Standard 8.22 Lesson Boston Patriots

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8.22 Analyze the social, political and economic causes of the American Revolution and the major battles, leaders and events, including: (C, E, H, P)

- Patrick Henry
- Benjamin Franklin
- John Adams
- Sam Adams
- John Hancock
- Thomas Jefferson
- Sons of Liberty

The Boston Patriots

(Pictured Above: Boston was the home for many patriots and supporters of the American cause. This map shows the plan of Boston in 1775, at the height of the Revolution.)
The American Revolution was not simply a series of impersonal events. Men and women made fateful, often difficult decisions that led to the great clash. Although patriots could be found in any of the 13 colonies, nowhere were they more numerous than in the city of Boston.

Perhaps the prevalence of shipping in Boston made Bostonians especially resentful to the restrictions on trade. Maybe its legacy of religious quarrels with the Church of England made Bostonians more rebellious. Its long history of town meetings and self-rule may have led New Englanders to be more wary of royal authority. Perhaps a combination of these and other factors led the city of Boston to be the leading voice against British authority. It was, after all, the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party. Furthermore, fierce patriots such as James Otis, Samuel Adams, John Adams, John Hancock, and Paul Revere were all citizens of one great city: Boston.

James Otis
Quick-tempered JAMES OTIS was one of the first vociferous opponents of British taxation policies. As early as 1761, Boston merchants hired him to provide legal defense against British search warrants. His widely distributed pamphlet, THE RIGHTS OF THE BRITISH COLONISTS ASSERTED AND PROVED, was one of the first legal criticisms of Parliament’s taxation policies. A large man with a large heart for British liberties, he was perceived by many in London to be the center of treasonous American activity.

But Otis also saw himself as fiercely loyal to the English Constitution. Once he stormed into BOSTON’S ROYAL COFFEE HOUSE to face drawn swords because his loyalty had been called into question. Violence ensued. Otis was so severely beaten that he never really recovered. The wounds he received from British made him somewhat of a martyr around Boston.

Lightning Strikes

Otis was never the same mentally after the severe beating. Friends and admirers commented about his diminished verbal capacities.

Of Otis, John Adams wrote, "In short, I never saw such an object of admiration, reverence, contempt, and compassion, all at once, as this. I fear, I tremble, I mourn, for the man and his country; many others mourn over him, with tears in their eyes.” Poor Otis!

In May, 1782, Otis was killed after being struck by a bolt of lightning.
Read the following article about James Otis.

http://www.landofthebrave.info/james-otis.htm

**Samuel Adams**

(Pictured Above: A writer and propagandist, Samuel Adams championed the American Revolution in Boston and chaired the meeting that led to the Boston Tea Party. Along with his cousin, John Adams, Samuel Adams is one of the best-known Boston patriots.)

**Samuel Adams on American Independence**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYyh7ATpdl4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYyh7ATpdl4)

Sam Adams and his speech to the Congress

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_HL-ZCiQSY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_HL-ZCiQSY)
SAMUEL ADAMS was perhaps the fieriest supporter of American liberty in the 13 colonies. His mind drew a sharp distinction between the evils of the British Empire and simple American life. His skills as a political organizer drove the colonies toward declaring independence. Adams chaired the Boston town meeting that preceded the infamous tea party.

Rather unsuccessful in a series of pursuits prior to the Revolution, Adams found his calling in organizing and rabble-rousing. He served as an active member of the Sons of Liberty and the creator of the first significant committee of correspondence. As the Revolution approached, the cries for Adams’ head grew louder and louder in the streets of London.

“The Destruction of the Tea is the pretense for the unprecedented Severity shown to the Town of Boston but the real Cause is the opposition to Tyranny for which the people of that Town have always made themselves remarkable & for which I think this Country is much obliged to them. They are suffering the Vengeance of Administration in the Common Cause of America.”

– Samuel Adams, letter to Arthur Lee (January 25, 1774)

Article on Sam Adams from www.biography.com
http://www.biography.com/people/samuel-adams-9176129

http://www.ducksters.com/history/american_revolution/samuel_adams.php
JOHN ADAMS, Samuel’s second cousin, was no less a patriot. His early fame as a defense attorney for the British soldiers in the trial that followed the Boston Massacre cannot be taken in isolation.

Watch the short clip of the Boston Massacre to understand the history of John Adam’s role in the defense of the British soldiers.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O05rNWygHF4

Watch the clip from John Adams when he was the defense attorney for the British soldiers.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiCEyuIuwAU

He provided the wording of the resistance message sent to George III that was adopted by the First Continental Congress. John and Samuel Adams represented the radical wing of the Second Continental Congress that demanded a taking up of arms against Britain. John Adams was also a member of the committee of five who drafted the Declaration of Independence.
John Adams and his wife Abigail

Read, watch and learn about John Adams. http://www.biography.com/people/john-adams-37967#awesm=-oHdxCZZIScHpIV

Biography of John Adams
BrainPop video and quiz of John Adams - paid for by Tullahoma City Schools
https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/famoushistoricalfigures/johnadams/

John Hancock

Read about John Hancock’s life from www.biography.com
http://www.biography.com/people/john-hancock-9327271

The man with the famous signature — JOHN HANCOCK — was also a Bostonian. Hancock earned the early ire of British officials as a major smuggler. The seizure of one of his ships brought a response from Bostonians that led directly to British occupation in 1768.

Later, Hancock and Samuel Adams were the two agitators whose arrest was ordered by GENERAL GAGE after the battles at Lexington and Concord. As a man of great wealth, he had much to lose by resisting Britain. Nevertheless, he did not bend.
From the Liberty Kids website, read about John Hancock.  [http://www.libertyskids.com/arch_who_jhancock.html](http://www.libertyskids.com/arch_who_jhancock.html)

**John Hancock**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1El-guPeEo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1El-guPeEo)

**Paul Revere**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvQdL4Hv_e8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvQdL4Hv_e8)

PAUL REVERE did not come from the same social class as the aforementioned patriots. As a silversmith, he was a man of humbler means, but his attitudes about Britain were anything but humble. His famous midnight ride that warned of the advancing British troops was only one of his revolutionary actions. He was also an illustrator, whose image of the Boston Massacre became iconic.
“I set off, it was then about 11 o’clock, the moon shone bright. I had got almost over Charlestown Common, towards Cambridge, when I saw two officers on horse-back, standing under the shade of a tree, in a narrow part of the road. I was near enough to see their holsters and cockades. One of them started his horse towards me, the other up the road, as I supposed, to head me, should I escape the first. I turned my horses short about, and rode upon a full gallop for Mistick Road, he followed me about 300 yards, and finding he could not catch me, returned. I proceeded to Lexington, through Mistick, and alarmed Mr. Adams and Col. Hancock . . . ”

– Paul Revere, account of his ride (1775)

(Pictured Above: Not only did Paul Revere take a midnight ride, he was also a silversmith and artist. His engraving of the Boston Massacre was used by patriots throughout the colonies as Revolutionary propaganda.)

When the British suspended the Massachusetts legislature for refusing to retract its circular letter, Revere engraved the names of the 92 assemblymen who stood up to Parliament. His engravings were used by patriots as anti-British propaganda, particularly his famous engraving of the Boston Massacre.
These five were but a handful of Bostonians who became the thorn in the British side. Their brave actions encouraged American patriotism throughout the 13 colonies. As the American Revolution was dawning, the Boston patriots led the way.

Read, watch and learn about Paul Revere

http://www.biography.com/people/paul-revere-9456172

Thomas Jefferson
Thomas Jefferson served in the Continental Congress, representing Virginia. He was on a subcommittee with five others and, being the most talented writer, was chosen to write the Declaration of Independence. Reading this document would cause Americans to want to join the patriot cause. After writing the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson watched as other delegates tweaked the document. Jefferson had wanted to include a passage blaming the king for the slave trade, for example, but the southern delegates insisted upon its removal.


Thomas Jefferson - BrainPop - provided for TCS students and teachers
https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/famoushistoricalfigures/thomasjefferson/
Although he was seventy years old when the Revolution began, he served as a delegate to the Continental Congress and as a diplomat abroad. Franklin was elected to the Second Continental Congress and worked on a committee of five that helped to draft the Declaration of Independence. Though much of the writing is Thomas Jefferson’s, much of the contribution is Franklin’s. In 1776 Franklin signed the Declaration, and afterward sailed to France as an ambassador to the Court of Louis XVI.
Patrick Henry (May 29, 1736 – June 6, 1799) was an American attorney, planter and politician who became known as an orator during the movement for independence in Virginia in the 1770s. A Founding Father, he served as the first and sixth post-colonial Governor of Virginia, from 1776 to 1779 and from 1784 to 1786.
Give Me Liberty of Give Me Death

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHo-3LEcgQE

Henry led the opposition to the Stamp Act 1765 and is remembered for his "Give me liberty, or give me death!" speech. Along with Samuel Adams and Thomas Paine, he is regarded as one of the most influential champions of Republicanism and an invested promoter of the American Revolution and its fight for independence.

After the Revolution, Henry was a leader of the anti-federalists in Virginia. He opposed the United States Constitution, fearing that it endangered the rights of the States as well as the freedoms of individuals; he helped gain adoption of the Bill of Rights.


http://www.biography.com/people/patrick-henry-9335512

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From www.ducksters.com, read about Patrick Henry.

http://www.ducksters.com/history/american_revolution/patrick_henry.php

**Sons and Daughters of Liberty**

( Pictured Above: Royal Massachusetts Governor Thomas Hutchinson)
They were the ones who were not afraid. They knew instinctively that talk and politics alone would not bring an end to British tyranny. They were willing to resort to extra legal means if necessary to end this series of injustices. They were American patriots — northern and southern, young and old, male and female. They were the Sons and Daughters of Liberty.

Like other secret clubs at the time, the Sons of Liberty had many rituals. They had secret code words, medals, and symbols. Originally formed in response to the Stamp Act, their activities were far more than ceremonial. It was the Sons of Liberty who ransacked houses of British officials. Threats and intimidation were their weapons against tax collectors, causing many to flee town. Images of unpopular figures might be hanged and burned in effigy on the town’s LIBERTY TREE. Offenders might be covered in warm tar and blanketed in a coat of feathers.

Another important function of the Sons of Liberty was correspondence. These clubs could be found up and down the colonial seaboard. Often they coordinated their activities. Like the public Congresses that would be convened, this private band of societies provided an intercolonial network that would help forge unity. It should come as no surprise that the members of the Sons of Liberty and the delegates to the various Congresses were at times one and the same.
The Daughters of Liberty performed equally important functions. Once nonimportation became the decided course of action, there was a natural textile shortage. Mass spinning bees were organized in various colonial cities to make homespun substitutes. Since women often purchased consumer goods for the home, the Daughters of Liberty became instrumental in upholding the boycott, particularly where tea was concerned. The most zealous Daughters of Liberty refused to accept gentleman callers for themselves or their daughters who were not sympathetic to the patriot cause.

Of course, the winners write the history books. Had the American Revolution failed, the Sons and Daughters of Liberty would no doubt be regarded as a band of thugs, or at the very least, outspoken troublemakers. History will be on their sides, however. These individuals risked their lives and reputations to fight against tyranny. In the end, they are remembered as heroes.

![Sons of Liberty Signing the Declaration of Independence](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71FOkujQ5vw)

**FIGURE 1.23**

Sons of Liberty Signing the Declaration of Independence

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71FOkujQ5vw

![Sons of Liberty Illustration](http://www.bostonteapartyship.com/sons-of-liberty)

**FIGURE 1.24**

Sons of Liberty Illustration

From a Boston museum, read about the *Sons of Liberty.*

http://www.bostonteapartyship.com/sons-of-liberty
This is a great link for the individual members of the Sons of Liberty.