

Paul Revere | Lesson Plan

How did American hero, Paul Revere, unite Americans in the fight for independence?

Students will learn about the key role Paul Revere's infamous ride played in the events that led to the start of the Revolutionary War and how Paul Revere became an American hero. They will understand the divided beliefs of colonists at the time and how Paul Revere united them against the British army.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify Paul Revere and explain his role in the Revolutionary War.
- Connect Paul Revere's actions to broader themes of unification and independence.
- Explain the tensions that eventually caused the rebels to fight the British in the Revolutionary War.
- Compare the division between Americans in 1775 and today.
- Analyze how reflecting on shared American pride and heroes unites Americans.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Colonists:** Early settlers in the thirteen colonies before the United States' independence.
- **Rebels:** Colonists who protested against the British King's orders.
- **Revolutionary War:** The battles fought for the United States' independence from the British.
- **Taxes:** Money collected by the King from the colonists.
- **Lexington & Concord:** Where the first battles of the Revolutionary War took place.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.2, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.W.8, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.L.6

Academic Subject Areas: Biography, America, Historical Figures

What You'll Need

- Video: *Paul Revere: The Revolutionary Legend* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Paul Revere: The Revolutionary Legend* (Click [Here](#))

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Warm-Up: (10-15 minutes)

1. Begin the lesson by showing students the following photos and asking them to write down anything they notice or wonder about each photo: [Photo 1](#), [Photo 2](#), [Photo 3](#). Once students have written down their initial observations and questions, guide them in a discussion concerning who Paul Revere was and what role he played in starting the Revolutionary War.



2. Introduce the key vocabulary, explaining to students the purpose of the Revolutionary War and Paul Revere's role in it:
 - He worked as a silversmith, engraver, and part-time dentist.
 - He was an active member of the Sons of Liberty, a secret organization that opposed British policies and taxes.
 - He took part in the Boston Tea Party in 1773, an act of protest against the British Tea Act, where colonists dumped British tea into Boston Harbor.
 - On the night of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere embarked on his famous midnight ride.
 - He rode from Boston to Lexington to warn the colonial militia that British troops were on their way to arrest Patriot leaders John Hancock and Samuel Adams and to seize colonial weapons stored in Concord.
 - Although he was detained by British troops before reaching Concord, his warning allowed the Patriots to prepare for the British advance.
 - His actions helped mobilize the colonial militias known as the Minutemen.
 - Played a crucial role in the early warning system that led to the successful engagements at the Battles of Lexington and Concord, marking the beginning of the Revolutionary War.
 - His ride was later immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Paul Revere's Ride," cementing his place in American folklore.
3. Discuss the key differences or similarities between the American colonists and the United States citizens today.

Watch & Complete: (20 minutes)

1. Hand out the worksheets to the students. Quickly review the worksheet with the students so they know what to listen for.
2. Play the video for the class.
3. Pause after key sections to ensure comprehension and help students answer pertinent questions as they watch.
4. After watching the video, have students complete the "Making Connections" section in small groups. Invite students to share their results with the class.

Wrap-Up: (10 minutes)

1. Conclude with a brief recap of who Paul Revere was and why he is an important hero, reminding us of the bravery and courage it took to fight for freedom.
2. Ask reflective questions to assess understanding:
 - Why was Paul Revere's midnight ride so important?
 - What can we do to help unite Americans today?
3. Collect the worksheets for assessment or use them to guide further discussion.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.