

# Patriot's Poem: Paul Revere's Ride

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote his poem "Paul Revere's Ride" in 1860. The poem is about how American patriot Paul Revere rode through the countryside to warn the colonists of an attack by the British during the American Revolution. Below is the beginning of the poem.



## Paul Revere's Ride

*by William Wadsworth Longfellow*

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 to the tower of the church,  
Up 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,—  
Up 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, and 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 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!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Understanding Paul Revere's Ride

## Part I. Short Answer

Answer each question below.

1. If the British soldiers came across the land, how many lights would the friend light in the tower?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. If the British soldiers came by boats on the sea, how many lights would the friend light in the tower?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How many lights did the friend light in the tower?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What was Paul Revere's plan if he saw any lights?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What does the poem say was the date of Paul Revere's ride?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Part II. Order of Events

Place the following actions in the poem in the correct order by writing 1 in front of the first thing that happened, 2 in front of the second thing that happened, and so on.

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul Revere rowed a boat to the shore.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul Revere saw the signal in the church tower.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul Revere told his friend to light a lantern in the church if he saw the British soldiers.
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ The friend climbed to the church tower.
- E. \_\_\_\_\_ The friend walked through the streets looking for the British soldiers.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary in Paul Revere's Ride

### I. Vocabulary Match

Match each word in Column A with its meaning in Column B

#### Column A

1. \_\_\_\_\_ aloft
2. \_\_\_\_\_ moorings
3. \_\_\_\_\_ man-of-war
4. \_\_\_\_\_ spar
5. \_\_\_\_\_ muster
6. \_\_\_\_\_ tramp
7. \_\_\_\_\_ stealthy
8. \_\_\_\_\_ sentinel
9. \_\_\_\_\_ impetuous
10. \_\_\_\_\_ spectral

#### Column B

- A. a pole on a ship
- B. a gathering of soldiers
- C. quietly to avoid being seen
- D. in the air
- E. heavy footsteps
- F. like a ghost
- G. ropes and chains to tie up a boat
- H. rapidly and without care
- I. a soldier standing guard
- J. a ship used in a war

### II. Meaning in the Text

Below are phrases from the text. Circle the correct meaning of the underlined word or words.

1. "...in the belfry arch / Of the North Church tower as a signal light"

- A. bottom part of a tower   B. underground   C. stairs of a tower   D. part of a tower that holds bells

2. "...Ready to ride and spread the alarm / Through every Middlesex village and farm, / For the country-folk to be up and to arm."

- A. to watch for soldiers   B. to give up or surrender   C. to get weapons to fight   D. to run

3. "...with muffled oar / Silently rowed "

- A. wrapping something so it's quiet   B. long and made of wood   C. speedy   D. borrowed for a short time

4. "...And the measured tread of the grenadiers, / Marching down to their boats"

- A. people going to church   B. friends   C. soldiers   D. citizens

5. "And turned and tightened his saddle-girth."

- A. belt on short pants   B. strap on a saddle   C. fist or hand   D. mouth or lips

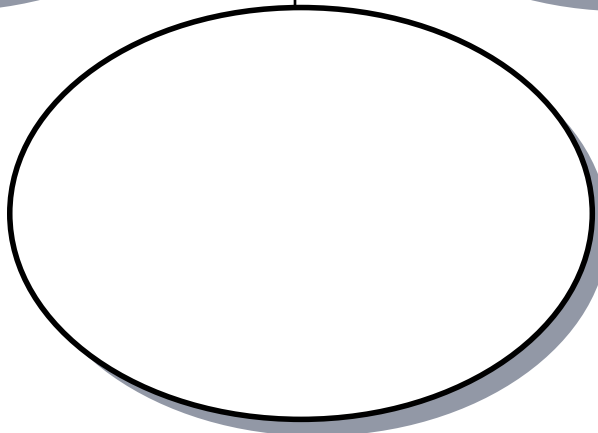
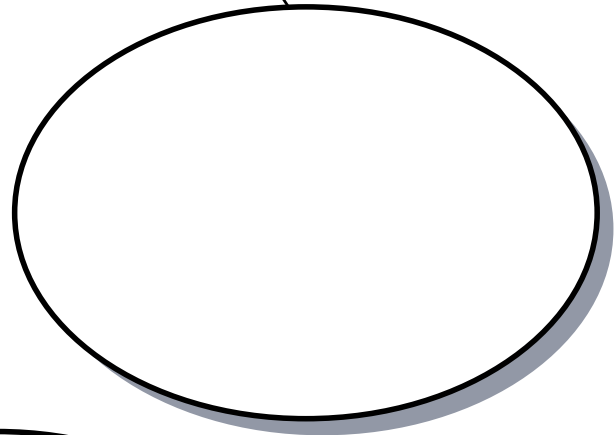
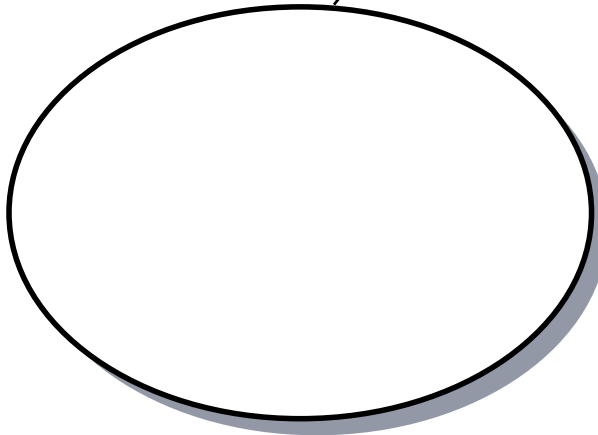


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Paul Revere's Ride: Find the Supporting Evidence

Below is one of the main ideas of the last stanza of the passage. Write three ideas from the stanza that support this main idea.

Paul Revere was eager  
to start his ride.





Pretend that you are Paul Revere. How would you tell the story of your ride in your own words? How did you feel? What did you do? Why did you do it?

[illegible]



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Paul Revere's Ride Word Search

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. The words can go in any direction.

Q O T A L U B M P R E P N L C  
I L A N D I O R A S R A B I D  
P U V Z N H J R T O Q S A G O  
D S N Z E V N O R T H D A H K  
F E O R J K F H I B M P N T N  
O A B C H T T H O G U T V D S  
O D U G O O R O T E B G E V O  
K G L E R L O A Q C H U R C H  
J N R F S A O E T W R T D Y U  
D Q Z O E L R N F N R T O N I  
L R C N H O F O I P L E L B K  
B R I T I S H W H E L S D K K  
L E F D C G I M T P S N A R M  
Z S W Q E H T U R E V E R E A  
P A U L K T R Z Q B E L F R Y

BELFRY  
BRITISH  
CHURCH

COLONIES  
HORSE  
LAND

LIGHT  
NORTH  
OLD

PATRIOT  
PAUL  
REVERE

RIDE  
SEA



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Then he said, "Good night!" and with muffled oar  
Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore,  
Just as the moon rose over the bay,  
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The Somerset, British man-of-war;  
A phantom ship, with each mast and spar  
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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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**



Then he climbed to the tower of the church,  
Up 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,—  
Up 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,  
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But lingers and gazes, till full on his sight  
A second lamp in the belfry burns!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**

## Understanding Paul Revere's Ride

### Part I. Short Answer

**Actual student's answers will vary.**  
**Example of correct answers:**

Answer each question below.

1. If the British soldiers came across the land, how many lights would the friend light in the tower?

**one**

2. If the British soldiers came by boats on the sea, how many lights would the friend light in the tower?

**two**

3. How many lights did the friend light in the tower?

**two**

4. What was Paul Revere's plan if he saw any lights?

**He would ride and warn the American colonists.**

5. What does the poem say was the date of Paul Revere's ride?

**April 18, 1775**

### Part II. Order of Events

Place the following actions in the poem in the correct order by writing 1 in front of the first thing that happened, 2 in front of the second thing that happened, and so on.

- A. **2** Paul Revere rowed a boat to the shore.
- B. **5** Paul Revere saw the signal in the church tower.
- C. **1** Paul Revere told his friend to light a lantern in the church if he saw the British soldiers.
- D. **4** The friend climbed to the church tower.
- E. **3** The friend walked through the streets looking for the British soldiers.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**

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2.       **G**       moorings
3.       **J**       man-of-war
4.       **A**       spar
5.       **B**       muster
6.       **E**       tramp
7.       **C**       stealthy
8.       **I**       sentinel
9.       **H**       impetuous
10.      **F**       spectral

#### Column B

- A. a pole on a ship
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**

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Paul Revere was eager  
to start his ride.

Student's answers may vary. Example of correct answers:

He was  
"impatient to  
mount and  
ride."

He  
"stamped  
the  
earth."

He  
"springs to  
the saddle."



### Student's choice

[illegible]



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ KEY

## Paul Revere's Ride Word Search

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. The words can go in any direction.



BELFRY  
BRITISH  
CHURCH

COLONIES  
HORSE  
LAND

LIGHT  
NORTH  
OLD

PATRIOT  
PAUL  
REVERE

RIDE  
SEA