



## During the Lesson Activity

### First Person Account of the Midnight Ride

**Directions:** After reading the narrative below, answer the questions that follow.

*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 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. Davis 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, . . . 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."*

*. . . 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. . . One of them 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. . . 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 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. . . 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. ~s/PAUL REVERE.*



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

## ERA 3 American Revolution

1. According to the account by Paul Revere, what was Revere asked to do and by whom?
2. What words in the beginning of the document lead the reader to believe that this account was written for a purpose other than just a personal memoir?
3. What did the colonists in Boston fear the British militia were ordered to do?
4. Geographically, what is the “neck” that Revere speaks of at the end of paragraph 2?
5. After reading Revere’s account, what is your opinion of the man? Support your answer with words from the text.
6. What is important about Revere’s last paragraph and his hearing a gunshot?
7. According to Revere’s statement, how many colonials were on the green at Lexington?
8. What important role does the meeting house and the tavern play in this narrative?
9. How were the British soldiers at a disadvantage?
10. What dangers did Revere encounter in his mission to warn the colonists?

\* The other men mentioned in this account are Mr. William Dawes and Dr. Samuel Prescott. Conduct further research into the life Mr. Dawes and Dr. Prescott and their contributions to this famous night in American history.