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Bio4Kids: Paul Revere (1735-1818)

Brief Outline

On the night of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere took one of the most famous rides in history. His mission was to get the word out about the movements of British troops near Boston. Setting out at around 11pm, Revere rode across the countryside through the night to let his fellow patriots know that the British were on the way.

Born in Boston on January 1, 1735, this hero was the son of a silversmith. Like his father, Revere learned how to make all kinds of things. He was able to supplement his income in the economic depression before the Revolution by creating tools, copper plates, and even fake teeth. Besides working as a silversmith, Revere was a soldier for a short time during the French and Indian War. The British and the French were at war over territory in North America.

In August 1757 he married Sarah Orne with whom he had eight children. Shortly after her death in 1773 he married Rachel Walker, and together they had another eight children.

In the 1770s, Revere became a strong supporter of American independence. He was a member of the 'Sons of Liberty', a group of patriots in who took their name from a debate on the Stamp Act in Parliament in 1765. He joined with 50 other revolutionaries in the Boston Tea Party, an event in 1773 when American colonists destroyed many crates of tea on ships in Boston Harbor. This event was a protest against the English tax on tea in the colonies. The colonists didn't have any say about the new taxes. And they didn't have anyone in the English government to support their cause. This was called "taxation without representation." The incident has been seen as helping to spark the American

Revolution.

Revere became a regular messenger to help the revolutionary cause. He rode to Concord, Massachusetts, on April 16, 1775, to tell patriots to move their weapons. Two days later he took that historic ride to Lexington to inform the people that British troops would soon be there. The next day the Revolutionary War began. And because of Revere, the patriots were ready. During the war, he made supplies to help in the fighting. Revere also served as a lieutenant colonel. He died on May 10, 1818, in Boston. An obituary in the *Boston Intelligence* commented, 'seldom has the tomb closed upon a life so honorable and useful'.

Paul Revere's most famous contribution to U.S. history has been passed down over the years in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's famous poem 'Paul Revere's Ride' which was published in 1861. He has since become a national folk hero.

Related Websites

Visit the home of Paul Revere:

<http://www.paulreverehouse.org/>

Learn more about revolutionary times:

<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/revolut>

Paul Revere's personal account of the night of April 18, 1775:

<http://www.americanrevolution.org/revere.html>

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, 'Paul Revere's Ride':

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