

Famous Colonial Americans



Famous Colonial Americans

Most famous Colonial Americans were famous for fighting for freedom. When the 13 colonies became established, King George was King over the colonies AND Great Britain. (See the map below). After a while, the colonists wanted freedom. They wanted to form their own government and rule themselves. Eventually, because of the bravery of many people, America became independent. No longer were there 13 colonies. It became the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. These are just a few of the people of Colonial America who fought for freedom and won.

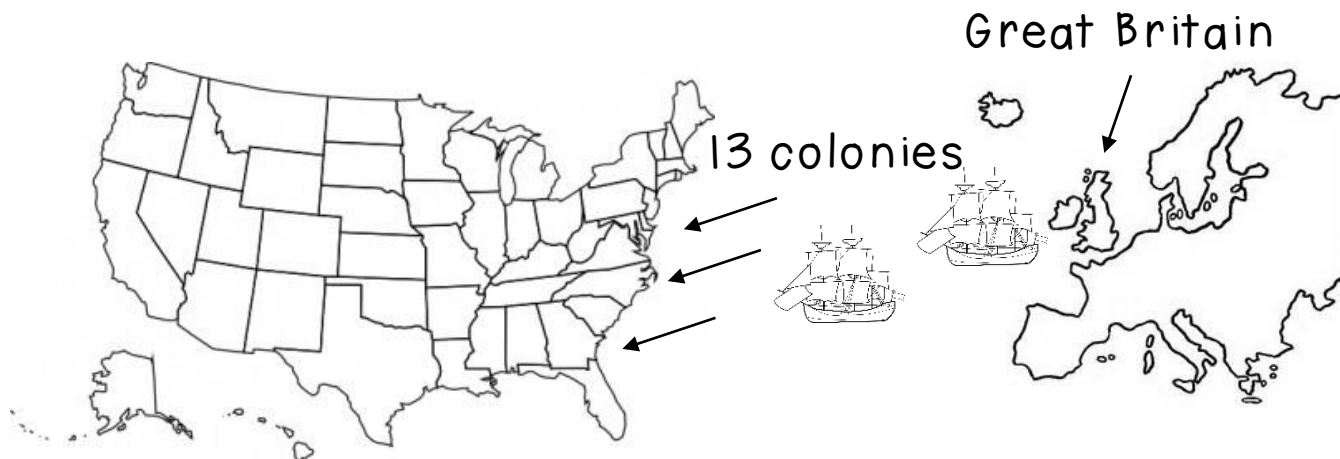
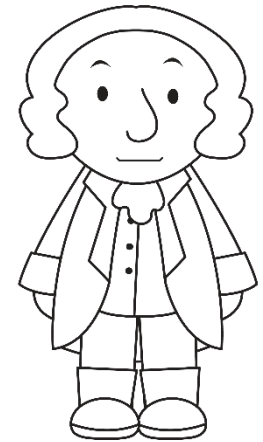


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Student Response Sheet



Summative – Can use two ways - as a cut and paste
- as a card placement game



Patriots, Sons of Liberty, and Government

It's important to know these words in order to understand the men and women who were famous in the colonial days.

Patriot – a Patriot was a person who wanted to be free from King George.

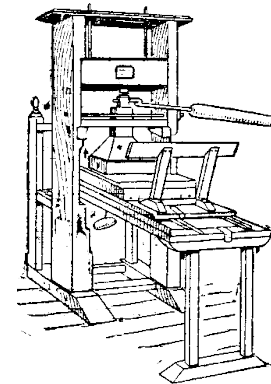
Sons of Liberty – this was a group of Patriots who secretly worked together to lead the colonies to freedom.

Government- this means that a person or persons have control over a group of people to make laws and enforce the laws.

Benjamin Franklin

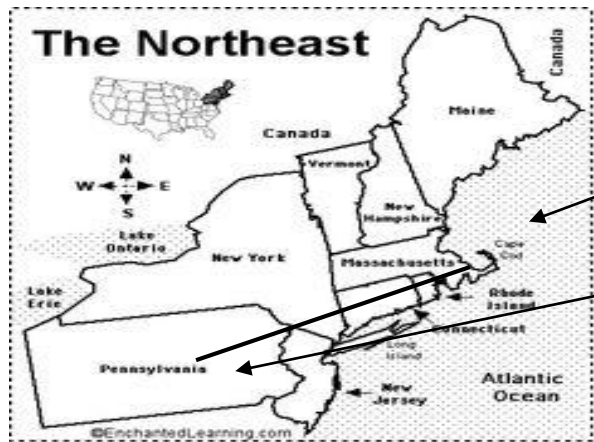


Ben Franklin was born in Boston on January 17, 1706. He had 16 brothers and sisters! Ben's father wanted him to become a preacher, but he didn't have the money to send him to school. So when Ben was 12, his dad sent him to live and work with his older brother, James. James was a printer. He printed a newspaper. Ben was his APPRENTICE. An Apprentice is someone who works for someone else without getting paid. They work for them to learn how to do the job so that they can someday make money doing it on their own. Ben didn't like his brother much. His brother made him work very hard. Ben wanted to write articles for the paper, but James wouldn't let him. So Ben decided to do something sneaky! He started to write letters to the newspaper and PRETEND that he was a lady called SILENCE DOGOOD.



In those letters, Ben talked about how women were treated and other things that people were really interested in. These letters were printed in the newspaper and were very popular. After writing 16 letters, Ben finally confessed to his brother that HE was Silence Dogood. Wow! James was so jealous and angry that he beat Ben. After more time and more beatings, Ben decided to run away.

He ran away to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



He left here

And went here.



There, Ben Franklin worked different jobs until he could buy his own printing shop. He called his newspaper the Philadelphia Gazette. It became one of the most popular newspapers in the colonies.

What have you learned about Ben Franklin?



Printing shop

James

preacher

sixteen

Silence Dogood

Boston

Pennsylvania

free

1. Who was Ben sent to live with? _____
2. How many brothers and sisters did Ben have? _____
3. An apprentice is someone who works for _____
4. Ben pretended he was _____ and wrote letters to the newspaper.
5. Ben ran away from James and went to _____.
6. Where was Ben born? _____
7. Ben's dad wanted him to become a _____.
8. James owned a _____.

Why Is Benjamin Franklin So Famous?

Ben Franklin is one of the most famous Americans ever. He was a scientist, and inventor, a writer, a politician, a volunteer fireman, a librarian, and a postmaster. Ben was a very smart man. Let's look at him as a scientist.



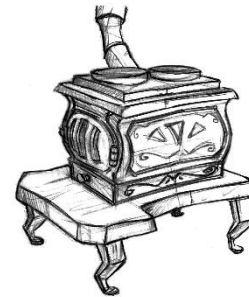
Ben is famous for flying a kite in an electrical storm. That means it was lightning outside! Why would he do that? He wanted to find out if lightning was electricity. His experiment with the kite was successful. After that, he invented the lightning rod. This is a pole that's put on houses so when lightning strikes, it hits the pole, the lightning travels to the ground and the house is safe and won't catch on fire.

Ben Franklin the Inventor

Ben was famous for his many inventions. He invented the bifocal glasses.



Ben also invented the Franklin Stove. This stove provided more heat for the house than a fireplace, a place to cook on the top, and it used less wood.

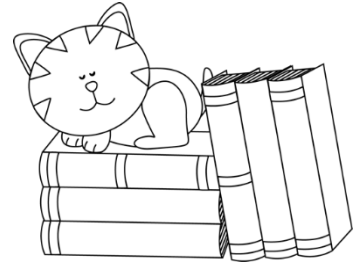


Ben loved to swim as a boy and this led him to invent the swim fins. But...instead of inventing fins for the feet, Ben invented fins for the hands.



Libraries and Firemen

Back in those days, only rich people could afford books. The rich people had libraries in their homes. Ben loved to read and he wanted everyone to be able to read, even if they weren't rich. So Ben organized the first lending library. Now anyone could borrow (or check out) a book, read it, and return it when finished.



Ben also organized the first volunteer fire department. He saw many fires when he was in Boston and he saw fires in Philadelphia, too. He understood that there was a need for organized fire protection. That means instead of waiting for a fire and everybody running around trying to put it out, they had a plan and they had the volunteers to help. They were organized And prepared.

Ben said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."



What do YOU think?

So far you have learned a lot about Ben. You learned he was a printer and printed his own newspaper. You learned he was an inventor, and you learned he organized the first lending library and volunteer fire department. Think about what you have learned. **What do you think is the MOST important thing he did so far? Tell why you think so.**

Poor Richard's Almanac

Ben really like to work. In 1733 he started publishing Poor Richard's Almanac. Almanacs of that time were printed each year and contained weather reports, recipes, a calendar, and predictions. Many of his famous sayings such as "A penny saved is a penny earned," come from Poor Richard's Almanac.



Benjamin Franklin had many wise sayings.

Other famous quotes are:

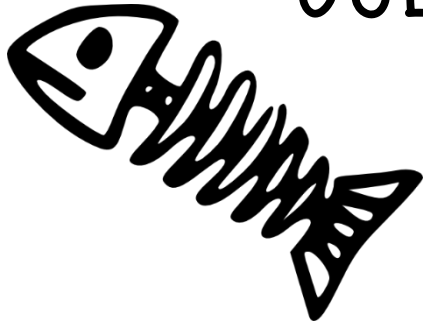
An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.



Famous Quote from Ben Franklin

“GUESTS AND FISH STINK AFTER
THREE DAYS.”



What do you think that means?

Benjamin Franklin the Politician

During the early years of Ben Franklin, the 13 colonies were under the ruling government of King George of England. This was good for many years, but then things turned. The King needed money so he began to put unfair taxes on the colonists. After that things started to really get bad. The colonists became more and more angry with the King. The King became more and more forceful (it was a little like bullying) with the colonists. Many wanted to start their own country with their own government. These people were called **Patriots**. Ben Franklin was one of those people.

So in the year 1776, on the 4th day of July, a group of men, including Ben Franklin, signed a paper. Ben helped write that paper. It is called the Declaration of Independence. The colonists had **DECLARED** their independence. This means that they told the King they wanted their freedom and they were willing to fight for it. (And they did!)

4th
of
July

Ben Franklin Quiz

1. What is one thing Ben Franklin invented? _____

2. Why did Ben Franklin organize the first Lending Library?

3. Why did Ben run away from his brother, James? _____

4. What is ONE reason people liked the Franklin Stove better than a fireplace? _____

5. Ben Franklin was a Patriot. What does "patriot" mean? _____

6. Ben helped write and signed a very important document (paper).
What was the name of that document?

Paul Revere

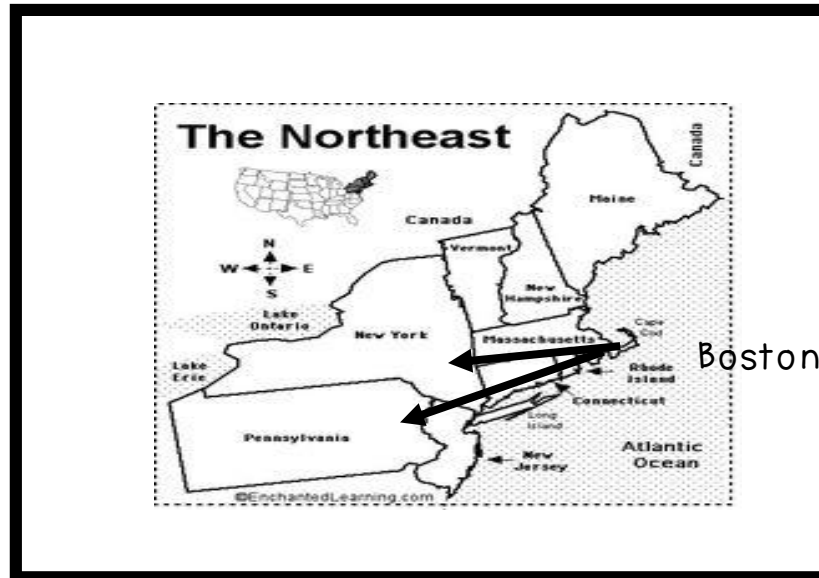
Paul Revere was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1734. He was a silversmith. That is a person who makes things with silver, such as silverware (knives, forks, spoons), teapots, and cups. He married Sara Orne and they had 8 children. After she died, he remarried and had 8 more children!



Paul Revere was a Patriot. It was dangerous to be a Patriot. Patriots were people who didn't want the King to rule over them anymore. They wanted to form their own government. Many other colonial people thought the Patriots were traitors. Traitors could go to jail, or worse! So the Patriots were a secret group of people.

Committees of Correspondence

Paul Revere was an excellent horseman so as a Patriot he joined the secret Committee of Correspondence. A committee is a group of people and correspondence means to talk back and forth, usually by letters. The Patriots wanted to know what the King's soldiers were up to so they sent messages back and forth. They also set up secret meeting places. So Paul Revere would take messages far and wide. Look at the map below. Paul would travel by horse to take messages to people in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia.



Why is Paul Revere Famous?

As a member of the Sons of Liberty, Paul Revere's job was to ride to warn others if there was any trouble from the British Army. In April 1775 the British Army wanted to get rid of the leaders of the Sons of Liberty and other colonists that were making trouble. But the colonists were watching closely and were prepared to warn others if they started to attack. But would they attack coming from a ship or would they attack coming on land? How could the colonists be prepared to fight if they didn't know where the soldiers were coming from?



Paul Revere made a secret code with the colonists. He would tell them to light one lantern in the church steeple if the soldiers were coming by land and two lanterns if they were coming by sea in a ship. Paul was able to warn the colonists that the British were coming!

“One if by land, two if by sea.”

The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere

Paul Revere was never famous while he was alive. It wasn't until Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote a poem about Paul Revere and his midnight ride. Below is a portion of that poem.



Rainy@artkiss.com

On April 15, 1775 Paul Revere made his famous ride, shouting "The British are coming!"

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."

Paul Revere Foldable

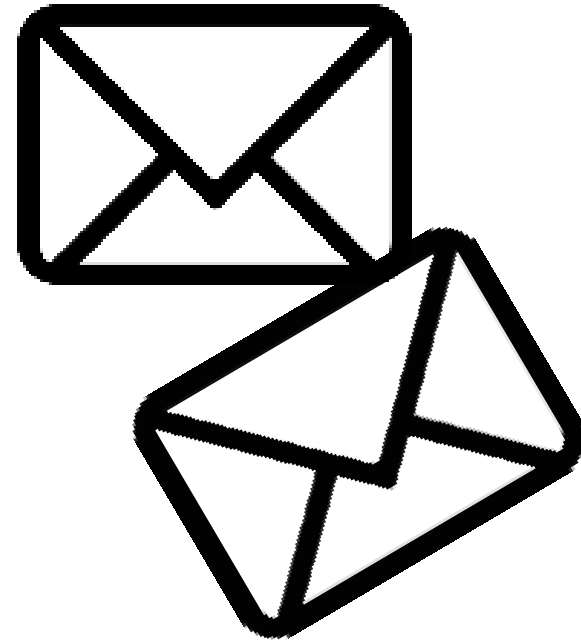
Directions: Cut along solid lines and fold along dotted lines. Clue to the next page. Fill in and illustrate.

Paul Revere



Name _____

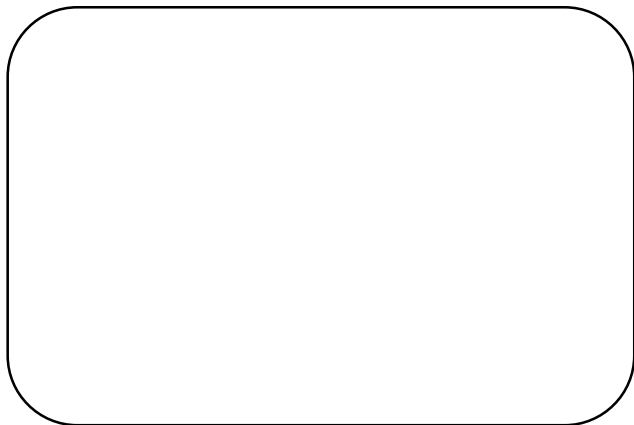
Committee of
Correspondence



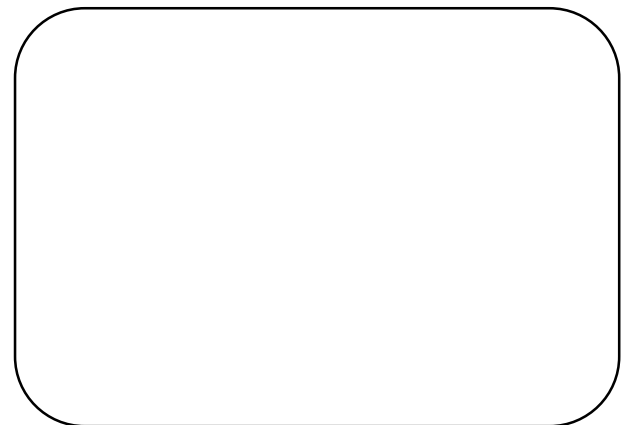
Paul Revere Foldable

Glue the previous page to this page. Fill out and illustrate.

Describe Paul Revere's home life. What did he do for a living?



Why is Paul Revere famous? Explain.



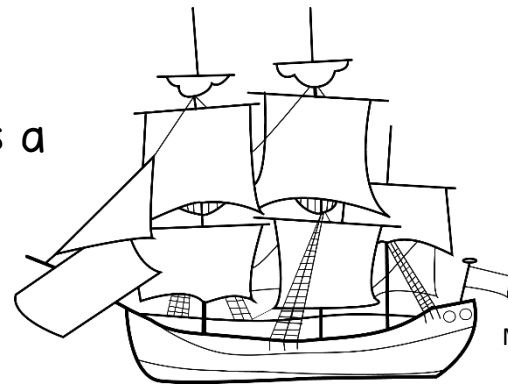
Crispus Attucks



Crispus Attucks was a runaway slave. His father was a slave who was captured in Africa and brought to the colonies. His mother was a Wampanoag Indian. Crispus grew up on a large farm but was sold to another colonist. Crispus Attucks was about 27 years old. He didn't like his new owner, so Crispus ran away.

He became a sailor. Whaling was very important at that time. Sailors would catch whales for their blubber. The blubber, or fat, was cooked down to make oil for lanterns. Boston Massachusetts was a big, important port for boats to come and go. Many sailors could be found there. On the night of March 5, 1770, Crispus Attucks was in Boston.

We do not know if Crispus Attucks was a Patriot.



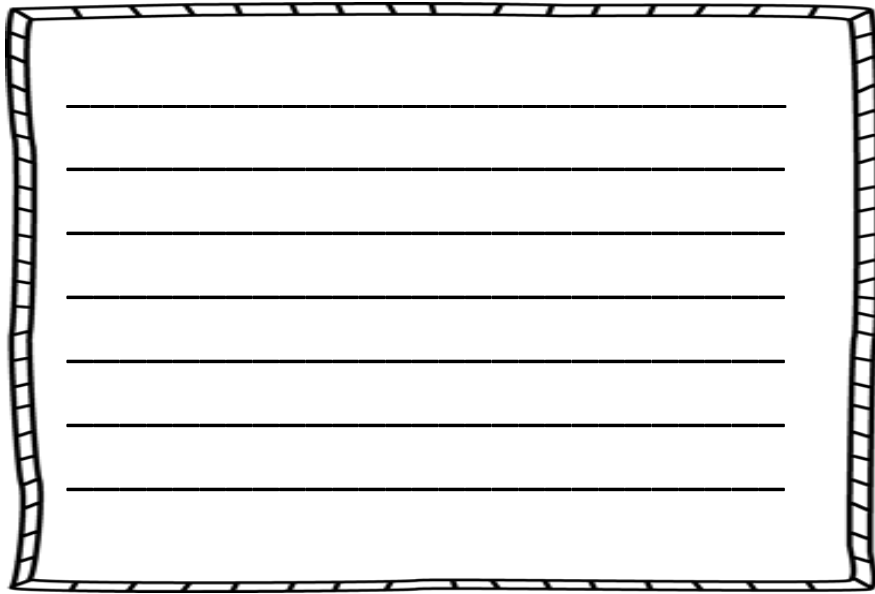
Crispus Attucks and the Boston Massacre

The British soldiers were not liked much by the workers and sailors in Boston. On the night of March 5, 1770, some men started saying ugly things to the soldiers. Then they started throwing snowball, ice, and even oyster shells at the soldiers. One soldier was hit in the face so the soldiers started to fire shots at the crowd. Crispus Attucks was the first person to be shot. Three other people were shot and died.

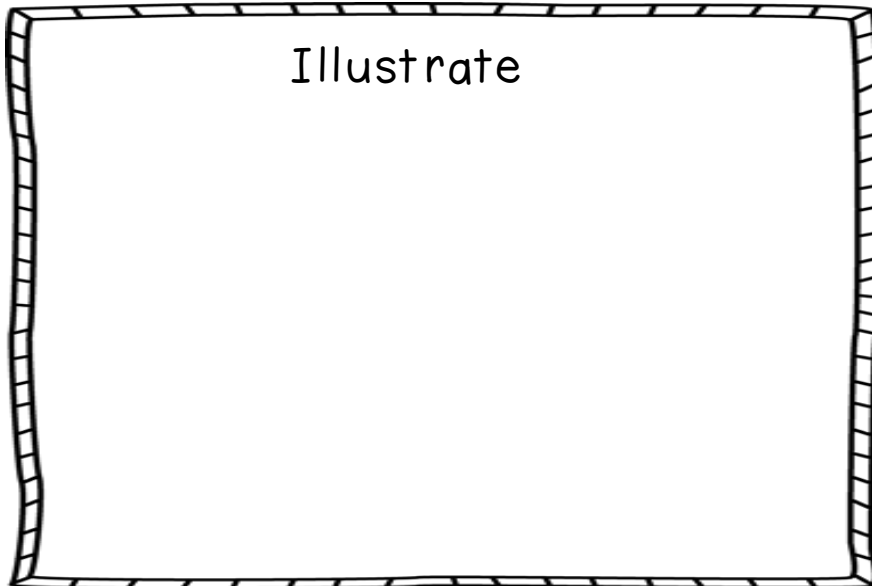
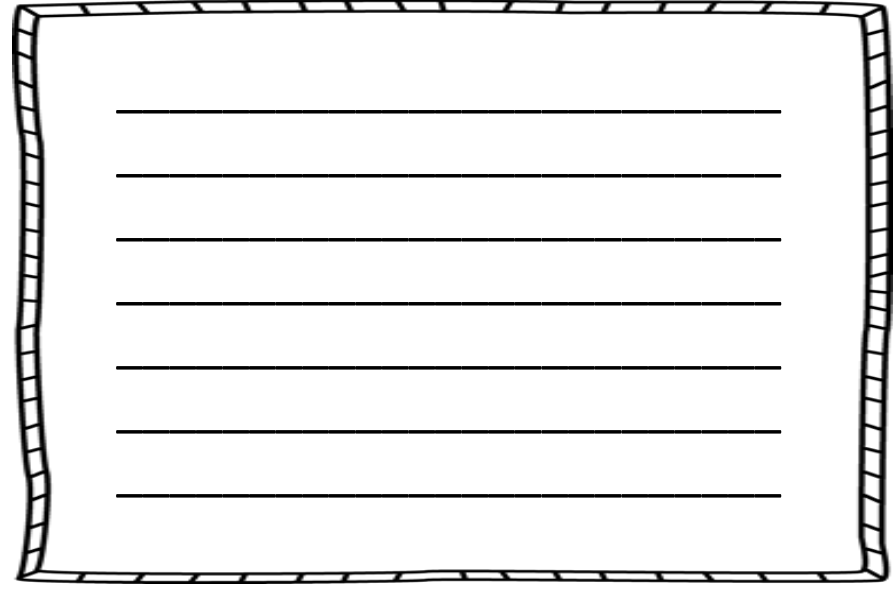
The soldier who shot Crispus Attucks was found guilty. He was not allowed to be a soldier anymore and was sent back to Britain.

Crispus Attucks is remembered as the first American to die in the colonists' fight for freedom from Britain and the first martyr and hero of the American Revolution.



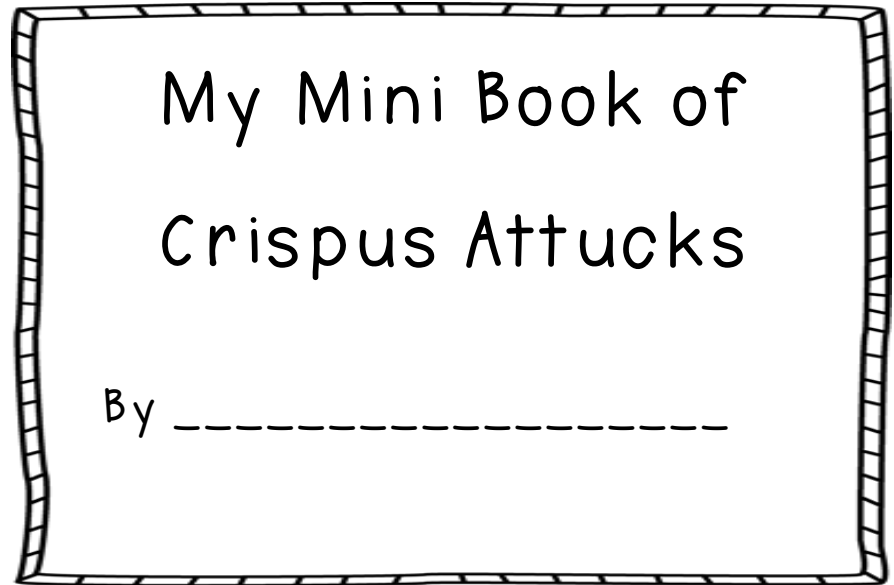


Fold here →



Illustrate

Fold here



My Mini Book of
Crispus Attucks

By _____

Samuel Adams

Samuel Adams was born in 1722 in Boston, Massachusetts. He was very much against slavery and when given a wedding gift of a slave named Surry, Samuel Adams immediately set her free. Surry continued to work for Samuel Adams for pay.



Samuel Adams was the man who formed the group of Patriots called the Son's of Liberty. It became very popular throughout the colonies and also very influential. Influential means something that has authority and can shape how people act. Remember Paul Revere? One of his famous "rides" was to warn Samuel Adams that the British were coming to arrest him.

Sam Adams and the Minutemen

Sam Adams also organized the Minutemen. Minutemen were ordinary people (farmers, blacksmiths, bakers) who wanted freedom from Britain. They practiced being ready to fight the British soldiers “in one minute”. They would stop whatever they were doing, get their weapons, and be ready to stand against the British.



Samuel Adams also signed the Declaration of Independence. In doing so, he declared that the colonies were free. The British said that the colonies were NOT free. A war started. It's called the Revolutionary War. It was a war against Britain and the American Colonies. With the help of brave men such as Samuel Adams, the colonists won the war.

Name _____

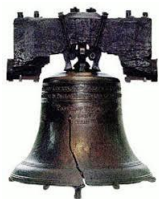
Samuel Adams

How did he feel about.....

Slavery



Sons of Liberty



Minutemen



Declaration of Independence





Molly Pitcher



Her name was Molly, but not Molly Pitcher. She got that name because she helped the colonists fight the war.

Her name was Molly Hays. She was a young woman married to a young colonial man who was fighting the Revolutionary War. Her husband, John Hays, was an artillery gunner. That meant that he loaded and shot off the cannons. Back then, you had a large “ramrod” that was a wooden pole with padding on the end. They would “ram” the gunpowder and the cannon ball down the cannon then light the fuse.



Women in the War



Molly Hays stayed with her husband as he fought the war. She knew the men were tired and THIRSTY! So Molly would go to the river and fill up her pitcher of water and bring the cool water to the soldiers. Over and over she would go to the river, fill the pitcher, and give the water to the weary men.

During a particular battle, the fighting was fierce. Her husband, John, was wounded. Molly knew her husband's job very well. So she grabbed the ramrod, and kept the cannons firing. She did this until the battle was over. She was a very brave woman.

Molly Hays was nicknamed Molly "Pitcher" because of the many pitchers of water she brought to the soldiers. She was a Patriot.

She was honored for her bravery and called an American Hero.

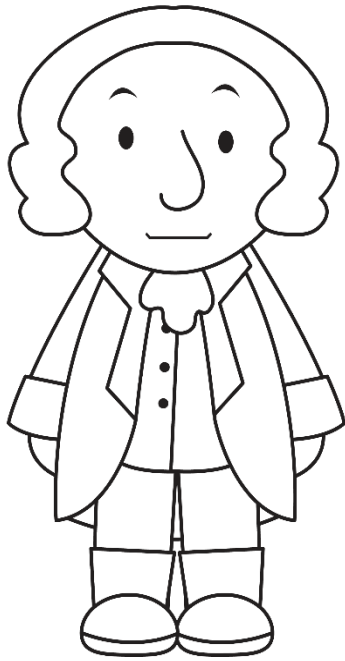
Name _____

In your own words, tell why you think Molly Pitcher was a brave woman.



MOLLY PITCHER AT THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH.

George Washington



Much like Ben Franklin, George Washington is one of the most famous people in American history. George is famous for many things. Let's look at his early life.

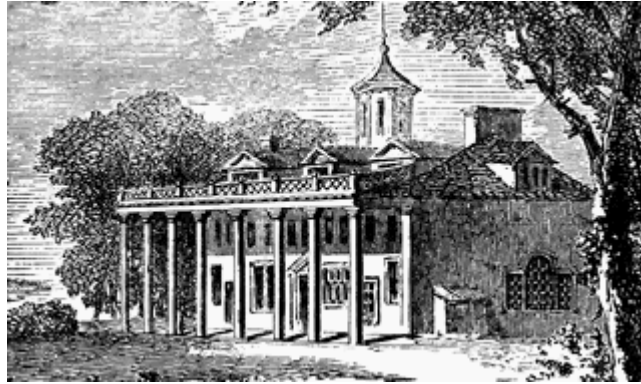
George Washington was born in 1772 in the Virginia colony. His father died when he was just 11 years old, so his older brother, Lawrence, raised George.

Lawrence made sure that George learned how to be a gentleman and how to read and do math. When George was about 18, he joined the Virginia Militia. He became a leader of the Virginia Militia.

The Militia was a group of ordinary men who were to fight if needed. The soldiers needed them to help fight the Indians and any other enemy. It wasn't their job to be "army" men. They were farmers and wagon makers. It was their job to help out the British soldiers when needed.

Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon was the name of the Plantation (farm) that George Washington grew up on with his brother, Lawrence. When Lawrence died, George took over the farm. He married Martha Custis. She had two children from her former marriage, but she and George never had children of their own.



You can visit Mount Vernon and take a tour through the house.

George Washington did not have wooden teeth, as some people have said. He did have false teeth made of ivory (elephant tusks).

Maybe that's why he didn't smile when he had his picture painted.



Ben Franklin, Paul Revere, Crispus Attucks, Samuel Adams, Molly Pitcher, and George Washington

What did they all have in common? They all lived the same time in history and they all wanted freedom from Britain's King George.

George Washington had military experience because he was the leader of the Virginia Militia. George was a Patriot. So....when relations got bad between the British and the colonists, the colonists **declared** their independence. But that wasn't enough. King George said they could NOT be independent. So the only way to get their independence was to fight for it.

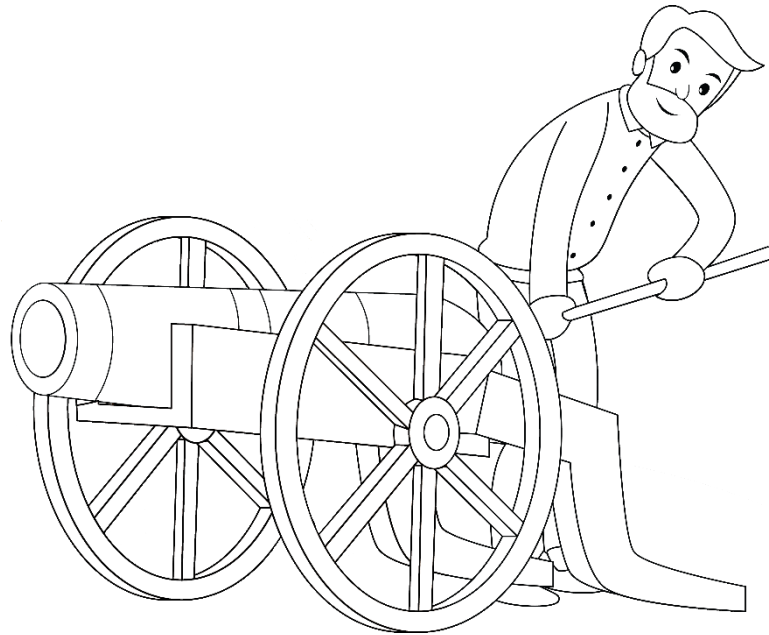
The Patriots asked George Washington to be their leader in fighting a war (the Revolutionary War) against Britain.

He accepted.



Training the Minutemen

The minutemen were ordinary people who could be ready to fight in a minute. George Washington went about training the Minutemen. He wanted a strong army to fight the British soldiers. It wasn't an easy job. The British soldiers had weapons and were VERY well trained. The minutemen had SOME weapons and were not very well trained. But the minutemen were VERY determined.



The Revolutionary War

The Revolutionary War was a hard war. The British soldiers had the right to come to your house and stay as long as they needed. They had the right to put their horses in your barn and they had the right to eat your food.

The British soldiers were one of the best trained armies in the world.

The colonists were not.

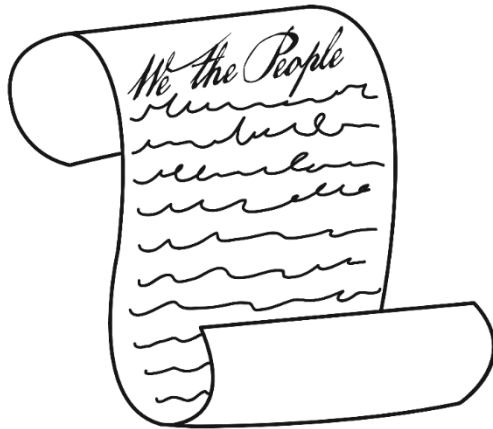
The war lasted 6 years. The colonists lost many battles, but on a very cold, snowy, Christmas day, George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River and surprised the enemy on the other side. They won the battle. This was a turning point in the war. In the end, George Washington led the colonists to victory and to freedom.



President George Washington

George Washington led the colonists to victory and now they WERE independent. They needed a leader. The colonists wanted George to be their king. George refused and said we need a government that no ONE person is in charge for more than 8 years. This is still true today. George Washington was elected the FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

George Washington made a huge influence on our government. He was the person who said no one should be in office (or stay president) for more than 8 years. He was the one who helped set up the government as we know it today.

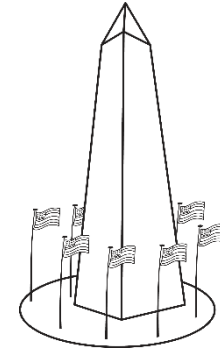


Honoring George Washington

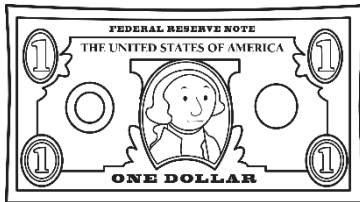
The American people continue to honor George Washington in many ways.

1. Washington D.C. is named after him.

2. The Washington monument is in Washington D.C.



3.



His picture is on the one dollar bill.

4. His picture is also on the quarter.



Name _____

Close Read – George Washington

Directions: Answer each question by going back into the text. Find the “proof” of your answer and then write your answer on the line.

1. Who made sure George Washington learned how to do math and to be a gentleman?

2. Why were the minutemen called “minutemen?”

3. Who asked George Washington to be the leader of the Revolutionary War?

4. On what day did George Washington cross the Delaware River to fight the enemy? _____

5. Who was the very first president of the United States?

Directions:

The following four pages can be used **TWO** ways.

- 1) Students can cut and paste the description under the appropriate person
- 2) Copy on colored paper and laminate. Cut out the descriptions. Students put the description under the appropriate person. Use at a center or as a game.

Benjamin Franklin

Paul Revere

Crispus Attucks

Samuel Adams

Molly Pitcher

George Washington

Was a Patriot

Was a Patriot

Was a Patriot

Was a Patriot

Was a Patriot

Was made famous
because of a poem.

Helped write and
signed the
Declaration of
Independence

First hero of the
Revolutionary War

Invented the bifocal
glasses

Carried water to
the troops

Leader of the
Revolutionary War

Led his men across
the Delaware River on
Christmas Day.

Ran away from his
brother's home

Was a slave

Was a sailor

Grew up with his brother at Mount Vernon

Do not know if he was a Patriot

Gave his gift of a slave her freedom

Formed the Son's of Liberty

Signed the Declaration of Independence

Ran away from his owner

Used the ramrod and kept the cannons firing

Elected the first president of the United States

Real name was Hays

Organized the minutemen

Was a silversmith

Traveled by horse to warn others

Wasn't famous until after he died

Flew a kite in a thunderstorm

Took over her husbands job when he was wounded

Benjamin Franklin

Paul Revere

Crispus Attucks

Was a Patriot

Was a Patriot

Unknown if he was a Patriot

Invented the bifocal

Was made famous because of a poem

Was a sailor

Ran away from his brothers home

Wasn't famous until after he died

First hero of the Revolutionary War

Flew a kite in a thunderstorm

Traveled by horse to warn others

Was a slave

Helped write and signed the Declaration of Independence

Was a silversmith

Ran away from his owner

KEY

Samuel Adams

Molly Pitcher

George Washington

Was a Patriot

Was a Patriot

Was a Patriot

Organized the minutemen

Carried water to the troops

Led his men across the Delaware River on Christmas Day

Formed the Son's of Liberty

Used the ramrod and kept the cannons firing

Leader of the Revolutionary War

Signed the Declaration of Independence

Real name was Hays

Grew up with his brother at Mount Vernon

Gave his gift of a slave her freedom

Took over her husbands job when he was wounded

First President of the United States of America

KEY

What have you learned about Ben Franklin?



Printing shop

James

preacher

sixteen

Silence Dogood

Boston

Pennsylvania

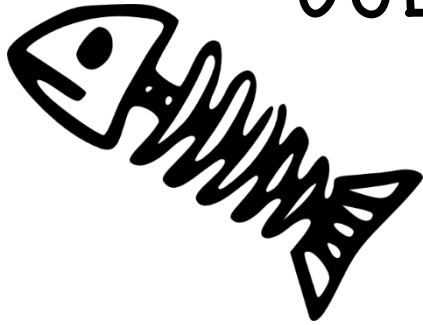
free

1. Who was Ben sent to live with? James
2. How many brothers and sisters did Ben have? Sixteen
3. An apprentice is someone who works for free
4. Ben pretended he was Silence Dogood and wrote letters to the newspaper.
5. Ben ran away from James and went to Pennsylvania
6. Where was Ben born? Boston
7. Ben's dad wanted him to become a Preacher.
8. James owned a Printing Shop.

Key

Famous Quote from Ben Franklin

“GUESTS AND FISH STINK AFTER
THREE DAYS.”



What do you think that means?

Answers will vary.

After 3 days, fish literally stink

After 3 days, people get tired of having guests. So literally
FISH stink, but figuratively guests stink. Guests are great
for 2 days, then it's time to go home.

KEY

Ben Franklin Quiz

Key

1. What is one thing Ben Franklin invented? **Bifocals, Franklin Stove**
2. Why did Ben Franklin organize the first Lending Library?
So poor people could read. Only the rich could afford to own books.
3. Why did Ben run away from his brother, James?
James beat Ben. He mistreated him.
4. What is ONE reason people liked the Franklin Stove better than a fireplace?
It took less wood and heated better. It also cooked food.
5. Ben Franklin was a Patriot. What does "patriot" mean?
A person who wanted freedom from King George
6. Ben helped write and signed a very important document (paper). What was the name of that document?
The Declaration of Independence

Name _____

Samuel Adams

Key

How did he feel about.....

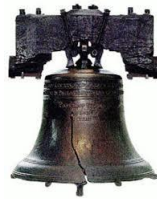
Slavery



He was very
much against
slavery.

When given a
gift of a slave,
he set her
free.

Sons of Liberty



He organized
the group. He
wanted
freedom for
the colonies.

Minutemen



He organized this
group of men to
be ready to fight
against the British
soldiers in one
minute.

Declaration of Independence



He believed in
freedom so he
signed the
Declaration of
Independence.

Name _____

Close Read – George Washington

Key

Directions: Answer each question by going back into the text. Find the “proof” of your answer and then write your answer on the line.

1. Who made sure George Washington learned how to do math and to be a gentleman?
His brother Lawrence raised him and made sure he was educated in these areas.

2. Why were the minutemen called “minutemen”?
They needed to stop what they were doing and be ready to fight the British soldiers in one minute.

3. Who asked George Washington to be the leader of the Revolutionary War?
The Patriots.

4. On what day did George Washington cross the Delaware River to fight the enemy?
Christmas Day

5. Who was the very first president of the United States?
George Washington

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