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This passage is about Paul Revere and his famous midnight ride to alert the colonists of attack. Read the poem and the passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

Midnight Rider

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 tonight,
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.”

These verses mark the beginning of the well-known poem written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. It was written in 1861. The poem made Paul Revere’s ride even more famous.

Paul was a popular silversmith in Boston. He gained fame by engraving a picture of the Boston Massacre in 1770. People throughout the colonies saw copies of it.

Paul led one of the three groups at the Boston Tea Party in December 1773. The colonists were angry that they could buy tea only from one British company. The colonists also had to pay tax on the tea. In protest, they boarded three British ships. The ships were filled with tea. The colonists threw the tea into the sea. The next day, Paul rode off to spread the news. He went toward New York and Philadelphia.

Soon after, many British troops came to Boston. In April 1775, the British decided to capture Patriot leaders Sam Adams and John Hancock. They were hiding in Lexington, not far outside Boston. The British also planned to capture guns and gunpowder. The colonists kept these items hidden in Concord.



Which route would the British troops take: land or water? Finally, the colonists learned that the troops were going by boat. In the dark of night, Paul Revere and William Dawes sneaked past the British sentries. They took different routes to spread the alarm throughout the countryside. At one point, Paul ran into two British officers. Riding like the wind, he was able to get away.

Paul warned the people in Lexington. He told them that the British troops were coming. He helped Sam Adams and John Hancock escape. Later that night, British troops captured Paul. He thought he would be shot or hanged as a spy. However, the troops heard gunfire and ran off to see what was happening.

Because of Paul Revere's warning, hundreds of colonists were waiting when the British troops arrived. That day, the first shot of the American Revolution was fired. Ralph Waldo Emerson called it "a shot heard 'round the world."

Paul Revere played an active role in the war. He printed money for the colonists. He delivered messages. Later, he opened a gunpowder plant to supply the troops. He even built some cannons. He also served as an officer in the army. After the war, Paul returned to the work he loved. He and two of his sons ran a silversmith's shop.



Understanding the Story

Here are some questions about the passage that you just read. Read each one and then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you are not sure, go back and look at the passage again.

1. Paul Revere earned his living as a

- (A) silversmith
- (B) blacksmith
- (C) newspaper editor
- (D) horse racer

Factual

2. How had the Boston Massacre made Paul Revere famous?

- (A) He was shot by the British troops.
- (B) He led the Patriots in throwing snowballs and sticks at the British soldiers.
- (C) His engraving of the massacre was seen throughout the colonies.
- (D) His article about the massacre was read throughout the colonies.

Factual

3. What was Paul Revere's role in the Boston Tea Party?

- (A) He made the plans to board the British ships.
- (B) He found out where the tea was.
- (C) He did an engraving of the event.
- (D) He led one of the three groups that threw the tea into the sea.

Factual

4. Why were the lanterns in the church important on the night of Paul Revere's ride?

- (A) They told which route the British troops were taking.
- (B) They lit the way for Paul Revere.
- (C) They woke up all the townspeople.
- (D) They gave warning to the British troops as to what was happening.

Inference



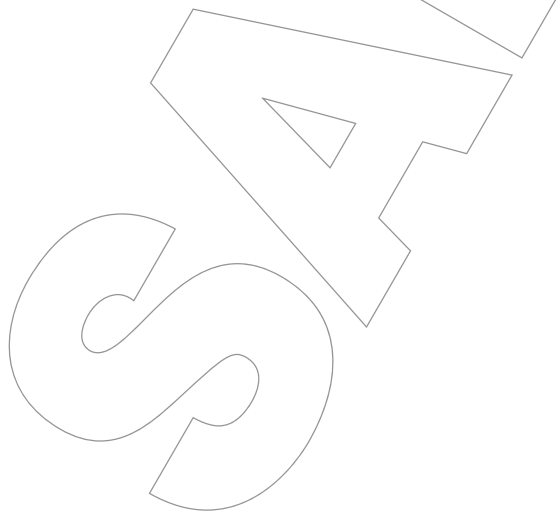
Summing Up



Charts can help you organize your thinking. They can also allow you to compare and analyze information. The left column of the chart below lists several traits that were important for Paul Revere to have. The right column is to give an explanation of why each trait was useful. Fill in the right column of the chart. The first one has been done for you.



Trait	Why It Was Needed By Paul Revere
Bravery	Paul risked capture by the British.
Determination	
Endurance	
Self-confidence	
Talent	





Write About It

Companies often place **advertisements** in newspapers when they are trying to fill a job. In these ads, the companies list the skills that are necessary to do the job. They also state any special qualities that may be needed. Because the ads cost money, they are short and to the point. Here is an example.

WANTED: PERSON TO TAKE CARE OF PETS— Must be 10 years old or older. Experience with animals necessary. Must be patient, dependable, and hardworking. Liking pets and being caring are a plus. Reply by mail to Mrs. Betsy Lavell, 621 Amber Road.

Imagine that you are a Patriot leader seeking someone to make the dangerous ride through the countryside to warn the people that the British troops are coming. Your job is to write a want ad to find the person to make the ride. Remember that this is an unusual job that requires special skills. What traits and experience does the person need?

Use the passage and the chart to give you ideas and information. Also remember that you need to say as much as possible in a short space. You do not need to use complete sentences.

WANTED: RIDER FOR DANGEROUS MISSION:
