

Name _____ Date _____

Why Do We Remember Revere's Ride the Way We Do?



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There may not be one simple explanation as to why Paul Revere's ride has achieved such iconic status. Thinking about a number of possible reasons might help you develop a hypothesis.

Directions: Rank the following hypotheses from 1 to 9, with 1 being the most likely reason and 9 being the least likely. (Use each number once.)

- _____ Because it was an important event in the American Revolution.
- _____ Because the event occurred on the first day of combat in the American Revolution.
- _____ Because Revere showed exceptional bravery and resourcefulness.
- _____ Because Longfellow's poem became a national sensation.
- _____ Because people started telling the story aloud to their children.
- _____ Because Revere was already such a well known personality due to his support of the patriot cause as well as his fine silver work.
- _____ Because within the event were many images (for example, the Redcoats — even if Revere never actually said, "The Redcoats are coming"; "two if by sea") that have become important symbols as time has passed.
- _____ Because in 1861, at the time the poem was published, the nation had a need to hearken back to a more unified time.
- _____ Because in 1861, at the time the poem was published, few were alive who had first-hand knowledge of the event and people were nostalgic for the "good old days."

Did your top responses tend to be about the event, Revere, or Longfellow's poem and its impact?

Would you add any reasons of your own? If yes, what?
