

# PAUL REVERE



# BIOGRAPHY

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Paul Revere was a silversmith and engraver born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1735. He lived in the times of the revolution against Britain and British King, and was active in the local militias. After the Boston Tea Party in 1773, in which Revere took part, tension increased between Britain and the colonies in America.

War seemed more and more likely. Revere thought there would be a direct attack by the King's troops and that it would mostly likely start in Charlestown (next to Boston), where the navy had ships on the Charles River, and troops on land.

In Charlestown there was a church, the North Church, that overlooked the fort and the river. Revere had asked Robert Newman, the sexton of the North Church, to hang one lantern in the church steeple if the King's troops were advancing by land, and to hang two lanterns if the King's troops crossed the Charles River by ship.

On the night of April 18, 1775, Newman hung one lantern in the church steeple. When Revere saw the signal, he crossed the Charles River by rowboat, sneaking past the warship HMS Somerset. He then rode to Lexington, avoiding the King's troops and patrols, and stopping to warn the militia members (known as Minutemen) along the route.

Another militia member, William Dawes, also rode out from Charlestown. Revere told the militia members he met that, "The Regulars (King's troops) are coming out." Revere and Dawes were captured by the Regulars, but were freed when the battle broke out. Because of the ride, the colonial militias were warned of the coming Regulars' attack in time to respond.

Later, Revere wrote about his ride that night, and here is part of his account:

"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 horses 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 Mistik, and alarmed Mr. Adams and Col. Hancock..."

# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'advancing'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'advancing' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'advancing'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'advancing'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'advancing' means.

# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: respond	reply

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

So Revere agreed that someone at a church in Charlestown would send a signal if the troops were approaching.

Revere's warning meant that the colonial militias had time to prepare for the attack.

Paul Revere was born in Boston in 1735.

Revere thought the King's troops might attack at Charlestown.

When he saw the signal, Revere rode to Lexington to warn the militias that the King's troops were on the way.

Revere was active in local militias during the time of the Revolutionary War.

On April 18, 1775, the signal was given.



# Get to the facts

1 Where did Paul Revere think the troops would attack?

2 Where did Robert Newman hang the lantern?

3 When did he give the signal?

4 Which river did Revere cross?

5 Where did Revere ride to?

# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

## The King's troops

Imagine you are a Regular on watch on the night of April 18, 1775. You are near the ships on the Charles River. You think you hear splashing nearby.. (now complete the story)

**Below is a plain text version for printing:**



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- b From that sentence, suggest what 'advancing' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'advancing'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'advancing'.
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## Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – respond                      Synonym – reply

## Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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Revere's warning meant that the colonial militias had time to prepare for the attack.

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- 2 Where did Robert Newman hang the lantern?
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