



Welcome to Boston with School Tours of America!

This booklet is designed to be a helpful guide as you visit the beautiful city of Boston. It will provide you with an overview of many of the sites you will see on your tour. It is also loaded with interesting facts and fun trivia questions!

Boston is the capital city of Massachusetts. It lies on Massachusetts Bay, an arm of the Atlantic Ocean in the northeastern United States. In Boston, there is history all around! This city played a pivotal role in the American Revolutionary War, with events like the Boston Tea Party, the Boston Massacre, and the Siege of Boston. Its Freedom Trail is a 2.5-mile path that passes by significant locations in US history.

Glaciers shaped the topography of the Boston region during the last ice age. Boston was once a small hilly peninsula and literally dug itself out of the hills. Boston's nickname is "a city upon a hill," which comes from Governor John Winthrop's vision of the city as a model community. Boston is made up of 23 neighborhoods that developed independently of each other, which has led to a random layout of streets. Drivers will discover many winding and narrow streets with roads built without regard to an overall design.



Boston Harbor



On December 16, 1773, radical Bostonians threw 340 crates of tea into Boston Harbor to protest what they saw as unfair taxation by the British Parliament. Known today as the “Boston Tea Party,” the event known to contemporaries as “the destruction of the tea” was highly divisive, drawing criticism from figures like Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. It would take almost a century for this event to transform from an embarrassing act of property destruction to a celebrated national origin story.

Lexington Battle Green



The Lexington Battle Green, also known as Lexington Common, is the historic town common of Lexington, Massachusetts, United States. On April 19, 1775, the opening shots of the Battles of Lexington and Concord were fired at this site, starting the American Revolutionary War.

The green consists of two acres in a triangular shape that is surrounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Harrington Road, and Bedford Street. It was acquired by the town of Lexington in the early 1700s and was used as a common gathering area as well as a militia training field. Today, it is a park and memorial to the events of April 19, 1775.

On that morning, the Lexington Common was the site of a brief but momentous skirmish between the Lexington Minutemen and a British expeditionary force en route from Boston to seize colonial military supplies stored in Concord, Massachusetts. Though the encounter, in which eight Americans were killed and ten wounded, delayed the British march for little more than half an hour, it marked the beginning of the armed struggle for American independence.

There are several items that remember this event. Henry Hudson Kitson’s *Lexington Minuteman* is a life-size bronze figure of a colonial farmer carrying a musket. He is standing on a base of rough fieldstones, facing the route of the British advance. A bronze plaque sits mounted on a nearby boulder at the site of a wooden belfry that stood on the south side of the green between 1768 and 1797. These two monuments mark the approximate position of the line formed by the Minutemen. The Revolutionary War Monument is a granite obelisk that was erected in 1799 to honor the eight men who died on the green, seven of whom are interred in the tomb beneath the monument.

Concord, Massachusetts/Old North Bridge

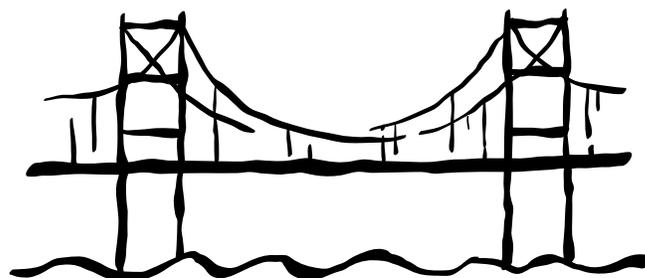
After the events at Lexington, the British column moved to Concord. Their goal was to secure the North Bridge across the Concord River and then take over Barrett Farm along with the arms and powder located there. The militia company in Concord mistakenly assumed that the Redcoats were burning the town and advanced. When the British saw them coming, they opened fire, killing several militiamen. The militiamen returned fire, killing three British soldiers and wounding nine others. This volley is considered "the shot heard round the world."

The battle is commemorated by a bronze statue sculpted by Daniel Chester French. It was unveiled on April 19, 1875 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the battle. The bronze statue depicts a farmer who leaves his plow to defend his land and liberty. It is located at the Old North Bridge in Minuteman National Historical Park. The park also includes the grave of two British soldiers killed in the battle, a visitors center, and Battle Trail Road.



Boston Brain Teaser!

A child was born in Boston, Massachusetts, to parents who were born in Boston. This child is not an American citizen. Why not?



Freedom Trail

The Freedom Trail is a 2.5-mile red-brick trail through Boston's historic neighborhoods that tells the story of the American Revolution and beyond. This path brings the history of the Revolution to life through the Old North Church, Bunker Hill, Paul Revere's home, and the USS Constitution.

Bunker Hill Monument

The Battle of Bunker Hill occurred on June 17, 1775. It was the first major battle of the American Revolution, fought in Charlestown during the Siege of Boston. Although the British won the battle, their losses were heavy, which encouraged the fledgling American forces. A granite obelisk marks the battle site to honor the hundreds of colonial militia and British soldiers who fought and died there.



USS Constitution



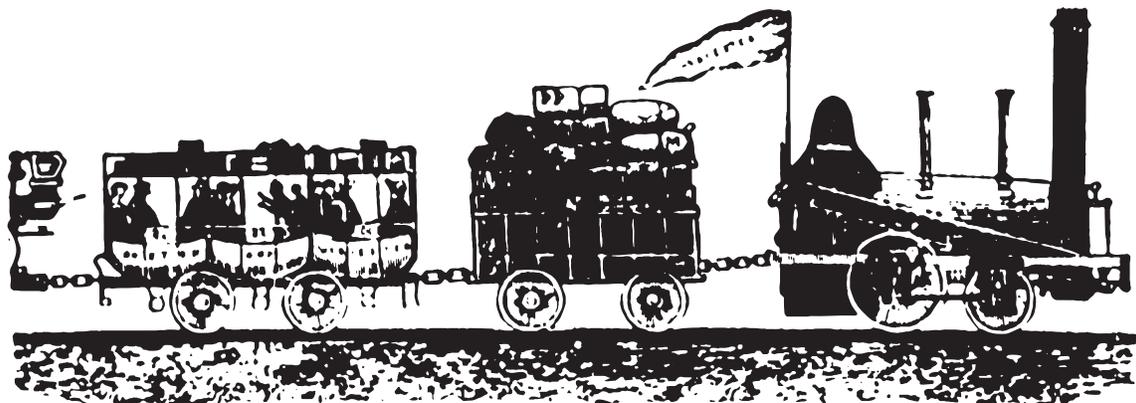
After the United States won its independence, the young nation found itself in need of a navy to protect itself. Congress authorized the construction of six warships in 1794. One of these ships was the USS Constitution, a three-masted, wooden-hulled heavy frigate. She was built at Hartt's shipyard in the North End of Boston and launched on October 21, 1797.

The ship's greatest glory came during the War of 1812, as the ship and crew defeated four British frigates during three separate engagements. During these battles, the *USS Constitution* earned the nickname "Old Ironsides" because it seemed that enemy cannonballs could not penetrate her strong hull. She is the world's oldest commissioned naval warship that is still afloat.

The Old North Church



"One if by land, two if by sea..." This was the signal arranged by Paul Revere to warn the local militias and citizens of the arrival of British troops. The famous story begins on the night of April 18, 1775. Two men, Robert Newman and John Pulling, entered the Old North and hung two lanterns in the church's bell tower. This signal, from the tallest structure in Boston, let everyone know that a detachment of the British Army was crossing the Charles River and heading toward Lexington and Concord. By the end of the next night, the American Revolution had begun. The church was built in 1723 and is Boston's oldest surviving church building.



Boston Fun Facts!

The John Hancock Tower predicts the weather. A series of colored lights atop this iconic building lets residents know whether it's going to rain, snow, be cloudy, or clear. If the lights are flashing red, it not only means there's rain coming but also that the Red Sox game is rained out.

The biggest art heist in history took place in Boston. More than \$500 million worth of paintings were stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 1990.

Fenway Park is the oldest original Major League Baseball stadium still in use. It opened in 1912 and is home to the Boston Red Sox.

Candlepin bowling was invented in Boston. It was invented in 1880 in Worcester by Justin White, a local bowling center owner.

Boston is home to the first college in North America. Harvard was founded in 1636.

The Red Sox were not always called the Red Sox. Before owner John Taylor named the team the Red Sox in 1907, it was known as the Americans, Pilgrims, Somersets, Puritans, and Plymouth Rocks.

Every year, on December 16, the Boston Tea Party is re-enacted. There is a celebration and reenactment in the Boston Harbor to commemorate that fateful event.

Paul Revere House



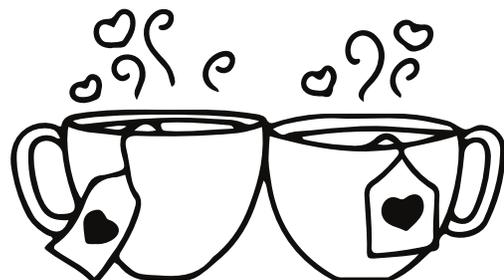
Paul Revere House is the home of Paul Revere, a legendary patriot of the American Revolution. He was an American silversmith employed by the Boston Committee of Correspondence and the Massachusetts Committee of Safety as an express rider to carry information throughout the colonies.

His most famous ride came on the evening of April 18, 1775, when he was sent to Lexington, Massachusetts, with the news that British soldiers were on their way to arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock, two leaders of the Sons of Liberty. His home was built around 1680 and is the oldest remaining structure in downtown Boston.

Faneuil Hall



Faneuil Hall is often referred to as the "home of free speech" and the "Cradle of Liberty" since it hosted America's first Town Meeting. It was first built as a center of commerce in 1741 but was later used for meetings of the Sons of Liberty. It was this location at which they proclaimed their dissent against royal oppression. In 1764, Americans protested against the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act, setting the stance of "no taxation without representation." Later gatherings would protest the Townshend Acts, the Redcoat occupation, and the Tea Act. The famous golden grasshopper weathervane sits atop Faneuil Hall. It was created by Shem Downe, who also created the weathervane on the Old North Church. It has been said that the weathervane was used during the War of 1812 to out spies. Anyone who couldn't answer the question "What is on top of Faneuil Hall?" was soon a suspect.



Old State House

Old State House was built in 1713 as a center of the royal government in Massachusetts Bay Colony. It was known as the "Town House" until the Revolution. It was the scene of the Boston Massacre that unfolded on March 5, 1770. A squadron of British soldiers opened fire in front of the building, killing five and wounding many others. Shots were fired here again six years later, but in celebration, as Bostonians gathered under the balcony of Old State on July 18, 1776, to hear the reading of the Declaration of Independence for the first time. The Old State House is the oldest surviving public building in Boston.



Boston Massacre Site



Tensions between Bostonians and the British exploded on March 5, 1770, and led to clashes in the streets of Boston. The deaths of five civilians by gunfire led to Bostonians rallying against the Crown and the removal of troops from Boston. The first man to fall at the Boston Massacre was Crispus Attucks, a man of African and Indigenous heritage.

Kings Chapel

Kings Chapel was established in 1686 as the first Anglican church in New England. It houses the oldest American pulpit still in use. The stone structure was completed in 1754 and built around the original wood structure so that church services would not be disrupted. The church bell was forged in England in 1772, cracked in 1814, and recast by Paul Revere in 1816. This bell still rings today to summon Bostonians and others to worship.



Granary Burial Site



Over 5,000 Bostonians are estimated to be buried in the Granary - far more than the number of headstones indicate. This burial ground was once part of Boston Common. There are many famous landmarks in the burial grounds. The Infant's Tomb holds the remains of hundreds of children. The landmark is located near an obelisk that marks the graves of Benjamin Franklin's parents.

Another obelisk marks the tomb of John Hancock, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Two markers stand in the place where Paul Revere was buried. Two matching stones mark the graves of James Otis, an American patriot, and Sam Adams, another signer of the Declaration of Independence. Next to them is the marker for the victims of the Boston Massacre.

Boston Fun Facts II !

1. Revere Beach was the country's first public beach. This lovely stretch of sand was established in 1896. Boston built America's first subway in 1897.
2. The Tremont Street Subway is also the third in the world to use electric traction.
3. The oldest public park in the USA is in Boston.
4. Boston Common was established in 1634 and is still popular for folks to gather.
5. The Fig Newton was named after a Boston suburb. The city of Newton, Massachusetts, inspired the name of this famous cookie.
6. The first Dunkin' Donuts was located near Boston. The iconic donut shop could be found in Quincy, Massachusetts, about 11 miles from Boston.
7. The very first chocolate factory in the USA was in Boston.
8. The year was 1765 when Walter Baker opened his chocolate factory in Dorchester.



Plimoth Tour

Plimoth Patuxet

Plimoth Patuxet is a living history museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts. It replicates the original settlement, the Plymouth colony, established in 1620 by the Separatists. These colonists, who became known as the Pilgrims, fled England to establish a community where they could freely practice their religion.



Mayflower II



The Mayflower II is a full-scale reproduction of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. This ship, known as a carrack with three masts and three decks, measured approximately 100 feet long and 25 feet wide and carried 102 passengers on the voyage that took place from September 6 to November 9, 1620.

Plymouth Rock

Plymouth is the site at which the Mayflower landed in 1620, leaving its passengers and crew to found Plymouth Colony in December 1620. The first known reference to the rock dates from 1715, when it was used in reference to the town's boundary as "a great rock."



Cole's Burial Ground



Cole's Hill is a National Historic Landmark containing the first cemetery used by the Mayflower Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. This site is now a public park. Coles Hill rises steeply from the shore of Plymouth Bay, near Plymouth Rock, the traditional landing site of the Pilgrims in 1620.

Several monuments and memorials are on the hill, most of which date to the 300th-anniversary celebration of the Pilgrim landing in 1920. These include a statue of the Wampanoag leader Massasoit, whose support was vital to the Pilgrims' survival. At the southern end of the hill stands a granite sarcophagus that contains skeletal remains, which are believed to be those of Mayflower settlers buried here in the winter of 1620-21 when 52 out of 102 died.

Guess Who? - Boston

1. This defenseman played for the Boston Bruins. He scored what is considered the greatest goal in Stanley Cup history.
2. This actor is an Oscar-winning screenwriter for the movie Good Will Hunting.
3. This actor is best known for the role of Scarecrow in The Wizard of Oz.
4. She is known as the Queen of Disco, famous for the song "She Works Hard for the Money".
5. This actor is famous for roles like Jack Ryan and Jim Halpert.
6. This man is known as one of the most notorious crime bosses ever. His nickname came from his platinum hair.
7. He is known for being one of the greatest hitters in Major League Baseball history. He played left field for the Boston Red Sox.
8. He was an American essayist, poet, and abolitionist who led the Transcendentalist movement of the mid-19th century.
9. He is an American television host and comedian known for hosting his late-night talk show.
10. He is a singer-songwriter and six-time Grammy winner. One of his best-known songs is "Fire and Rain."

John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library

The John F Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum is the presidential library of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States (1961-63). It is in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston, next to the University of Massachusetts. The library archives include presidential papers, personal papers, records, etc., and almost 30,000 artifacts of Kennedy's life. Items such as gifts from world leaders, clothing, artwork, and the Bible used during JFK's swearing-in.



Boston Trivia!

1. What is the name of the pie invented in Boston?
2. How many NBA Championship titles have the Boston Celtics won?
3. What Civil War Regiment is honored outside the State House?
4. What former Massachusetts Senator, who died in 2009, is the brother of a former president?
5. What legendary baseball player was considered the cause of the Red Sox's longtime losing streak through most of the 20th Century?
6. What is the nickname given to the city of Boston?
7. This annual race is traditionally held on Patriots' Day.
8. The "Boston" breed of which dog type is sometimes adorably known as the "American gentleman?" These dogs are also the mascot of Boston University.
9. "Boston Rob" Mariano became famous in 2002 when he competed in the Marquesas Islands on season 4 of what CBS reality series?
10. Also the name of an NFL team located about 300 miles from Boston, what is the name of the sports teams of Boston College?

Salem Tour

Salem Maritime National Historic Park

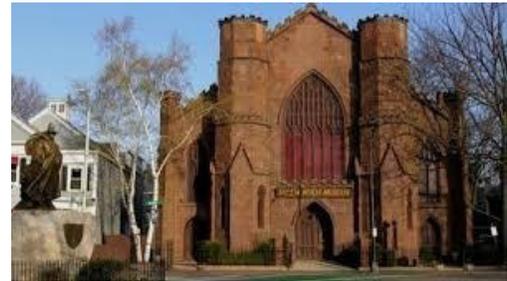


This National Park preserves one of America's most influential ports. It is the first National Historic Site established in the US (March 17, 1938). There are a number of important sites located in the park. Derby House, built in 1762, was the home of Elias Hasket and Elizabeth Crowninshield Derby. Elias was a successful merchant known as America's first millionaire.

Narbonne House was built in 1675 and was home to successful businessmen and their families. The Custom House, Public Stores, and Scale House was built in 1819 to hold the US Customs Service. This office collected millions of dollars in taxes on cargo that came into port. The *Friendship of Salem* is a replica of a 1797 East Indiaman, a merchant ship under the ownership of the East India Company.

The Salem Witch Museum

The Salem Witch Museum, founded in 1972, offers two historical presentations. The first tells the tragic story of the 1692 witch trials. It takes place in a large auditorium with life-sized stage sets, which are illuminated and dramatically narrated to immerse visitors in the world of 17th-century Salem.



The second exhibit, *Witches: Evolving Perceptions*, examines the European witchcraft trials, the evolving image of the witch, and the larger issues of persecution and scapegoating in American history. The museum is based on the actual documents of the trials.

House of Seven Gables



This colonial mansion was built in 1668 by John Turner I and his wife, Elizabeth Robinson Turner. It is best known today as the setting of the world-renowned American author Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1851 novel by the same name. The novel follows a New England family and their ancestral home.

Boston Fun Facts III!

1. The nickname "Beantown" literally comes from beans. The name came from the city's earliest settlers' love of baked beans in molasses.
2. You can drive 90 feet underground in Boston.
3. Ted Williams Tunnel is the deepest in America, approximately 90 feet under the earth.
4. There was no Christmas in Boston between 1659 & 1681. The Pilgrims believed it was a corrupt holiday and banned any celebrations during that time period.
5. Molasses once killed 21 people and injured 100 more. In 1919, a storage tank that held millions of gallons of molasses burst and flooded the city, killing 21 people and several horses and injuring more than 100 others.
6. The first American lighthouse was built in Boston. Built in 1716, the Little Brewster Lighthouse was the first-ever in the USA.
7. The Boston University Bridge is famous for something no other bridge can claim. This unique bridge is the only one in the world where a boat can sail under a train, go under a vehicle, and sail under an airplane.

Brain Teaser Answer: The child was born before 1776, the year of the Declaration of Independence, and is, therefore, a British subject.

Guess Who? Answers

1. Bobby Orr
2. Ben Affleck or Matt Damon
3. Ray Bolger
4. Donna Summer
5. John Krasinski
6. Whitey Bulger
7. Ted Williams
8. Ralph Waldo Emerson
9. Conan O'Brien
10. James Taylor

Boston Trivia Answers

1. Boston Cream Pie
2. 18
3. 54th of Massachusetts
4. Ted Kennedy
5. Babe Ruth
6. Beantown
7. Boston Marathon
8. Boston Terrier
9. Survivor
10. Eagles

**Thank you for traveling with
School Tours of America!**

