



Two Lights for
TOMORROW

**ONE IF BY LAND
TWO IF BY SEA**

what is

two lights for tomorrow?

Two Lights for Tomorrow is a nationwide initiative to commence the celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of America. The famous ride of Paul Revere occurred overnight on April 18 - 19, 1775. Two Lights for Tomorrow commemorates that famous ride and uses the imagery of that shining light today as a uniting call to action for our citizens to celebrate and serve.

On April 18, 2025, we're calling for two lights to be displayed in every statehouse in the nation. They will be a reminder that the visual of a light shining out in the darkness on Revere's ride is not just something that mattered then; it's something that matters today and for our collective tomorrow.

Some commissions are planning a public program as two lights are lit at the statehouse. This is an opportunity to not only raise public awareness of the upcoming 250th and how that visibly will be marked, but also to communicate the meaning of Revere's ride as history and remind our citizens of their part in the perpetual building of a "more perfect union."

We invite you to join us in our celebration by putting lanterns in the windows or your home or business.



what's the history of

"one if by land, two if by sea!"

Before Paul Revere's famous midnight ride, there was a plan formulated to warn the Patriots of the movement of the British.

The rumors that were swirling around Boston told stories of the British planning to move on two nearby towns, Lexington and Concord. The first part of the plan was for the British to visit to Lexington in order to arrest John Hancock and Samuel Adams. Both were considered to be trouble makers by the British, but to the Patriots, they were leaders for the cause of liberty. The second part of the plan was to confiscate weapons, ammunition, and canon from military stores in Concord. Many believe that Margaret Gage, the wife of the British General Thomas Gage, was the one to tip off the Sons of Liberty.

Dr. Joseph Warren took the information and called upon Revere to make the ride into Lexington and Concord and let Patriots know what was happening.

Revere formulated a plan that involved someone, most likely Robert Newman or John Pulling, hanging lanterns in the Old North Church that communicated whether the British troops were to move by land or by sea - "One if by land, two if by sea." The lanterns were to be lit in the steeple and blown out after just a few minutes so that no one would be suspicious.

Once two lanterns were lit, Revere made his way across the river and began his midnight ride. Many say he is known for saying, "The British are coming." Instead, he probably said "The Regulars are coming!" Everyone in the colonies would have been British subjects so "The British are coming" wouldn't have made much sense!

Revere made it to Lexington and was able to warn Hancock and Adams. William Dawes and Samuel Prescott took a different route. Dawes ran into British soldiers on his way out as they were closing off the routes. The British allowed him through because they recognized him. Dawes often left Boston for business. All three men were stopped on the way to Concord. Revere was captured and the other two escaped to complete the route.

While Paul Revere receives most of the credit for the warning, there were two other riders that evening, William Dawes and Samuel Prescott. Revere was caught during his ride and Prescott and Dawes were the ones to finish it. Sybil Ludington and Israel Bissell also made warning rides at different times. Bissell made his ride after Lexington and Concord. Ludington made her ride in 1777.

Paul Revere's name did not gain fame until after the writing of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "Paul Revere's Ride" was published in 1860.





3RD-8TH GRADE ACTIVITIES

Two Lights for
TOMORROW

NAME: _____

Directions: Using reputable sources, research one of the five riders that participated in the Midnight Ride of the eve of the American Revolution.

PAUL REVERE

BIRTHDAY

DEATH DATE

EARLY LIFE

FUN FACTS

INVOLVEMENT IN THE REVOLUTION

FAMILY LIFE

NAME: _____

Directions: Using reputable sources, research one of the five riders that participated in the Midnight Ride of the eve of the American Revolution.

SAMUEL PRESCOTT

BIRTHDAY

DEATH DATE

EARLY LIFE

FUN FACTS

INVOLVEMENT IN THE REVOLUTION

FAMILY LIFE

NAME: _____

Directions: Using reputable sources, research one of the five riders that participated in the Midnight Ride of the eve of the American Revolution.

SYBIL LUDDINGTON

BIRTHDAY

DEATH DATE

EARLY LIFE

FUN FACTS

INVOLVEMENT IN THE REVOLUTION

FAMILY LIFE

NAME: _____

Directions: Using reputable sources, research one of the five riders that participated in the Midnight Ride of the eve of the American Revolution.

WILLIAM DAWES

BIRTHDAY

DEATH DATE

EARLY LIFE

FUN FACTS

INVOLVEMENT IN THE REVOLUTION

FAMILY LIFE

NAME: _____

Directions: Using reputable sources, research one of the five riders that participated in the Midnight Ride of the eve of the American Revolution.

ISRAEL BISSELL

BIRTHDAY

DEATH DATE

EARLY LIFE

FUN FACTS

INVOLVEMENT IN THE REVOLUTION

FAMILY LIFE

NAME: _____

FACT OR FICTION

Directions: Read each statement and identify whether it is fact or fiction based on your knowledge and research.

The riders used the phrase, "The British are coming!"

FACT

FICTION

There were at least four people who assisted in the midnight ride.

FACT

FICTION

One woman is believed to have participated in the midnight ride.

FACT

FICTION

Paul Revere's name was familiar to most people before Longfellow's poem.

FACT

FICTION

Paul Revere completed his ride and made it to Concord.

FACT

FICTION

John Hancock and Samuel Adams were not arrested that night.

FACT

FICTION

It is believed that the information about the British troops came from Abigail Adams.

FACT

FICTION

The British recognized William Dawes because of his trade, which made his exit from Boston easier.

FACT

FICTION

There was only one lantern placed in the steeple of the Old North Church.

FACT

FICTION

ANSWER KEY

FACT OR FICTION

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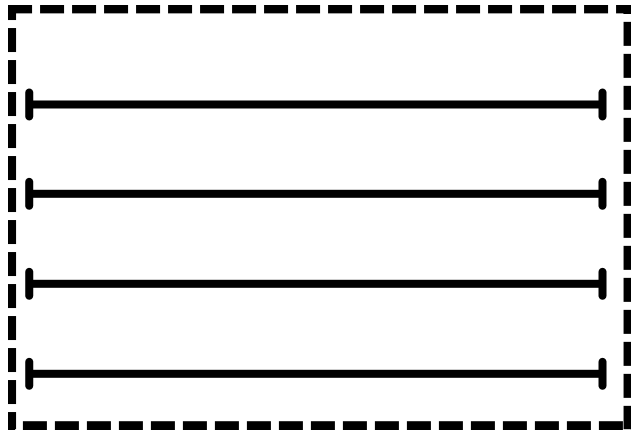
FACT

FICTION

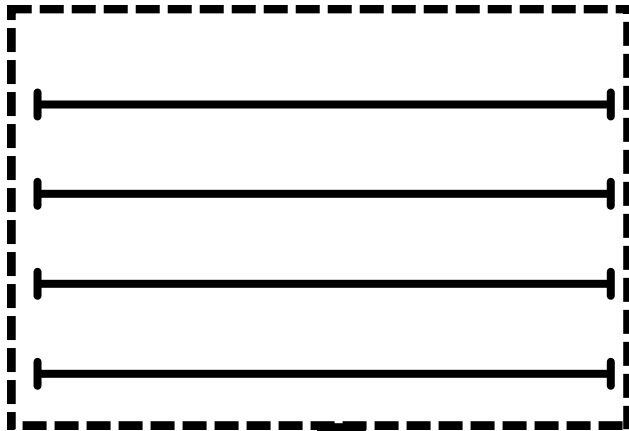
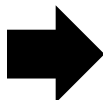
NAME: _____

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

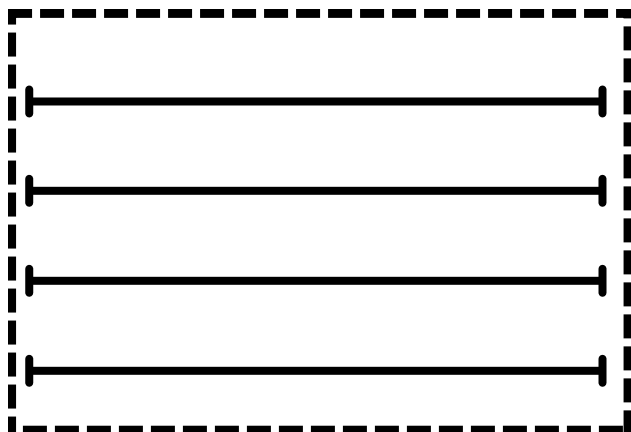
Directions: Create your own timeline using your knowledge of the midnight ride.



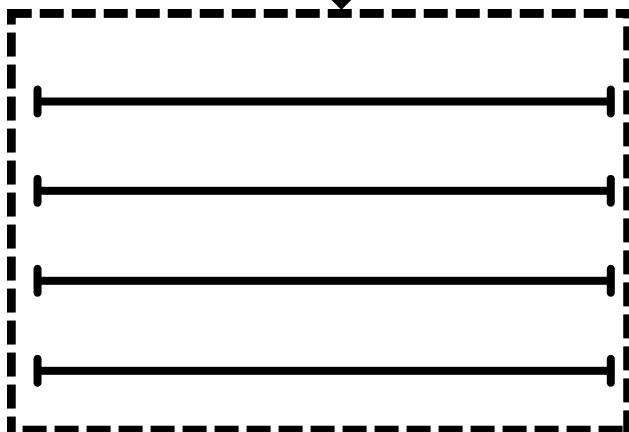
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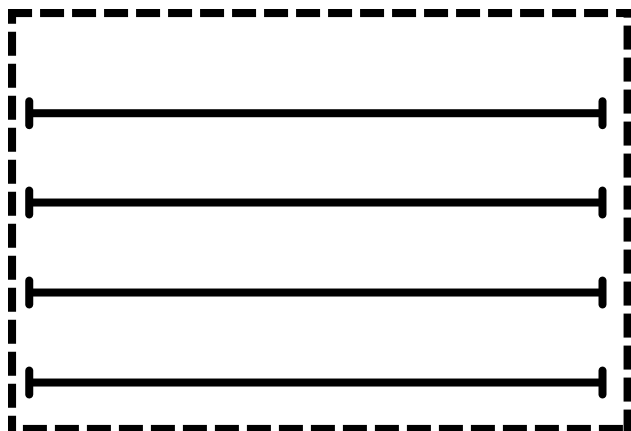
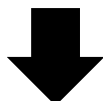
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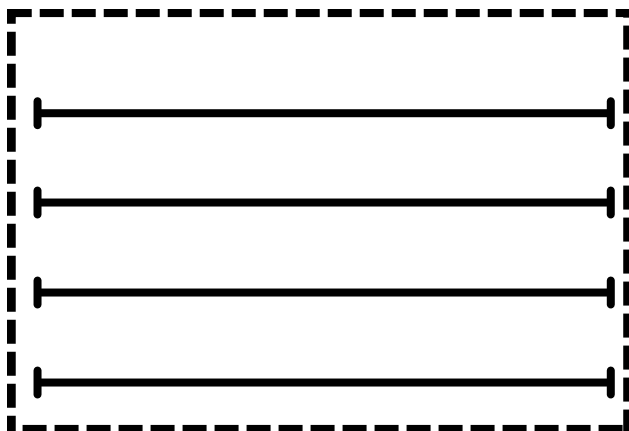
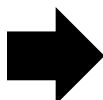
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OTHER LESSON IDEAS:
COURTESY OF AMERICA 250 - IDAHO

Activities:

- Paul Revere's Ride Interactive Timeline
 - Create a large timeline on the classroom wall or at home, marking key 1775 events leading up to April 18th. Students can add illustrations and facts about Paul Revere's ride.
- Two Lights Diorama
 - Students create dioramas depicting the "Two Lights" signal from the Old North Church. Use shoe boxes, LED lights, and craft materials.
- Midnight Ride Comic Strip
 - Students design a 6-panel comic strip illustrating Paul Revere's famous ride, emphasizing the importance of communication during the American Revolution.
- Lantern Craft
 - Materials: Mason jars, battery-operated tea lights, construction paper
 - Instructions: Cut colonial-lantern-inspired designs from construction paper and glue them to the outside of the jar. Place the electric candle inside to create a "signal lantern."
- Paul Revere's Ride Scavenger Hunt
 - Create a list of items related to the midnight ride (e.g., horse, lantern, church) for students to find around their home or neighborhood.
- Family History "Ride"
 - Students interview family members about their heritage and create their own America250 story!

OTHER LESSON IDEAS:
COURTESY OF AMERICA 250 - IDAHO

Connecting to Two Lights for Tomorrow:

- Writing Assignment
 - Have students write short essays on how they can be "lights" in their community through service projects and consider donating those essays to your local historical society.
- Service Learning
 - Organize a class service project for April 18-19, 2025, inspired by the Two Lights for Tomorrow campaign.
- Promote Awareness:
 - Create a "Two Lights for Idaho" display in the classroom, displaying student ideas for community service.
- Interdisciplinary Learning
 - Read Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Paul Revere's Ride" aloud in class. Compare Longfellow's poem to Paul Revere's own account of the ride. Discuss the differences between primary and secondary sources.
 - Paul Revere's recollections:
https://www.masshist.org/database/viewer.php?item_id=99
 - Longfellow's poem: <https://www.paulreverehouse.org/longfellows-poem/>
 - Ask students to write poems about a modern-day hero in their community.
- Interactive Learning
 - Watch the America Battlefield Trust's educational video content documenting Revere's route.
 - Video link: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/videos/paul-reveres-ride>