



The Midnight Ride, April 18-19, 1775

Mission: Ride the route of the midnight ride. Enter each stop, read the primary and secondary sources, and figure out what REALLY happened, including a surprise about who actually reached Concord.

Big question: What happened at Lexington and Concord, and how do we know?

★ Warm-up: Primary or secondary?

Label each P or S.

A soldier's diary from 1775 ✓ **P.**

A textbook about 1775 ✓ **S.**

Key vocabulary

Militia	Ordinary citizens trained to fight when needed.
Minutemen	Militia ready to fight at a minute's notice.
Primary source	A source created by someone who was there.
Secondary source	A source created later by someone who was not there.

1 Box 1

The signal

In the simulator: Enter Old North Church and examine both objects.

Is Longfellow's poem a primary source?

- ☐ No, it was written 85 years later by someone who wasn't there ☐ Yes, it was written in 1775
☐ Yes, because it rhymes

✓ **No, it was written 85 years later by someone who wasn't there**

2 Box 2

Ride!

In the simulator: Ride all the way to Concord, entering every stop.

What did you notice?

3 Box 3

How far?

Check your distance readout. About how many miles is the whole route?

Answer: _____ miles ✓ **varies: check the student's simulator readout**

4 Box 4

Myth vs. fact

Which statement is TRUE?

- ☐ Revere was captured, and Samuel Prescott carried the warning to Concord
☐ Revere rode alone all the way to Concord ☐ Revere yelled "The British are coming!" in every town

✓ **Revere was captured, and Samuel Prescott carried the warning to Concord**

Source reliability

Which source is MOST reliable for learning what Revere did that night?

☐ Revere's own letter describing the ride ☐ Longfellow's poem ☐ A movie made in 2005

✓ **Revere's own letter describing the ride**

5 Box 5

The shot heard round the world

Why is Lexington and Concord called "the shot heard round the world"? Use a quote.

Explain the event

Look for: Explains it began the war; at least 14 words

Quote

Look for: an exact quote from the text; at least 6 words

Explain the quote

Look for: Explains "round the world"; at least 14 words

6 Box 6

Legend: why the myth? Legend only

Why do you think Longfellow left out Dawes and Prescott? Compare his poem with Revere's letter, quoting one of them.

Look for: an exact quote from the text; at least 25 words



Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

What happened at Lexington and Concord, and how do we know?

Look for: Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Samuel Prescott warned the countryside that British troops were coming. Fighting at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, began the Revolutionary War. Comparing primary sources (Revere's letter) with later sources (Longfellow's poem) shows that popular stories are not always accurate.



Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	CJV-E
 Investigator	1P2-I
 Legend	OBL-L

**Watch for these misconceptions**

- "The war started with the Declaration of Independence." Fighting began at Lexington and Concord more than a year earlier.
- "All colonists wanted independence." Many were Loyalists or neutral.
- "The colonists won alone." French money, troops, and navy were essential.