The place is Boston, Massachusetts. It is about 10:00 p.m. on the night of April 18, 1775. Paul Revere steps into a boat and crosses the Charles River. After a short boat ride, Revere lands in Charlestown. There, he borrows a horse. He’s on an important mission, and there is no time to lose.

Revere knows he must get to Lexington and warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock. These two American leaders are in danger. British troops are marching to Lexington to arrest them. The American colonies need Adams and Hancock to provide leadership. Paul Revere must get to them first.

As he rides, Revere calls out, "The regulars are coming out!" He wants to let people know that British troops—the "regulars"—are marching out of Boston. The people in the area need to be ready to defend themselves.

About 11:30 p.m., Revere reaches the town of Medford. He rides on until he gets to Jonas Clarke’s house near Lexington. Adams and Hancock are there, and Revere warns them to flee.

Next, Revere heads toward the nearby town of Concord. Before he gets there, a British patrol arrests him. But Revere has done his duty. He has already warned Adams and Hancock. The men have managed to get away.

Later, on the morning of April 19, 1775, colonial soldiers and British troops would fight the Battles of Lexington and Concord. These battles would mark the beginning of the American Revolution.

Today, you can trace Paul Revere’s route. All you need is a good map and the directions.

As you know, a map is a drawing of a real place. Symbols on the map represent different features of the place. For example, a symbol for a road on a map stands for a real road.
Look at the map of Paul Revere's Ride. In the bottom corner, there's a small box. This is the map key. The map key contains information to help you decode and understand the symbols on the map. In this case, the key tells you that a dotted line stands for the path of Paul Revere's ride.

The map also contains a small image that looks like a ruler. This image shows the map scale. A map scale shows you how a distance on the map compares to the actual distance on the ground.

The map scale shows that one-and-a-half inches on the map is equal to three miles or to well over three kilometers on the ground. How do you know this? Take a ruler and place it under the map scale. Beginning at the left side of the map scale, measure one-and-a-half inches. There is a mark at this same place on the map scale. The mark is labeled three miles. To the left is a mark labeled three kilometers.

You can use this information to figure out distances on a map. For example, what if you wanted to follow Revere's route from Medford to Lexington? How far would you have to walk? First, measure the distance with your ruler. The route measures about three inches. The map scale tells you that one-and-a-half inches on the map equals three miles in real distance. One-and-a-half times two equals three. Therefore, three inches on the map equals six miles in real life.

Now see if you can figure out about how far Paul Revere rode. He began in Charlestown. First he rode to Medford and then to Jonas Clarke's house. Next he rode toward Concord. He was captured along the way. How far did he ride in total?

Finding the distance for the entire ride is a little tricky. It's hard to measure this distance on the map using a ruler. A ruler is straight, but Revere's route was not. You can measure the distance more easily with a string. Place one end of the string on Charlestown. Next place the string on the map as close as you can to the exact route Revere followed. Then measure the string. You will find that the string is about six inches long. Now look back at the map scale: one-and-a-half inches equals three miles. This means that three inches would equal six miles. How many miles would six inches equal? That's about how many miles Paul Revere rode between Charlestown and his arrest.
**measure**  meas·ure

**Definition**

**verb**

1. to find out the exact size of something.

   *He measured the room before he bought a new rug.*

2. used to say how long, wide, or large something is.

   *This board measures three feet in length.*

   *This room measures 12 feet by 10 feet.*

**Advanced Definition**

**noun**

1. calculation of exact dimensions within time or space, such as length, quantity, duration, weight, or capacity.

   *She made a careful measure of the distance.*

2. the size, quantity, or amount thus calculated.

   *The measure of the desktop was three feet in length and two and a half feet in width.*

3. a unit, instrument, or system for making exact calculations of proportions within time and space.

   *A ruler is a measure that is marked off in inches or centimeters.*

4. a certain limited quantity or amount.

   *He has given me a measure of happiness.*

5. a specific physical amount or quantity.

   *Each was given a measure of corn.*

6. (often pl.) something done to achieve an end.

   *The state government passed a new measure to curb air pollution.*

   *The school is taking new measures to prevent students from dropping out.*
7. limit.

There was no measure to his greed.

8. rhythm; pace.

music in a stately measure.

9. a rhythmic unit in music; bar.

The first melody lasts for sixteen measures and then is repeated.

**transitive verb**

1. to make exact calculations of the dimensions of (something) within time or space.

They measured the room before ordering the new carpet.

Measure the water carefully before adding it to the dry mixture.

2. to record the exact proportions of.

3. to ascertain the value, strength, or quality of by comparison with a standard.

**intransitive verb**

1. to make exact calculations of dimensions within time and space.

When I cook, I always measure; I never guess.

2. to have as a measurement.

This board measures three feet.

**Spanish cognate**

medir: The Spanish word medir means measure.

**These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:**

1. Besides snapping pictures, Libbrecht also takes careful measurements of snowflakes. Once he's collected enough data, he returns to his lab in California to review his research.

2. What do scientists (known as climatologists) look for when they study a region's climate? You are already familiar with most of the ingredients. They measure average rainfall, sunshine, winds, and temperature.

3. Dr. Nancy Krebs of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Nutrition thinks obesity report cards don't measure up. "[They're] setting kids up to feel bad about how they are," she
4. Crowds of onlookers gathered to celebrate the rebellious act. They nicknamed the event the Boston Tea Party. The British responded quickly and harshly. In 1774, they passed several measures known as the Intolerable Acts.

5. Maria wondered if they could measure the distance from the riverbank they stood on to the other shore. They put the log carefully down and decided to test the distance with a lighter, thinner branch.

6. After being chosen secretary-general, Ban spoke to the General Assembly. He said, “The true measure of success for the U.N. is not how much we promise but how much we deliver for those who need us most.”

7. To help make sure such attacks never happen again, lawmakers created the Department of Homeland Security to protect the United States and prevent national emergencies. One of the measures it took was to establish stricter security at airports.

8. Skin is the largest organ in your body. If you stretched out an adult’s skin into a flat sheet, it would cover an area of about 21 square feet. A square foot is a square whose sides each measure 1 foot.
mission  mis·sion

Definition
noun
1. a special job given to a person or group of people.

_The soldiers are on a mission to destroy the enemy base._

Advanced Definition
noun
1. a group of people sent to a foreign location to establish relations and conduct trade or do diplomatic or religious work.
2. the purpose guiding such a group of people.
3. the buildings and land used by such a group.
4. a particular task or self-imposed duty, often religious and performed with great conviction.
5. a place in a city, usu. in the poorer section, where homeless or destitute people can find help.
6. any task that one is sent to do.

Spanish cognate

misión: The Spanish word misión means mission.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Marine animal experts are on a mission. They want to save Hawaiian monk seals from becoming extinct. Extinct means "no longer existing."
2. So far, only 12 people have walked on the moon's dusty surface. Those astronauts traveled there on Apollo missions from 1969 to 1972.
3. Flying was a dangerous mission. Other people had died trying to fly. On December 17, 1903, however, the Wright brothers were ready to take their chances.
4. Before the United States and its allies invaded Europe in 1944, Americans flew bombing missions over France from bases in Great Britain. Their mission was to stop Nazi Germany during World War II (1939-1945).
5. "This last mission to Hubble was the most difficult," says scientist Ken Carpenter. "It was a success because of the hard work of the astronauts in space and workers on the ground. Now Hubble is the best it's ever been!"
6. His group's mission is to help end the war and help Congo's people regain control of their nation's resources. "The people of Congo deserve their fair share, but reform is tremendously difficult because politically the nation is so unstable," he says.
7. Greg was 15 years old, a skinny kid who seemed to get an inch taller every month and a little bit more stuck-up every day. Sandy's mission in life was to keep him from getting too big of a head. She had to make him as angry as possible, as often as possible.
**route** route

**Definition**

noun

1. a road or way of travel from one place to another.

*The bus travels the same route every day.*

**Advanced Definition**

noun

1. a way, such as a road, by which persons travel or by which goods are shipped or delivered.

*She walks to school by the same route through the neighbor's yard everyday.*

*A trade route was established very early between India and Europe.*

*The bus makes a lot stops along this route.*

2. a specific highway.

*We took route 80 all the way to New Jersey.*

3. the usual area covered or the regular stops made by a salesperson, delivery person, or the like.

*A dog bit him while he was walking his mail route.*

**transitive verb**

1. to direct by way of a route.

*That airline routes most of its flights through Philadelphia.*

**Spanish cognate**

*ruta*: The Spanish word *ruta* means route.

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**These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:**

1. In Edmonton, Alberta, public transportation is not a great option for getting around. Up until early 2013, there was only one subway that went along a single *route*, back and forth.

2. Riding the bus is hard, though, because we do not have personal control over it. The bus
travels on its set route, and it is sometimes late or slow. It doesn't run all the time, especially at night. Riding the bus makes it hard to change our plans.

3. We can see from Magellan's chilling example that the price of exploration was high. But even the threat of death didn't deter the explorers, who were motivated by grand ambitions. They thought only of the riches they might reap after opening new trade routes or the celebrity they would enjoy.

4. While in Springfield, John Brown became deeply involved in helping transform the city into a safe and significant stop on the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was a secret network of houses and routes used by black slaves in the United States to escape north to the free states and Canada.

5. This map shows the route of Amelia Earhart's final flight and the area where a team of explorers will search for her plane. The explorers will use sonar to search the ocean floor.