Boston. They meant to him one thing, - an intention to send forth soon an expedition of some sort. The most plausible conjecture as to its object, even had there been no direct information on the subject, suggested the capture of Hancock and Adams at Lexington, or the seizure of the military stores at Concord, or both.

The two patriot leaders, upon whose heads a price had been fixed by King George, were in daily attendance upon the sessions of the Provincial Congress at Concord; but they lodged nightly in the neighboring town of Lexington, at the house of Rev. Jonas Clarke, whose wife was a niece of Hancock.

It was of the utmost importance that they and the congress be kept fully informed of what was transpiring in Boston. But when Revere called upon Hancock and Adams in Lexington on Sunday, he found that congress had adjourned the day before to the 15th of May, in ignorance, of course, of the immediate plans of the British. It had not done so, however, without recognizing "the great uncertainty of the present times, and that important unforeseen events may take place, from this congress should meet sooner than the day aforesaid."

The delegates indeed had scarcely dispersed before the news brought by Revere aroused such apprehension that the committee which had been authorized to call the convention together again met, and on Tuesday, the 18th, ordered the delegates to reassemble on the 22d at Watertown. Meantime, the committees of safety and supplies had continued their sessions at Concord. Friday, the 14th, it had been voted:

"That the cannon now in the town of Concord be immediately disposed of within said town, and the committee of supplies may direct." (doug 2)

But on Monday, the 17th, with John Hancock, to whom on Sunday Revere had brought information of the preparations being made in Boston for the expedition of the British, the Committees of safety and Supplies, sitting jointly, voted:

"That two four pounders, now at Concord, be mounted by the committee of supplies, and that Col. Barrett be desired to raise an artillery company, to join the army when raised, they to have to pay until they join the army; and also that an instructor for the use of the cannon be appointed, to be put directly in pay."

It was also voted:

"That the four six pounders be transported to Groton, and put under care of Col. Prescott.

"That two seven inch brass mortars be transported to Action." (doug 1)

On the 18th the committees continued their preparations in anticipation of the descent of the British upon the stores. Numerous votes were passed, providing for a thorough distribution of the stock of provisions and ammunition on hand.

The transporting of the six pounders to Groton and the brass mortars to Action carried an inference and a message of its own. It helps to account for the presence at the fight at Concord Bridge, on the 19th, of the minute men from these and other towns who could not readily have covered the distance within so short a time, had their information been due solely to Revere's alarm of the night before. But that the blow might be expected at almost any moment, Revere's tidings, brought on Sunday, made quickly apparent to the committees in session at Concord on Monday, two days before it fell.

Many interesting stories have been handed down in tradition and some of them have been treated by local historians with far more seriousness than they deserve, seeking to explain how it happened that the patriots should know so well the plans of the British on the night of the 18th of April. One of these tales runs to the effect that a groom at the Province House, who happened to drop into a stable near by on milk street, was told by the stable-boy that he had overheard a conversation between Gage and other officers; "There will be hell to pay to-morrow," the jockey ventured to predict.

It is alleged that this significant conversation was speedily repeated and carried to Paul Revere, who enjoined silence, and remarked to his informant: "You are the third person who has brought me the same information." (doug 1)

Another story has it that the great secret was revealed by an incautious sergeant major in Gage's army quartered in the family of an Englishman, Jasper by name, who was secretly sympathetic toward the rebel cause, and who kept a gunsmith's shop in Hatter's square, where he worked for the British. Jasper is said to have repeated what he had gathered from the British officer to Colonel Josiah Waters, one of the patriot leaders, who promptly made the facts known to the Committee of Safety.

Stedman, the British historian of the Revolution, who was one of General Gage's commissioners in Boston, says:

"Gen. Gage on the evening of the 18th of April told Lord Percy the he intended to send a detachment to seize the stores at Concord, and to give the command to Col. Smith who knew that he was to go but not where. He meant it to be a secret expedition, and begged of Lord Percy to keep it a profound secret. As this nobleman was passing from general's quarters home to his own, perceiving eight or ten men conversing together on the common, he made up to them, when one of the men said:

" The British have marched; but will miss their aim.'

'What aim?' said Lord Percy.

'Why,' the man replied, 'the cannon at Concord.'

"Lord Percy immediately returned on his steps, and acquainted Gen. Gage, not without marks of surprise and disapprobation of what he had just heard. The general said that his confidence had been betrayed, for that he had communicated his design to one person only beside his lordship."

It is really of no importance whether these stories are true or not. If they prove anything they reflect upon the intelligence and common-sense of the citizens of Boston by creating an assumption that the patriots must have had some direct and specific information from inside the British camp in order to be forewarned of the expedition , and that without such information the country between Boston and Concord could not have been properly alarmed.

But Warren and his lieutenants, the members of the Committee of Safety, and the patrolmen of the Sons of Liberty were not a set of blockheads. Every move of the British military was watched with hawk-eyed vigilance. The Somerset, man-of-war, was moved from the position she had been occupying out into the Charles River, so as to be able to cover with her guns the ferry-ways. There could be but one interpretation on this, - that it was intended to guard against the very thing which happened , namely, successful communication between the Boston patriots and their colleagues in the country. It was, in short, impossible for the British to make an unusual stir such as was involved in the preparations for moving eight hundred troops out of Boston without that fact becoming instantly noised all over town. It is equally absurd to

suppose that anyone could have thought under the circumstances that the most likely destination of the troops was not Lexington and Concord.

No one can familiarize himself with the temper of the Boston populace on that April night, and with the character and personality of Paul Revere, and not appreciate that in the whole town none was in a better position than he to know what the plans of the British were. He was in the thick of everything that was taking place. "On Tuesday evening the 18th," he writes, "it was observed that a number of soldiers were marching toward the bottom of the common," which meant that they were to be transported across the river to Charlestown or Cambridge, instead of making the long march around by way of Boston Neck. No need of any lanterns being hung out in a church spire to inform him whether the red-coats were going by land or by sea! He knew all about this long before he got into his row-boat that night.

But let him tell his own story:

"About ten o'clock, Dr. Warren sent in great haste for me, and begged that I would immediately set off for Lexington, where Messrs. Hancock and Adams were, and acquaint them of the movement, and that it was thought they were the objects. When I got to Dr. Warren's house, I found he had sent an express by land to Lexington, a Mr. William Dawes.

The Sunday before by desire of Dr. Warren, I had been to Lexington, to Messrs. Hancock and Adams, who were at the Rev. Mr. Clark's. I returned at night through Charlestown: there I agreed with a Colonel Conant and some other gentlemen, that if the British went out by the water, he would show two lanterns in the North Church steeple and if by land, one as a signal; for we were apprehensive it would be difficult to cross the Charles River, or get over Boston Neck.

I left Dr. Warren, called upon a friend, and desired him to make the signals. I then went home, took my boots and surtout, went to the north part of the town, where I kept a boat; two friends rowed me across Charles River a little to the eastward where the somerset man-of-war lay. It was then young flood, the ship was winding, and the moon rising. They landed me on the Charlestown side. When I got into town, I met Colonel Conant and several others; they said they had seen our signals. I told them what was acting, and went to get me a horse; I got a horse of Deacon Larkin."

Revere has thus made it quite plain that the signals were agreed upon for the benefit, not of himself, who could have no possible need for them, but of the waiting patriots on the Charlestown shore, who, when they should see the light or lights, might be trusted to carry the news to Lexington and Concord in the event of no one being able to cross the river or get through the British lines by the land route over Boston Neck.

From the spot where Revere landed on the Charlestown shore the steeple of Christ Church was plainly visible, yet he does not mention seeing the signals, though taking pains to record that others had seen them. Certainly curiosity could have been his only motive for looking for the lights, and the fact that he makes no minute of seeing them may well be taken as evidence that the lanterns had already been displayed and withdrawn ere he reached the Charlestown shore. The arrangement, he says, was that "we would show" the lanterns, not that they would be hung out and left for an indefinite length of time; moreover, his friends, when he jumped out of his boat, said that they "had seen" the signal. If they were still visible, what more natural than that Revere's attention should be called to them as a matter of curiosity, and that in that event he should have mentioned it in his very circumspect narrative?

We know that the lights were not displayed for Revere's benefit, and, when we take into consideration all the circumstances and the language of Revere's narrative, it is scarcely reasonable to suppose that Revere himself ever saw the signals.

In view of all these facts, for which Revere himself is our chief authority, we perceive that Longfellow drew liberally from his imagination when he penned the lines:

Meanwhile, impatient to mount and ride,
Booted and spurred, with heavy stride
On the opposite side walked Paul Revere
Now he patted his horse's side,
Now gazed at the landscape far and near,
Then, impetuous, stamped the earth,
And turned and tightened his saddle-girth; But mostly he watched with
eager search The belfry-tower of the Old North Church,
As it rose above the graves on the hill,
Lonely and spectral and sombre and still,
And lo! as he looks, on the belfry's height
A glimmer, and then a gleam of light!
He springs to the saddle, the bridle he turns,
But lingers and gazes, till full on his sight
A second lamp in the belfry burns!

Revere's story is to the effect that as soon as he could procure a horse he started upon his journey with out further delay. "While the horse was preparing," he says, "Richard Devens, Esq., who was on of the Committee of Safety, came to me, and told me that he came down the road from Lexington, after sundown, that evening; that he met ten British officers, all well mounted and armed, going up the road. I set off upon a very good horse; it was then about 11 o'clock, and very pleasant." Devens himself left a memorandum of his experiences on that evening. Says he:

"On the 18th of April, '75, Tuesday, the Committee of Safety, of which I was then a member, and the Committee of Supplies, sat at Newell's tavern, [the records of the committee say Wetherby's] at Menotomy. A great number of British officers dined at Cambridge. After we had finished the business of the day, we adjourned to meet at Woburn on the morrow, - left to lodge at Newell's, Gerry, Orne and Lee. Mr. Watson and myself came off in my chaise at sunset. On the road we met a great number of B.O. [British officers] and their servants on horseback, who had dined that day at Cambridge. We rode some way after we met them, and then turned back and rode through them, went and informed our friends at Newell's. We stopped there till they came up and rode by. We then left our friends, and I came home, after leaving Mr. Watson at his house.

I soon received intelligence from Boston, that the enemy were all in motion, and were certainly preparing to come out into the country. Soon afterwards, the signal agreed upon was given; this was a lanthorn hung out in the upper window of the tower of the North Church towards Charlestown. I then sent off an express to inform Messrs Gerry &c., and Messrs Hancock and Adams who I knew were at the Rev. Mr. Clark's at Lexington, that the enemy were certainly coming out. I kept watch at the ferry to watch for the boats till about eleven o'clock, when Paul Revere came over and informed that the troops were actually in the boats. I then took a horse from Mr. Larkin's barn, and sent him. I procured a horse and sent off P. Revere to give intelligence at Menotomy and Lexington. He was taken by the British officers before mentioned, before he got to Concord.

Thus we have seen that Dr. Warren sent two messengers out to Lexington that night,-Revere and Dawes,-and that for fear both of them might be captured, an arrangement had been made to notify other patriots in Charlestown by displaying lanterns from the North Church spire. Had misfortune therefore befall the specially commissioned messengers, there can be no doubt that others would have carried the tidings out through the Middlesex villages, arousing the inhabitants, and warning Hancock and Adams at Lexington.

To say this in the interest of the sober truth of history is no disparagement of the services rendered the cause of liberty by Revere on that famous night. To him probably belongs the credit for possessing the foresight which suggested and arranged for the display of the signal lights, while Dr. Warren's prescience is seen in his dispatching of Dawes with the important news to Lexington and his subsequent sending of Revere on the same errand by a different route, thus providing against the contingency of Dawes' capture.

All these safeguards together proved in the event to have been unnecessary; yet all served their purpose, though any one without the others would have sufficed. Each of the actors in this little curtain-raising performance, preceding the first act in the great drama of the Revolution to be played next day on Lexington Green and at Concord Bridge, executed his part well, with courage, skill, intelligence, and patriotism.

To return to the story of Revere's ride. Mounted on Deacon Larkin's horse, he set off to alarm the country, but had not gone far on the road through Charlestown when he discerned just ahead of him two British officers. He turned quickly, and, though pursued, made good his escape, passing through Medford and up to Menotomy (now Arlington). "In Medford," he records, "I awaked the captain of the minute men; and after that, I alarmed every house, till I got to Lexington." This quite agrees with the stirring lines of the poet:

A hurry of hoofs in a village street,
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,
And beneath, from the pebbles, in passing, a spark
Stuck out by a steed flying fearless, and fleet:
That was all! And yet, through the gloom and the light,
The fate of a nation was riding that night.

The incidents in connection with the alarming of Hancock and Adams at the Rev. Mr. Clark's house, and the other episodes of that night and the early dawn which brought bloodshed with it, have been preserved for posterity by the narratives of three contemporary witnesses and participants,-the Rev. Jonas Clark (at whose house Hancock and Adams were lodging), the reminiscences of Dorothy Quincy, who was also staying at Mr. Clark's, and Revere's own account.

Besides these there is a collection of depositions of the survivors of the battle of Lexington, taken some years after that event. One of the most interesting of these depositions was that of William Monroe, an orderly sergeant in Captain Parker's company of minute-men. (Doug 1) He says he learned early in the evening of the 18th that British soldiers had been seen on the road from Boston, and continues:

"I supposed they had some design upon Hancock and Adams, who were at the house of the Rev. Mr. Clark, and immediately assembled a guard of eight men, with their arms, to guard the house. About midnight, Col. Paul Revere rode up and requested admittance. I told him the family had just retired, and had requested that they might not be disturbed "by any noise about the house.

" Noise!" said he, you'll have noise enough before long. The regulars are coming out.'

"We then permitted him to pass" A year after the battle the Rev. Mr. Clark preached a sermon commemorative of the event, and prepared for publication in connection therewith "a brief narrative of the principal transactions of that day." He told the story in this fervid fashion:

"On the evening of the eighteenth of April, 1775, we received two messages, the first verbal, the other by express in writing from the Committee of Safety, who were then sitting in the westerly part of Cambridge, directed to the Honorable John Hancock, Esq; (who, with the Honorable Samuel Adams, Esq; was then providentially with us) informing, that *eight or nine officers* of the *king's troops* were seen, just before night, passing the road towards *Lexington*, in a *musings, contemplative* posture; and it was suspected they were upon some evil design.'

"As both gentlemen had been frequently and even *publicly* threatened, by the enemies of *this people*, both in *England* and *America*, with the *vengeance* of the *British administration*:-And as Mr. Hancock in particular had been, more than once, *personally insulted*, by some officers of the troops, in Boston, it was not without some just grounds supposed, that under cover of the darkness, *sudden arrest*, if not *assassination* might be attempted by these *instruments of tyranny*!

"To prevent anything of this kind, *ten or twelve* men were immediately collected, in arms, to guard my house, through the night.

"In the meantime, said *officers* passed through this town, on the road toward *Concord*: It was therefore thought expedient to watch their motions, and if possible make some discovery of their intentions. Accordingly about 10 o'clock in the evening, three men, on horses, were dispatched for this purpose. As they were *peaceably* passing the road towards *Concord*, in the borders of *Lincoln*, they were suddenly stopped by *said officers*, who rode up to them, and putting pistols to their breasts and seizing their horses bridles, *swore*, *if they stirred another step, they should be all dead men!* The officers detained them several hours, as *prisoners*, examined, searched, abused and insulted them; and in their hasty return (supposing themselves discovered) they left them in Lexington.

Said officers also took into custody, abused and *threatened with their lives* several other persons; some of whom they met peaceably passing on the road, others even at the doors of their dwellings, without the least provocation, on the part of the inhabitants, or so much as a question asked by them.

"Between the hours of *twelve* and *one*, on the morning of the 19th of April, we received intelligence by express from the Honorable Joseph Warren Esq; at Boston, that a large body of the *king's troops* (supposed to be a brigade of about 12 or 1500) were embarked in boats from *Boston*, and gone over to land on *Lechmere's-Point* (so-called) in *Cambridge*: And that it was shrewdly suspected, that they were ordered to seize and destroy the *stores, belonging to the colony, then deposited* at Concord, in consequence of *General Gage's unjustifiable seizure of the magazine of powder at Medford*, and other *Colony stores* in several other places"

But let us follow Revere's adventures after his rousing of Hancock and Adams at the Clark house in his own language:

"After I had been there about half an hour Mr. Dawes arrived, who came from Boston, over the neck: we set off for Concord, & were overtaken by a young gentlemen named Prescott, who belonged to Concord, & was going home; when we had got about half way from Lexington to Concord, the other two, stopped at a house to awake the man, I kept along, when I had got about 200 yards of them; I saw two officers as *before*, I called to my company to come up, saying here was two of them (for I had told them what Mr. Devens told me, and of my being stoped) in an instant, I saw four of them, who rode up to me, with their pistols in their hands, said G__dd__n you stop if you go an inch further, you are a dead Man,' immeiditly Mr. Prescott came up we attempted to git thro them, but they kept before us, and swore if we did not turn into that pasture, they would blow our brains out, (they had placed themselves opposite to a pair of Barrs, and had taken the Barrs down) they forced us in, when we had got in, Mr. Precot said put on, He took to the left, I to the right towards a wood, at the bottom of the Pasture intending, when I gained that, to jump my Horse & run afoot.

Just as I reached it, out started six officers, seized my bridle, put their pistols to my Breast, ordered me to dismount, which I did: One of them, who appeared to have the command there, and much of a Gentleman, asked me where I came from; I told him, he asked what time I left it, I told him, he seemed surprised said Sr. may I have your name, I answered my name is Revere, what said he, Paul Revere; I answered yes; the others abused much, but he told me not to be afraid, no one should hurt me; I told him they would miss their aim.

He said they should not, they were only awaiting for some deserters they expected down the Road.

I told him I knew better, I knew what they were after; that I had alarmed the country all the way up, that their Boats were catch'd aground, and I should have 500 men there soon; one of them said they had 1,500 coming: he seemed surprised and rode off into the road, and informed them who took me, they came down immeditly on a full gallop, one of them (whom I since learned was Major Mitchell of the 5th Reg.) Clap (doug d) his pistol to my head, and said he was going to ask me some questions, if I did not tell him the truth, he would blow my brains out.

I told him I esteemed myself a Man of truth, that he had stopped me on the highway, & made me a prisoner, I knew not by what right; I would tell him the truth; I was not afraid; He then asked me, the same questions that the other did, and many more, but was more particular; I gave him much the same answers; he then Ordered me to mount my horse, they first searched me for pistols.

When I was mounted the Major took the reins out of my hand, and said by G___d Sr. you are not to ride with reins I assure you; and gave them to an officer on my right, to lead me, he then Ordered 4 men out of the Bushes, & to mount their horses; they were countrymen whom they had stopped, who were going home; then ordered us to march. He said to me 'We are now going towards your friends, and if you attempt to run, or we are insulted, we will blow your Brains out.'

When we had got into the Road they formed a circle, and ordered the prisoners in the center, & to lead me in the front. We rid towards Lexington, a quick pace; They very often insulted me calling me Rebel after we had got about a mile, I was given to the Serjant to lead, he was Ordered to take out his pistol, (he rode with a hanger,) and if I ran, to execute the major's sentence; When we got within about half a mile of the meeting house, we heard a gun fired; the major asked me what it was for, I told him to alarm the country; he ordered the four prisoners to dismount, they did, then one of the officers dismounted and cutt the bridles, and saddles, off the Horses, & drove them away, and told the men they might go about their business; I asked the Major to dismiss me, he said he would carry me, lett the consequence be what it will.

He then Ordered us to march, when we got within sight of the meeting House, we heard a Volley of guns fired, as I supposed at the tavern, as an alarm; the major ordered us to halt, he asked me how for it was to Cambridge, and many more questions, which I answered: he then asked the Serjant, if his horse was tired, he said yes; he Ordered him to take my horse; I dismounted, the Serjant mounted my horse; they cutt the Bridles & Saddle of the Serjants horse, & rode off, down the road.

I then went to the house where I left Adams and Hancock, and told them what had happined, their friends advised them to go out of the way; I went with them, about two miles across road: after resting myself I sett off with another man to go back to the Tavern; to enquire the News; when we go there, we were told the troops were, within two miles. We went into the Tavern to git a Trunk of papers, belonging to Col. Hancock, before we left the House, I saw the ministerial Troops from the Chamber window, we made haste, & had to pass thro' our Militia, who were on a green behind the meeting house, to the number as I supposed, about 50 or 60. I went thro them; as I passed I heard the commanding officer speake to his men to this purpose, lett the troops pass by, & don't molest them, without They begin first.'

I had to go a cross Road, but had not got half Gun shot off, when the Ministeral Troops appeared in sight. behinde the Meeting House; they made a short halt, when one gun was fired, I heard the report, turned my

head, and saw the smoake in front of the Troops, they imeaditly gave a great shout, ran a few paces, and then the whole fired. I could first distinguish Iregular firing, which I supposed was the advance guard, and then platoons. At this time I could not see our Militia for they were covered from me, by a house at the bottom of the street."

This was the "battle" of Lexington,-fifty provincials exchanging a few shots with eight hundred of the King's troops, who then marched on to Concord, only to find, after a bloody encounter, that the most valuable of the stores they had come to seize or destroy had, thanks to the timely warning of Paul Revere three days before, been already removed to place of safety.

On the day following these events Revere was permanently engaged by Dr. Warren, president of the Committee of Safety, "as a messenger to do the outdoors business for that committee." We have no record up to this time of Revere having rendered other than gratuitous service in the long journeys he took in behalf of the patriot cause, being content with the satisfaction of having performed a duty to his country. Whether he had now reached the conclusion, as we are well aware some of the other men whom history has written sown as heroes did, that even patriotic service has a commercial value that the state should recognize, it may be unbecoming to pass judgment; but this we know, that henceforth he proposed to charge for his messenger service.

He appears to have been prospering in his business at this period, and, no doubt, he felt that he was not called upon to neglect it, with the large family he had to support, for the public service without some financial recompense. From the promptness with which his bill was audited, we may assume that his employers did not quarrel with this point of view. But that the thought he was disposed to value his labors too highly is also evident, for they reduced his charge for riding as a messenger from the amount asked, five shillings, to four shillings, a day. This bill, one of many such documents preserved in the archives at the State House in Boston, is faded by time, but the handwriting of Revere and the endorsement on the back, with the signatures of James Otis, Samuel and John Adams, and the other members of Council in approval, stands out clear and distinct.

The comments of the Council upon the original bill as made out by Revere show the care with which the expenditures were guarded. Revere evidently did not, when he first submitted this bill, indicate the purpose for which the "impressions" printed by him and charged up to the colony was intended, so a memorandum was made at the bottom of the bill calling attention to the fact that only the printing of money for the use of the army would be paid for. Doubtless inquiry developed that Revere's charge was in accordance with this understanding, through he had neglected to so itemize it; and the explanatory words, "Soldiers Notes," were added afterward. The record of the appropriation made to cover the bill, after the total had been reduced to ten pounds, four shillings is inscribed on the back of the original, and is to this effect:

"In the House of Representatives, August 22nd, 1775. Resolved that Mr. Paul Revere be allowed & paid out of the publick Treasury of this Colony ten pound four shillings in full discharge of the within account."

This document was promptly sent up to the Council for concurrence, being signed by James Warren, Speaker, and Samuel Adams, Secretary

I, PAUL REVERE, of Boston, in the colony of the Massachusetts Bay in New England; of lawful age, do testify and say; that I was sent for by Dr. Joseph Warren, of said Boston, on the evening of the 18th of April, about 10 o'clock; when he desired me, "to go to Lexington, and inform Mr. Samuel Adams, and the Hon. John Hancock Esq. that there was a number of soldiers, composed of light troops, and grenadiers, marching to the bottom of the common, where there was a number of boats to receive them; it was supposed that they were going to Lexington, by the way of Cambridge River, to take them, or go to Concord, to destroy the colony stores."



I proceeded immediately, and was put across Charles River and landed near Charlestown Battery; went in town, and there got a horse. While in Charlestown, I was informed by Richard Devens Esq. that he met that evening, after sunset, nine officers of the ministerial army, mounted on good horses, and armed, going towards Concord.

I set off, it was then about 11 o'clock, the moon shone bright. I had got almost over Charlestown Common, towards Cambridge, when I saw two officers on horse-back, standing under the shade of a tree, in a narrow part of the road. I was near enough to see their holsters and cockades. One of them started his horse towards me, the other up the road, as I supposed, to head me, should I escape the first. I turned my horse short about, and rode upon a full gallop for Mistick Road. He followed me about 300 yards, and finding he could not catch me, returned. I proceeded to Lexington, through Mistick, and alarmed Mr. Adams and Col. Hancock.

After I had been there about half an hour Mr. Daws arrived, who came from Boston, over the Neck.

We set off for Concord, and were overtaken by a young gentleman named Prescott, who belonged to Concord, and was going home. When we had got about half way from Lexington to Concord, the other two stopped at a house to awake the men, I kept along. When I had got about 200 yards ahead of them, I saw two officers as before. I called to my company to come up, saying here was two of them, (for I had told them what Mr. Devens told me, and of my being stopped). In an instant I saw four of them, who rode up to me with their pistols in their bands, said "G---d d---n you, stop. If you go an inch further, you are a dead man." Immediately Mr. Prescott came up. We attempted to get through them, but they kept before us, and swore if we did not turn in to that pasture, they would blow our brains out, (they had placed themselves opposite to a pair of bars, and had taken the bars down). They forced us in. When we had got in, Mr. Prescott said "Put on!" He took to the left, I to the right towards a wood at the bottom of the pasture, intending, when I gained that, to jump my horse and run afoot. Just as I reached it, out started six officers, seized my bridle, put their pistols to my breast, ordered me to dismount, which I did. One of them, who appeared to have the command there, and much of a gentleman, asked me where I came from; I told him. He asked what time I left. I told him, he seemed surprised, said "Sir, may I crave your name?" I answered "My name is Revere. "What" said he, "Paul Revere"? I answered "Yes." The others abused much; but he told me not to be afraid, no one should hurt me. I told him they would miss their aim. He said they should not, they were only waiting for some deserters they expected down the road. I told him I knew better, I knew what they were after; that I had alarmed the country all the way up, that their boats were caught aground, and I should have 500 men there soon. One of them said they had 1500 coming; he seemed surprised and rode off into the road, and informed them who took me, they came down immediately on a full gallop. One of them (whom I since learned was Major Mitchel of the 5th Reg.) clapped his pistol to my head, and said he was going to ask me some questions, and if I did not tell the

truth, he would blow my brains out. I told him I esteemed myself a man of truth, that he had stopped me on the highway, and made me a prisoner, I knew not by what right; I would tell him the truth; I was not afraid. He then asked me the same questions that the other did, and many more, but was more particular; I gave him much the same answers. He then ordered me to mount my horse, they first searched me for pistols. When I was mounted, the Major took the reins out of my hand, and said "By G---d Sir, you are not to ride with reins I assure you"; and gave them to an officer on my right, to lead me. He then ordered 4 men out of the bushes, and to mount their horses; they were country men which they had stopped who were going home; then ordered us to march. He said to me, "We are now going towards your friends, and if you attempt to run, or we are insulted, we will blow your brains out." When we had got into the road they formed a circle, and ordered the prisoners in the center, and to lead me in the front. We rode towards Lexington at a quick pace; they very often insulted me calling me rebel, etc., etc. After we had got about a mile, I was given to the sergeant to lead, he was ordered to take out his pistol, (he rode with a hanger,) and if I ran, to execute the major's sentence.

When we got within about half a mile of the Meeting House we heard a gun fired. The Major asked me what it was for, I told him to alarm the country; he ordered the four prisoners to dismount, they did, then one of the officers dismounted and cut the bridles and saddles off the horses, and drove them away, and told the men they might go about their business. I asked the Major to dismiss me, he said he would carry me, let the consequence be what it will. He then ordered us to march.

When we got within sight of the Meeting House, we heard a volley of guns fired, as I supposed at the tavern, as an alarm; the Major ordered us to halt, he asked me how far it was to Cambridge, and many more questions, which I answered. He then asked the sergeant, if his horse was tired, he said yes; he ordered him to take my horse. I dismounted, and the sergeant mounted my horse; they cut the bridle and saddle of the sergeant's horse, and rode off down the road. I then went to the house where I left Messrs. Adams and Hancock, and told them what had happened; their friends advised them to go out of the way; I went with them, about two miles across road.

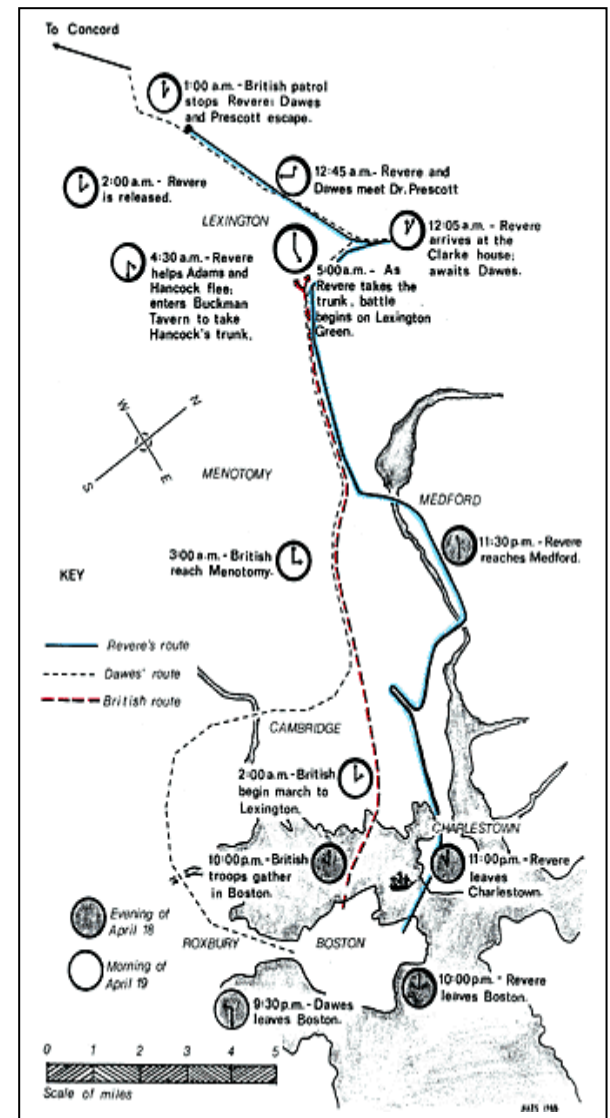
After resting myself, I set off with another man to go back to the tavern, to inquire the news; when we got there, we were told the troops were within two miles. We went into the tavern to get a trunk of papers belonging to Col. Hancock. Before we left the house, I saw the ministerial troops from the chamber window. We made haste, and had to pass through our militia, who were on a green behind the Meeting House, to the number as I supposed, about 50 or 60, I went through them; as I passed I heard the commanding officer speak to his men to this purpose; "Let the troops pass by, and don't molest them, without they begin first." I had to go across road; but had not got half gunshot off, when the ministerial troops appeared in sight, behind the Meeting House. They made a short halt, when one gun was fired. I heard the report, turned my head, and saw the smoke in front of the troops. They immediately gave a great shout, ran a few paces, and then the whole fired. I could first distinguish irregular firing, which I supposed was the advance guard, and then platoons; at this time I could not see our militia, for they were covered from me by a house at the bottom of the street.

The Real Story of Revere's Ride

<http://www.paulreverehouse.org/ride/real.shtml>

In 1774 and the Spring of 1775 Paul Revere was employed by the Boston Committee of Correspondence and the Massachusetts Committee of Safety as an express rider to carry news, messages, and copies of resolutions as far away as New York and Philadelphia. On the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere was sent for by Dr. Joseph Warren and instructed to ride to Lexington, Massachusetts, to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that British troops were marching to arrest them. After being rowed across the Charles River to Charlestown by two associates, Paul Revere borrowed a horse from his friend Deacon John Larkin. While in Charlestown, he verified that the local "Sons of Liberty" committee had seen his pre-arranged signals. (Two lanterns had been hung briefly in the bell-tower of Christ Church in Boston, indicating that troops would row "by sea" across the Charles River to Cambridge, rather than marching "by land" out Boston Neck. Revere had arranged for these signals the previous weekend, as he was afraid that he might be prevented from leaving Boston).

On the way to Lexington, Revere "alarmed" the country-side, stopping at each house, and arrived in Lexington about midnight. As he approached the house where Adams and Hancock were staying, a sentry asked that he not make so much noise. "Noise!" cried Revere, "You'll have noise enough before long. The regulars are coming out!" After delivering his message, Revere was joined by a second rider, William Dawes, who had been sent on the same errand by a different route. Deciding on their own to continue on to Concord, Massachusetts, where weapons and supplies were hidden, Revere and Dawes were joined by a third rider, Dr. Samuel Prescott. Soon after, all three were arrested by a British patrol. Prescott escaped almost immediately, and Dawes soon after. Revere was held for some time and then released. Left without a horse, Revere returned to Lexington in time to witness part of the battle on the Lexington Green.





Tracking Paul Revere

Name _____ Date _____

As you read your account of Paul Revere's ride, answer the following questions, when possible. Note that not every account will include answers to each question provided here. Continue writing on back of page or another sheet if necessary.

1. What, if anything, does your account say about what Paul Revere had been doing in the weeks and Months before his famous ride?
2. What, if anything, does your account say about the conditions in the Boston area that caused the need for the ride?
3. Whose idea was the ride?
4. Who was Revere supposed to warn? About what?
5. What does your account say about the lanterns in the church tower? Whose idea were they? Who were they intended to inform?
6. How did Revere acquire the horse he used?
7. What did Revere actually say as he was alarming the countryside?
8. Did everything go smoothly on the way to Lexington? If no, what happened?
9. What did Revere decide to do after reaching Lexington?
10. Who else rode?
11. Did everything go smoothly after Revere delivered his message to Lexington? If no, what happened?
12. What did Revere witness of the Battle of Lexington?

Paul Revere's Ride By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

<http://poetry.eserver.org/paul-revere.html>

LISTEN, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-Five;
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.

He said to his friend, "If the British march
By land or sea from the town to-night,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch
Of the North Church tower, as a signal light, --
One, if by land, and two, if by sea;
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm,
For the country-folk to be up and to arm."

Then he said "Good-night!" and with muffled oar
Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore,
Just as the moon rose over the bay,
Where swinging wide at her moorings lay
The Somerset, British man-of-war;
A phantom ship, with each mast and spar
Across the moon like a prison-bar,
And a huge black hulk, that was magnified
By its own reflection in the tide.

Meanwhile, his friend, through alley and street
Wanders and watches with eager ears,
Till in the silence around him he hears
The muster of men at the barrack door,
The sound of arms, and the tramp of feet,
And the measured tread of the grenadiers,
Marching down to their boats on the shore.

Then he climbed the tower of the Old North Church,
By the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread,
To the belfry-chamber overhead,
And startled the pigeons from their perch
On the sombre rafters, that round him made
Masses and moving shapes of shade, --
By the trembling ladder, steep and tall,
To the highest window in the wall,
Where he paused to listen and look down
A moment on the roofs of the town,
And the moonlight flowing over all.

Beneath, in the churchyard, lay the dead,
In their night-encampment on the hill,
Wrapped in silence so deep and still
That he could hear, like a sentinel's tread,
The watchful night-wind, as it went
Creeping along from tent to tent,
And seeming to whisper, "All is well!"
A moment only he feels the spell
Of the place and the hour, the secret dread
Of the lonely belfry and the dead;
For suddenly all his thoughts are bent
On a shadowy something far away,
Where the river widens to meet the bay, --
A line of black, that bends and floats
On the rising tide, like a bridge of boats.

Meanwhile, impatient to mount and ride,
Booted and spurred, with a heavy stride
On the opposite shore walked Paul Revere.
Now he patted his horse's side,
Now gazed on the landscape far and near,
Then, impetuous, stamped the earth,
And turned and tightened his saddle-girth;
But mostly he watched with eager search
The belfry-tower of the Old North Church,
As it rose above the graves on the hill,
Lonely and spectral and somber and still.
And lo! as he looks, on the belfry's height
A glimmer, and then a gleam of light!
He springs to the saddle, the bridle he turns,
But lingers and gazes, till full on his sight
A second lamp in the belfry burns!

A hurry of hoofs in a village street,
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,
And beneath, from the pebbles, in passing, a spark
Struck out by a steed flying fearless and fleet:
That was all! And yet, through the gloom and the light,
The fate of a nation was riding that night;
And the spark struck out by that steed, in his flight,
Kindled the land into flame with its heat.

He has left the village and mounted the steep,
And beneath him, tranquil and broad and deep,
Is the Mystic, meeting the ocean tides;
And under the alders that skirt its edge,
Now soft on the sand, now loud on the ledge,
Is heard the tramp of his steed as he rides.

It was twelve by the village clock,
When he crossed the bridge into Medford town.

He heard the crowing of the cock,
And the barking of the farmer's dog,
And felt the damp of the river fog,
That rises after the sun goes down.

It was one by the village clock,
When he galloped into Lexington.
He saw the gilded weathercock
Swim in the moonlight as he passed,
And the meeting-house windows, blank and bare,
Gaze at him with a spectral glare,
As if they already stood aghast
At the bloody work they would look upon.

It was two by the village clock,
When he came to the bridge in Concord town.
He heard the bleating of the flock,
And the twitter of birds among the trees,
And felt the breath of the morning breeze
Blowing over the meadows brown.
And one was safe and asleep in his bed
Who at the bridge would be first to fall,
Who that day would be lying dead,
Pierced by a British musket-ball.

You know the rest. In the books you have read,
How the British regulars fired and fled, --
How the farmers gave them ball for ball,
From behind each fence and farm-yard wall,
Chasing the red-coats down the lane,
Then crossing the fields to emerge again
Under the trees at the turn of the road,
And only pausing to fire and load.

So through the night rode Paul Revere;
And so through the night went his cry of alarm
To every Middlesex village and farm, --
A cry of defiance and not of fear,
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,
And a word that shall echo forevermore!
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,
Through all our history, to the last,
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,
The people will waken and listen to hear
The hurrying hoof-beat of that steed,
And the midnight-message of Paul Revere.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1860.