



The Mystery on the

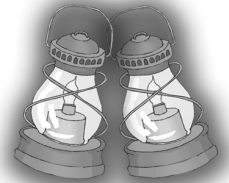
# FREEDOM TRAIL

**The Boston Marathon Mystery**

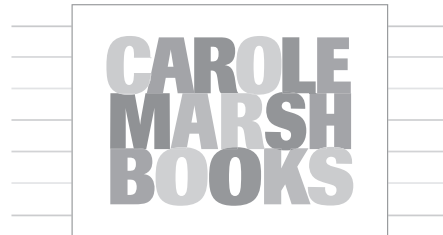
## Teacher's Guide

by

**Carole Marsh**



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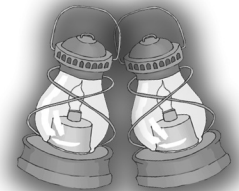
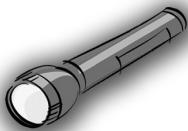
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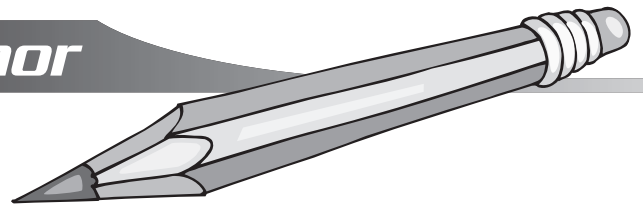
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- #1 THE MYSTERY OF BILTMORE HOUSE
  - #2 THE MYSTERY ON THE FREEDOM TRAIL
  - #3 THE MYSTERY OF BLACKBEARD THE PIRATE
  - #4 THE MYSTERY OF THE ALAMO GHOST
  - #5 THE MYSTERY ON THE CALIFORNIA MISSION TRAIL
  - #6 THE MYSTERY OF THE CHICAGO DINOSAURS
  - #7 THE WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS MYSTERY
  - #8 THE MYSTERY ON ALASKA'S IDITAROD TRAIL
  - #9 THE MYSTERY AT KILL DEVIL HILLS
  - #10 THE MYSTERY IN NEW YORK CITY
  - #11 THE MYSTERY AT DISNEY WORLD
  - #12 THE MYSTERY ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
  - #13 THE MYSTERY IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS
  - #14 THE MYSTERY ON THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI
  - #15 THE MYSTERY AT THE KENTUCKY DERBY
  - #16 THE GHOST OF THE GRAND CANYON



## A Word from the Author



### Dear Teachers,

In 1979, I began writing children's mysteries set at historic sites that still existed—primarily so that kids could go and see what they had read about. Frankly, I found no more fun, educational, and stress-free (actually, just plain joyful!) activity to do with my then school-age children than to visit a fascinating historic site!

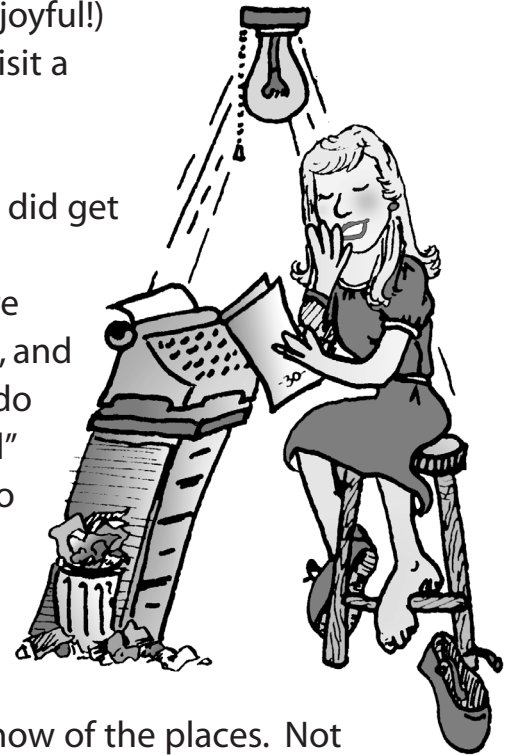
Everyone always says, "I went to Boston, but I never did get to walk the Freedom Trail." Even some people who *live* in Boston will confess that they have never walked the entire historical trail. But one day we found ourselves in Boston, and we did "take the walk." It was magical. Everyone should do this once! I hope kids can at least "walk the Freedom Trail" along with the mystery book characters. But if you can go – then go!

Yes, Boston's Freedom Trail is a tourist attraction, but it's also one gigantic history lesson. At every site, I tried to introduce the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the places. Not only has it been surprising to me how fascinated the kids are in real life, but it is amazing to also witness the depth of their interest. The first set of these magical experiences eventually transcended into a lifelong ongoing connection between me and my children.

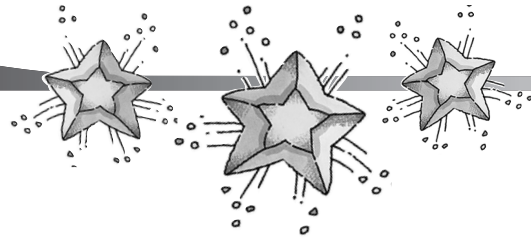
We learned a lot, but what we learned best is that kids and adults can learn together. Reading and going and seeing and doing is what education is all about, and most especially, that "adopting" a subject or place leads to a lifelong interest in an era, a place, the people, and all the fascinating facts that made up their lives. We learned that history is still "living" and is not lost on kids! In fact, it is quite a revelation!

Enjoy your Freedom Trail mystery and studies,

*Carole Marsh*



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The Mystery on the  
**FREEDOM  
TRAIL**  
The Boston Marathon Mystery

**30** YEARS  
AGO . . .

As a mother and an author, one of the fondest periods of my life was when I decided to write mystery books for children. At this time (1979) kids were pretty much glued to the TV, something parents and teachers complained about the way they do about video games today.

I decided to set each mystery in a real place—a place kids could go and visit for themselves after reading the book. And I also used real children as characters. Usually a couple of my own children served as characters, and I had no trouble recruiting kids from the book's location to also be characters.

Also, I wanted all the kids—boys and girls of all ages—to participate in solving the mystery. And, I wanted kids to learn something as they read. Something about the history of the location. And I wanted the stories to be funny.

That formula of real+scary+smart+fun served me well. I had a great time visiting each site and many of the events in the stories actually came out of my experiences there. For example, we really did race down Boston's Freedom Trail, which was really long, exhausting, fun, and spooky at dusk in those graveyards!

I love getting letters from teachers and parents who say they read the book with their class or child, then visited the historic site and saw all the places in the mystery for themselves. What's so great about that? What's great is that you and your children have an experience that bonds you together forever. Something you shared. Something you both cared about at the time. Something that crossed all age levels—a good story, a good scare, a good laugh!

30 years later,

*Carole Marsh*



## Boston Information

If you and your children/students would like to visit Boston or walk the Freedom Trail, spring or fall is the best time. Cities are always boiling in the summer, and winter would definitely require a heavy coat and mittens!

For maximum impact and enjoyment, read *The Mystery on the Freedom Trail* first, complete these activities with your students, and then arm them with copies of the "Boston Marathon Scavenger Hunt" and stroll the Freedom Trail.

Afterwards, back home or in the classroom, ask students how what they saw compared with what they read and learned about Boston, the Freedom Trail, and American history. You might be pleasantly surprised!

For additional information, contact:  
Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau  
1-888-SEE-BOSTON

Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4510  
Boston, MA 02116  
Phone: (617) 973-8500  
Toll-free: (800) 227-MASS (U.S. & Canada)  
Fax: (617) 973-8525

Web Sites:  
[www.cityofboston.gov/freedomtrail](http://www.cityofboston.gov/freedomtrail)  
[www.bostonusa.com](http://www.bostonusa.com)  
[www.bostonmarathon.org](http://www.bostonmarathon.org)  
[www.cityofboston.gov/mayor/spevents](http://www.cityofboston.gov/mayor/spevents)

**Chapter Subject**

**EXPLORE!**

Table of Contents Writing



Does the Table of Contents make you want to read the story? How? Which words do you think the author chose to specifically appeal to you, the reader. Remember that even a “Table of Contents” must be written in drafts that are edited and revised! Would you change anything?

1 Geography

Where is Peachtree City, Georgia? Can you find it on the map? What major southern city is located closest to Peachtree City? Where is Boston, Massachusetts? Can you find it on the map? How many states border Massachusetts? Can you name them?

1 History

When is Patriot’s Day? Why does Massachusetts celebrate this holiday? What happened on this day? How can our class celebrate Patriot’s Day?

2 Life

Have you ever taken an airplane ride to another place? Were you nervous? What did you bring with you? What would you pack differently if you were going to Boston, Disney World, Paris, the Sahara Desert, the North Pole, the Andes Mountains, or a sleepover down the street? How would you pack differently if your trip lasted one day or thirty days?



3 Airports

How many people does Logan International Airport serve each year? Where could you find that information? Which airlines fly out of Logan? Why did Christina think that it would not be a good idea for Grant to ride on the conveyor belt with the luggage at the airport?

3 Government

What is the “Big Dig” in Boston? How many years have workers been digging to build another tunnel



## The Star Spangled Banner

*The original Star Spangled Banner was the inspiration for the song written by Francis Scott Key that has become our national anthem.*

**Who made the flag?**

Mrs. Mary Young Pickersgill and her daughter, Mrs. Caroline Purdy

**When was it made?**

July and August 1813

**Where was it made?**

Baltimore, Maryland

**How was it made?**

By hand sewn with linen thread

**Who paid for the work?**

The United States Government. Commodore Joshua Barney and General John Stricker of the Maryland Militia asked Mrs. Pickersgill to make the flag.

**How much did it cost?**

\$405.90

**How big was the flag?**

30 by 42 feet! The stars were two feet in diameter, the blue union was 16 by 20 feet, and the stripes were each two feet wide!

**How much fabric did it take?**

Four hundred yards of first quality single-ply 18-inch woolen bunting

**Where did the flag fly?**

Over Fort McHenry during the British siege in the War of 1812

**How many stars and stripes did it have?**

Fifteen stars and fifteen stripes one for each state at the time

**Where is the flag now?**

Being restored at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.



3 Money



and more roads? Why did they decide to start this project? What major problem will the project's completion help solve in Boston?

Do you know how to pay the bill in a restaurant? Order from the menu options [write on the board]. Add state tax plus at least 15 percent gratuity! If you pay with a \$20 bill, what change are you due? What about if you paid with a \$10, \$50, or \$100 bill?

4 Food

How many different kinds of food does the ocean provide? Thousands! Maybe millions! How many can you name? What would you order if you could eat at the Legal Sea Foods restaurant? Don't be picky! Try something new! What kinds of Southern foods do the characters mention? Which of them have you tried? Which of them would you *like* to try?

4 Geography

Where does the Boston Marathon begin? How far away is Hopkinton from Boston? Would you want to live there? Why?

4 Physical Fitness



How does one qualify for the Boston Marathon? Would you want to run a marathon, half-marathon, 5K, or some other race? Maybe a three-legged race? Why should you always stay physically fit? How can you do that? What kind of equipment is necessary to run in a race?

5 History

What anecdotes can you remember about the Boston Marathon? What is an anecdote? What other history can you research about marathons?

5 Writing

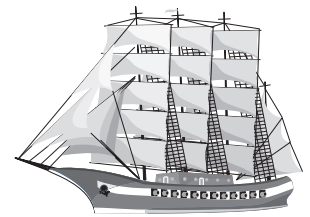
What does Grant see lurking in the bushes? Why do you think the author wrote this part? Hint: She used a writing technique called "foreshadowing" to spark curiosity about future pages.



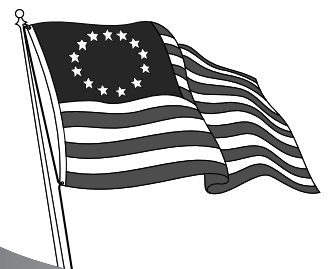
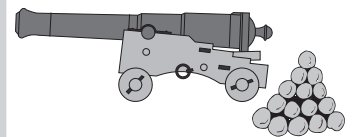
## The USS Constitution

The huge frigate *USS Constitution* is the oldest commissioned warship still afloat in the world. (You can't keep a good ship drydocked!)

Both the vessel and the document for which she was named are lasting symbols of America's strength, courage, and liberty!



During the War of 1812, a British soldier is said to have seen cannon balls bouncing off the side of the *Constitution*. He shouted, "Huzzah! Her sides are made of iron!" After that, her nickname became "Old Ironsides."





6 Marathons Why will Priscilla probably not win the Boston Marathon? How many people usually run in this race? Research who holds current world records for the Boston Marathon race! [Teachers, check out page 23 for the records.]

6 History When was the first Boston Marathon? What was life like during that time? Who ran during the first modern Olympic Greek marathon? How were the early runners treated? How are runners treated differently in today's races? [Discuss prize money.]

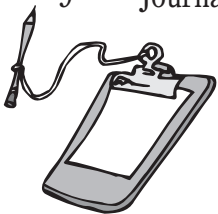


7 Writing How did you feel when Priscilla suddenly disappeared? Why do you think it happened in a crowd? What words did the author use to describe how the kids felt? What is the first clue that the kids find? Where is it found? What color is it?

8 Life Who helps the kids find the first clue? What do you think it says? What do you think they should do next? Should they call the police, find their parents, report to the officials, or solve the mystery themselves?

9 Writing Why don't the race officials believe the kids or try to help them find Priscilla? Where is the first place that the kids visit? What is the second clue? What message does it bring? How do the kids get to City Hall?

9 Journalism What is the *Boston Herald*? Which other major newspaper does it compete with for readers in Boston? Which one would you read? Why? How long has each newspaper been publishing issues for the city of Boston?



9 Vocabulary What does the word "braggadocio" mean? Is it a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb? How is it used in

## The Bunker Hill Monument

The Bunker Hill Monument is a granite obelisk located in Monument Square at Breed's Hill. Bunker Hill lies about 300 yards (274 meters) to the north of the obelisk.

The monument was dedicated in 1843. It was erected to honor the patriots who died at the Battle of Bunker Hill. This was a battle waged against the British during the American Revolution in 1775. The structure is 221 feet (67 meters) in height. There are 294 stone steps that lead to the top of the monument. The top allows for an excellent view of the surrounding area.

The Bunker Hill Monument was the first of its kind to be built with public donations. It was the tallest monument in the country until 1885 when the Washington Monument was completed in Washington, D.C.



the sentence? Can you figure out the word's meaning from the context of the paragraph? What language do you think this word came from originally?

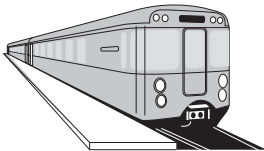
- 10 Marathons Lots of runners wear crazy shirts to a race. If you were running in a race, what shirt would you decide to wear? What colors would you wear? [Design a tee shirt.]

- 10 History What is America's oldest public park? How big is Boston Common? Where is it? Research the history behind this park? Would you want to bring a picnic to Boston Common? What would you pack in your picnic basket? What activities would you want to do at the park? Where is your favorite park? What details make it your favorite?



- 10 Writing How do the kids find their third clue? What is it, and what does it say? What would you do next?

- 11 Travel What is the "T" in Boston? What are all the different ways you can travel on the public transportation system? Washington, D.C. uses the METRO, Atlanta uses MARTA, and Philadelphia uses SEPTA. Each name represents a major transportation organization.



- 11 Vocabulary What is a "red herring"? Why do you think that name is used to signify a false clue? Can you think of other words that could say the same thing?

- 11 History What is the Freedom Trail, and how long is it? How many historic sites are featured on the trail? What is the first stop on the Freedom Trail? Who gave a speech at the third stop? What do the kids find at the fourth stop? What does the fourth clue say? What do the words suggest about Priscilla?



## Land Ho!

Some of the first colonists who arrived in the New World in 1620 on the Mayflower were hoping to start a new life where they could practice religious freedom. Others were immigrants who hoped to find treasure and eventually go back to England.

William Bradford, who was the governor of Plymouth Colony, called them Pilgrims.

The Mayflower Compact was the first form of government to be established in the New World. The first winter was very difficult for the Pilgrims. The cold and food shortages caused about half of them to die. But by 1627 the colony was established and able to survive.

The Massachusetts Bay Colony was founded when John Winthrop came with 1,000 Puritans in 1630. The Puritans did not wish to leave the Church of England, but they did want to change some of its practices. Those who lived in this colony had to follow strict religious rules.

Eventually the Bay Colony absorbed many of the earlier settlements to form what was known as the British Colony of Massachusetts.



12 Reading



Do you like to hang out in bookstores? What is your favorite book? What is your favorite *kind* of book to read? Mysteries, poetry, history, comic books, or something else? Who is your favorite author? Do you write stories or keep a diary? [Write Chapter 21 for this mystery.]

12 Food

Where do the kids stop for lunch? Would you want to stop there? What do they buy to eat? What would you choose to eat if you were visiting Boston?

12 Logic

How do the kids work together to find out where to go next on their search? Does using good communication skills help them find the fifth clue? Where do they find the clue, and what does it tell them?

13 History

Who was Paul Revere, and why is he famous? What special skill did he use to earn his living? Who do the kids encounter in the Paul Revere House?

13 History



When was the Old North Church built? What was this building used for in the early American history? What is the North Church's connection with Paul Revere? How do the kids find the sixth clue? What does it say? How does this clue make you feel? What do you think they should do next?

14 Vocabulary

What is a steeple? Why do church buildings have steeples? Research the history behind steeples to find out! What other things do the kids find in the church building? What are churches used for today?

14 Writing

Which words does the author use to tell the reader about time at this point in the mystery? What other places does the author indicate time in the book? What other words can you think of to indicate time?

## Colonists Angry with British Taxation

Some settlers in the New World felt that England ignored their ideas and concerns, especially about taxation. Massachusetts was the center for rebellion against the British Parliament who continued to tax the colonies to pay off British war debts. The colonies were opposed to this practice. In 1770 Boston patriots rioted.

During the Boston Massacre, five citizens were killed by British soldiers who fired into the crowd. This further enraged the colonists. To calm them, Britain repealed the Townshend Acts. But in 1773, Britain imposed a Tea Act on the colonies.

Then a group in Boston, dressed as Native Americans, boarded the ship carrying the first tea shipment from England and dumped it all in the sea. Boston Harbor was closed, people were required to house British soldiers in their homes, and the Massachusetts charter was revoked.

In 1775, the colonies declared war against England. The first American Revolution battles were fought in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. On July 4, 1776, the founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence.



14 History



What site do the kids visit after the Old North Church? Who was buried in Copp's Burying Ground? Don't forget the pirates! Where do the sleuths go next, and how do they get there? Would you ride on a Duck? What does the word "amphibious" mean?

14 Ethics

What message are the older boys communicating to Grant when they poke fun at his misunderstanding? What is Grant's reaction to their laughter? Why do you think they did this? How would this treatment make you feel? What would you do differently?

15 History

What can you remember about the *USS Constitution*? Where does it sit? How old is it? What was it used for and when? In which war did it serve?

15 Vocabulary

What is an obelisk? Can you think of another famous obelisk monument? What historic event does the Bunker Hill Monument commemorate?

15 Logic



Read the last clue. What word helps Christina to think of the right place to search next? How does Christina's leadership help move the kids from place to place? How does she motivate them all? Everyone plays an important role in a team. What roles do the other kids play on the sleuthing team?

16 Logic

What do the kids do after finding the last clue? Where do you think they will go next? Who helps them get to Boston Common?

16 Linguistics

Everyone speaks with some kind of accent, or vocal inflection that is different from everyone else. Why can't the taxicab driver understand Christina's request? What makes him understand Derian's request? What kind of accent do Grant and Christina have? What kind of accent do Derian and C.F. have? What kind of accent do you have?



## Massachusetts Schools Rule!

America's first college was Harvard



University, founded in 1636 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the nation's top science and engineering schools, is also located in Cambridge.

The state's largest university system is the University of Massachusetts. Its main campus lies in Amherst. Amherst College and Hampshire College are in the same town.

Smith College in Northampton was founded for women in 1875. Williams College in Williamstown was named for Colonel Ephraim Williams who left in his will a bequest to found the town and a free school.

There are about 120 colleges and universities in Massachusetts. More than half of them are private institutions.

16 Logic Why do you think Christina decided it was safe to talk about the mystery details even though the cabbie could hear? Would you have done that? Why?

17 Writing How does the author describe Boston Common? What adjectives does she use? How big is the park? Does her description make you want to visit? Can you envision what your day would be like just from reading this book? What special memories does Christina think about in the park? Describe them in a paragraph. Use your own words.



17 Logic Why does Christina think she knows where Priscilla is? Do you agree with her guess, or do you have another idea about her location? What is your best hypothesis at this point in the book about how the mystery will end? How do you want the book to end?

18 Logic How do the kids find Priscilla? Where do the kids find Priscilla? Make a list of all the details they know so far about what has happened to Priscilla.

18 Safety What happens right after the kids find Priscilla? What should you do in a situation with an armed assailant? What would you do? What does Grant decide to do? How does his gift from Uncle Mike “come in handy?”

18 Logic How are the kids saved? Who keeps the kids from getting hurt? How did the cabbie know what to tell the police officer? Was Christina wise to talk about the mystery case in the taxicab after all? Maybe!

19 Criminal Justice What happens to the kidnapper after the police arrive? What do you think would happen if the police officer didn’t rescue the kids? What decision do you think the judge will make about the



## The Original Massachusetts Natives

The tribes that inhabited Massachusetts were Algonquian-speaking: the Wampanoag, Nauset, Massachuset, Nipmuc, Pocumtuc, Pennacook, and Mahican. They were primarily farmers and hunters. Each tribe lived in different sections of the state.

Women had important roles in their society. When a young man married, he went to live with his bride’s family. An Algonquin’s ancestry was traced through his mother’s side of the family rather than through his father’s family. Women owned the land.

Algonquian’s mainly raised corn and beans. Legend has it that a crow from the Great Father in the southwest brought them a kernel of corn and a bean seed with which to start their garden. They also grew pumpkins and squash.

The Indians of Massachusetts could not have known that the European exodus would mean an end to the way of life they had known for hundreds of years.



kidnapper? What decision would you make?

- 19 Psychology Do you think Priscilla did the right thing by requiring the kidnapper's son to repeat a grade? Why do you think her offer of free tutoring wasn't enough for him? What do you think the kidnapper really wants? What do you think his son wants?
- 19 Relationships Who shows up next on the scene? Why do you think Papa, Grandmother Mimi, Aunt Emma, and Uncle Fritz are so worried and upset? What is their first reaction? What would you do if your kids ran off to solve a mystery, and you couldn't find them?
- 20 Relationships Where are the sleuths going next in Uncle Fritz's SUV? Why do you think he wanted Priscilla to "finish" the race by crossing the finish line? Do you think that was important? How do you think Priscilla felt about missing the race? Would you want to finish the race if you were Priscilla?



- 20 Writing How does the author end the mystery? Are you satisfied with the ending, or would you write another one? Are there any other changes you would make to the story? Sounds like it might be time for you to write your own mystery!

Be sure and read Carole Marsh Mystery #3:  
*The Mystery of Blackbeard the Pirate!*



## In the Beginning, There Were Explorers!

The first explorers to visit Massachusetts may have been the Vikings in about the year 1000. In 1498, English explorer John Cabot investigated the coast of Massachusetts while looking for a route to Asia. Giovanni da Verazzano, an Italian explorer sailing under the French flag, traced the coastline. In 1602 English captain Bartholomew Gosnold arrived in the area. He named Cape Cod for all the codfish he found.

Between 1603–1609 other explorers who came to investigate the region were: Adriaen Block, Samuel de Champlain, Henry Hudson, Martin Pring, and George Weymouth.

In 1614, Captain John Smith of England, mapped the Massachusetts Bay area. He named many of its places. He described Massachusetts as a paradise in his book, *A Description of New England*.



# Discussion Questions

- ❖ Boston is a city full of history and mystery. Where do you live? What kind of history and mystery can you find in your own town or city? What about your family history? Can you share any photographs with the class?
- ❖ If you could add a site to the Freedom Trail, what would it be? Would it be the home of a famous historical figure? A valiant military museum? Where would your new site be? Tell the story of this unique place.
- ❖ What is historical fiction? Is *The Mystery on the Freedom Trail* an example of historical fiction? If not, what is the difference? Does reading about history and people within the context of a fiction story make the information more interesting? How can you use very specific facts and figures to make your own writing more interesting?
- ❖ There are several colorful characters in *The Mystery on the Freedom Trail* book. What's your favorite character? Why? What makes you identify with that special character? Which character makes you laugh the most? Irritates you the most? Excites you the most? Sparks your interest the most? Which character do you most admire or want to be like? If you added a character of your own, what would he or she be like?
- ❖ If you were in charge of the Boston Marathon, what changes would you make? How would you improve this internationally popular sporting event? Who would you ask to advertise? Which media outlets would you want to cover the event? What kinds of prizes would you want to give the winners?
- ❖ What do you think would be the most interesting way to study the Boston Marathon? Do you think it would be through an encyclopedia, a non-fiction book, a mystery book, a fiction book, a poem, historic letters, seminars, physical education classes, or a site visitation? Discuss various approaches to learning about any subject. What do history, geography, economics, science, language, and mathematics have to do with one another in the context of learning about a specific subject?



## Early Boston History

**1621** – Pilgrims and Native Americans celebrate the first Thanksgiving together.

**1630** – Puritans found Massachusetts Bay Colony and claim Boston as their “City on a Hill” under the leadership of John Winthrop and others.

**1635** – Boston Latin School, first U.S. public school, opens for students.

**1636** – Harvard College is founded in Cambridge.

**1686** – First colonial commercial bank opens in Boston.

**1690** – Boston features the first published newspaper in America (the publication is later banned).

**1716** – Workers construct Boston Light, America’s oldest lighthouse, in Boston Harbor.

**1765** – Stamp Act leads to Boston riots and formation of the Sons of Liberty.

**1770** – Crispus Attucks is the first casualty of the American Revolution during the Boston Massacre.

**1773** – Angry patriots dump three shiploads of tea into Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party.

**1774** – Minute Men militia forms from bands of determined patriots.

**1775** – Lexington and Concord battles spark the American Revolution.

**1776** – Colonies formally declare their independence!



# Geography: Find It!

1. Draw a simple map of Boston and color it. Label a few major landmarks, bodies of water, historical sites, tunnels and roads.
2. Look at a map of Massachusetts. Find Boston. How large do you think the city is? Can you find Hopkinton on the map? Are you surprised at the size of the state or the city? What other cities do you recognize?
3. Look at a map of all 50 states in America. Compare Massachusetts with the other 49 states. Is it much bigger or much smaller than most of the other states? What makes it unique among the other states? Would you want to live there? Why? Where would you want to live in Massachusetts?
4. Draw a map of Massachusetts. Label all the major cities. Label the major waterways and bodies of water. Research a little deeper, and label where the state's main industries are located.



## Create a 3-D Freedom Trail!

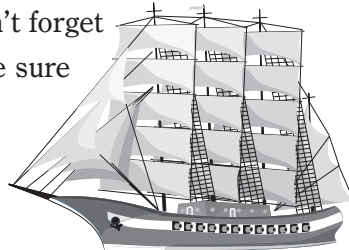
First sketch out the trail on graph paper. Ask students to collect various small objects like spools, straws, ribbon, pipe cleaners, game pieces, fake flowers, shoelaces, buttons, cardboard, old dollhouse pieces, grass, etc. Nearly anything will work!

Surround cardboard houses with whitewashed popsicle stick fences and flowers. Paper, foam, magazine cutouts, and newspaper can also be used. Wide gray ribbon and narrow yellow ribbon makes a great road. Crinkled brown paper strips make a good dirt path. Tiny toy people and animals from long-forgotten game sets (think garage sale!) add life to your scene.

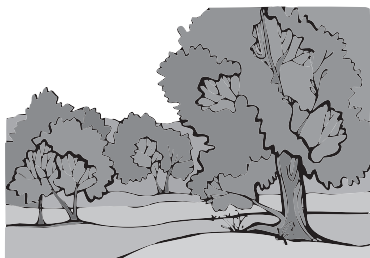
You could also make the course edible! Use shredded wheat for roofs, broccoli for forests of trees, Necco wafers for monuments, and blue Jell-O for a colorful harbor with gummy fish! Invite another class over to demolish the project in a grand feast of fun!



5. Construct a map of the Freedom Trail in Boston. Label all the historic sites, including churches and monuments. Don't forget the *USS Constitution* floating in the harbor! Be sure to label the streets where the sites are located. Draw pictures of the sites as well, and use bright colors!



6. Make a list of the geographical benefits that the state of Massachusetts could provide for your family. Perhaps the beautiful beaches are your favorite part of the state. What geographical benefits could the city of Boston offer? What disadvantages would there be to living in Boston, Massachusetts, or New England? Perhaps the cold! Christina and Grant were probably happy to get back to the warm Georgia sun after racing through their mystery course in chilly Boston!





1. If the first Boston Marathon was held on April 19, 1897, then how many races will have been completed before 2003?
2. There are 30,000 runners in the Boston Marathon, and 6,700 runners have decided to carry a water bottle with them. How many runners are NOT carrying a water bottle?
3. One mile equals 5,280 feet. The Boston Marathon (or any full marathon) covers 26 miles. How many feet will the runners cover?
4. 25,000 runners sign up for the Boston Marathon online. 9,000 runners sign up for the race by the deadline. 400 runners sign up right before the race day. How many total runners are signed up for the marathon?
5. There are 24 relief stations on the marathon course and 360 relief volunteers. How many workers can volunteer at each station if each station has an equal number of workers?
6. If there are 20,000 total runners and 4,300 runners drop out before crossing the finish line, then how many runners will finish the race?
7. Starting in 1897, the Boston Marathon was originally held every Patriot's Day on April 19. In 1969, the holiday was changed to the third Monday in April. How many races were held before the holiday was changed?
8. If 2,900 runners finish the 26-mile Boston Marathon, how many total miles has the group run?
9. 106 Boston Marathons have been held between 1897 to 2002. How many miles did all of those marathons include?
10. If there are 30,000 able-bodied runners poised on the Boston Marathon starting line, how many shoes are about to participate in the race?

**HINT:**  
Remember that a  
marathon is 26  
miles!



## Boston Marathon Trivia!

- The first Boston Marathon was held on Patriots' Day, which was celebrated April 19, 1897.
- In 2002, more than 1,100 members of the media from more than 250 outlets helped cover the Boston Marathon.
- The Boston Marathon was the first major marathon to add a wheelchair division to the race competition. In 1975, Bob Hall became the first recognized wheelchair competitor in the Boston Marathon.
- John A. Kelley won his first Boston Marathon in 1935 and later started a record 61 more Boston Marathons (he finished 58 races). He was 84 when he completed his last race!
- In 1967, Katherine Switzer became the first woman to officially enter and compete in the Boston Marathon.
- The Boston Marathon course is actually 26.2 miles long.



# English: Write It!

1. Write five other possible titles for *The Mystery on the Freedom Trail*.
2. Write a poem about the Boston Marathon. It can be serious or silly!
3. Write about the thoughts that you could envision going through a Boston Marathon runner's head at the 21<sup>st</sup> mile.

4. Write ten clever epitaphs (tombstone inscriptions) that you might find on ancient graves in Copp's Hill Burying Ground. Write your own epitaph! Don't be toooo spooooky!

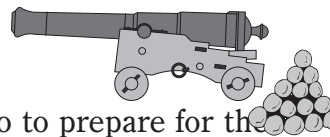


5. Pretend you are the road that runners pound across during the Boston Marathon each year. How does it make you feel? Squashed? Proud? Hurt? Challenged? Write a highly opinionated letter to the editor from the road's perspective to the *Boston Herald* or the *Boston Globe*.

6. Read the last chapter again. Write a new ending to the mystery.

7. Write down ten titles for new mystery books. Include a list of possible characters and chapter headings. Write the first and last sentences. Send us your best titles! We might write another mystery based on your idea! So might you!

8. Write an ode to the *USS Constitution*.



9. Write a list of eight things a runner should do to prepare for the race. Write a list of five things that a runner needs to bring to a marathon.

10. Write three facts about each historical landmark on the Freedom Trail on index cards. Draw a simple map of the trail, complete with landmark pictures, and correctly position the cards.



## The Power of the Pen!

Massachusetts is home to some of America's most famous authors and poets. The 1800s were an important period for American literature.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, born in 1803 in Boston, was an essayist and poet. His transcendental philosophy greatly influenced many people. In 1804, Nathaniel Hawthorne was born in Salem. This novelist wrote about Puritan life. John Greenleaf Whittier was a poet who recounted his boyhood and life in the colonies in his writing. He was born in Haverhill in 1807. Henry David Thoreau was born in 1817 in Concord. He was an essayist, philosopher, poet, and naturalist.

Emily Dickinson was one of America's finest poets. She was born in Amherst in 1830. Louisa May Alcott, who was born in 1832 and grew up in Boston, wrote *Little Women*. Poet Amy Lowell wrote mostly free verse. She was born in Brookline in 1874. All of these famous authors and poets have given us writing that continues to be read and enjoyed today.

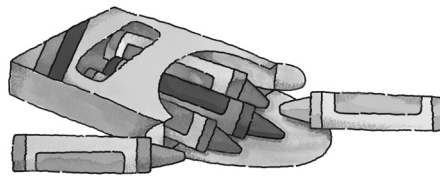


# Art: Create It!

1. Create a colorful race map of the Boston Marathon course from Hopkinton to the finish line. Use lots of pictures. Be sure to include exhausted runners, rest stations, poised medics, observant judges, cheering crowds, and a gleaming trophy at the finish line!
2. Design and color several swan boats on the Lagoon.
3. Design a new cover for *The Mystery on the Freedom Trail*.



4. Sketch portraits of each main character: Christina, Grant, Derian, C.F., Priscilla, Uncle Fritz, Aunt Emma, Papa, and Grandmother Mimi. (We'd love to see the them!)



5. Draw a scene of exhausted runners stumbling across the finish line in the Boston Marathon.

6. Cut out a tombstone from piece of gray construction paper and write a mysterious epitaph on it for a patriotic figure. You could also make one up for yourself!



7. Create a shadow box of the main sanctuary in Kings Chapel.

8. Draw a beautiful outdoor public park, such as the Boston Common. Add lots of detail.



9. Draw and color a bunch of lobsters trying to escape the Legal Sea Foods restaurant by the shell of their claws!

10. Construct a three-dimensional reproduction of the Charlestown Navy Yard with cotton ball clouds, toothpick boats, Beacon Hill, even Old Ironsides!



## The Exciting Life of Paul Revere!

- The Revere family traveled to America in search of religious freedom. In 1734 Paul Revere was born in Boston, the capital city of Massachusetts. He shared a home with many brothers and sisters and was the oldest surviving son.

- Paul Revere attended the North Writing School in Boston. He learned to work with gold and silver during an apprenticeship with his father, who was a silversmith. When Paul was just 19 years old, his father died.

- Paul Revere married Sarah Orne in 1757. They raised eight children. Sarah died in 1773, so Paul married Rachel Walker and raised eight more children with her.

- Paul Revere worked as a silversmith and goldsmith for more than 40 years. "Revereware" is a type of metalware still sold today, and some of the bells that Paul Revere made still ring in New England churches! He also engraved copper plates, illustrated books and magazines, drew political cartoons, and designed business cards.



(continued)

## Comprehension: Read It!

Read through excerpts of these books, magazines, and websites to learn more about Boston, the Freedom Trail, and the Boston Marathon.

- *Runners World* is the top running magazine in the world, mostly because of its high editorial quality and the fact that the editors are actually runners! The magazine's website [www.runnersworld.com](http://www.runnersworld.com) provides runners with the latest information about competition, product comparisons, insightful articles, and lots of tips. The magazine's executive editor Amby Burfoot won the Boston Marathon on April 19, 1968 with a time of 2:22:17!
- Pick up some Boston travel guides from your local library. Ask each child to research and read about a monument, building, festival, historic site, or something else of interest in the city. Assign each child to either write or speak about why someone might want to visit or experience that attraction.
- A quick stop to <http://www.bostonmarathon.org> will provide lots of marathon information like trivia, history, qualifications, champion statistics, and even how to get kids involved in their own marathon! Is your class up to the challenge?
- Visit [www.cityofboston.gov/freedomtrail](http://www.cityofboston.gov/freedomtrail) to find detailed descriptions for each site on the Freedom Trail in Boston. See the pictures, read the descriptions, and research more about the different historical places.
- Read historical anecdotes from *The Boston Marathon: The History of the World's Premier Running Event* book. Author Tom Derderian includes stories that kids can relate to and triumphs that will inspire anyone.

*"You have to forget your last marathon before you try another. Your mind can't know what's coming."*  
- Frank Shorter



## The Exciting Life of Paul Revere!

(continued)

- Paul Revere was a leader in the Sons of Liberty. He helped throw tea into the Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party to protest British taxation.

- In April of 1775, Paul began his famous midnight ride. He heard that the British troops planned to arrest patriots John Hancock and Samuel Adams. Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Dr. Samuel Prescott were sent to warn them, each traveling a different route in case they were caught.

- Before leaving Boston, Paul set up a "signal" in case he was late. The "signal" was a lantern hung in the belltower of Christ Church - one if the British were coming by land, two if the British were coming by water. He warned the patriots just in time, but was caught by the British on the way to Concord. The British threatened and questioned him, but Paul Revere was soon released.

- Later, Paul Revere continued to fight for freedom with the colonists. He designed and printed the first Continental money and made the first official seal for the colonies. Paul Revere retired at age 76 and died in 1818.

# Science: Water It!

*Explain to kids that Boston became a great city in part because of its profitable coastline. Then perform a simple experiment that highlights the water cycle in an easy-to-understand fashion.*

**Lesson:** Boston is a port city because of its big harbor. It grew because of the industry surrounding the harbor. Big ships traveled from many foreign countries and up the East Coast to trade cargo. The water was an important part of Boston and still is today!

Water is very restless. It cannot remain in one place, but constantly moves through one big cycle. When it rains or snows, we are not watching new water appear. We see the same water in a changed form. Learn about the “Water Cycle” with this easy experiment!

## Materials:

pitcher, large bowl, water, clear plastic wrap, cup, string

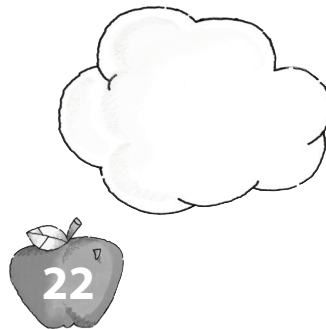
## Procedure:

1. Fill a bowl about a quarter full with water.
2. Place the bowl outside directly in the sun.
3. Set an empty cup in the middle of the bowl.
4. Cover the bowl tightly with plastic wrap.
5. Seal the bowl tightly by tying string around the top rim.
6. Leave the bowl to sit in sun and see what happens!







## Results:

Direct heat from the sun will cause the water in the bowl to evaporate into vapor. The water will then rise to the top of the bowl and condense on the clear plastic wrap. These droplets will clump together. As they become heavy, the clumps will fall into the bowl and the cup like raindrops!

*Stages in Water Cycle:  
Evaporation  
Condensation  
Precipitation*













## Fun Places to Visit in Boston!

- Boston Common
- Park Street Church and Granary Burying Ground 
- Beacon Hill
- Children's Museum
- Rose Kennedy Rose Garden
- New England Aquarium
- Quincy Market 
- Faneuil Hall
- Trinity Church 
- Hatch Shell
- Massachusetts State House
- Boston Public Gardens
- Kings Chapel and Chapel Burying Ground 
- First Public School Site and Ben Franklin Statue
- Former site of the Old Corner Bookstore
- Old South Meeting House
- Festival of the Tall Ships
- Old State House
- Paul Revere House
- Old North Church (Christ Church) 
- Copp's Hill Burying Ground
- USS Constitution and Charlestown Navy Yard
- Bunker Hill Monument
- Museum of Science
- Fenway Park
- Boston Tea Party Exhibit 

# Training for a Marathon

Training for a marathon isn't easy. Thousands of people around the world run in marathons just to qualify for the Boston Marathon. It is important to make time for exercise each week to keep your body fit. With a body that's physically fit, you are able to do more fun things . . . like ride a bike, hike a mountain, play soccer, join a softball team, rollerblade, or even run a marathon! If you decided to compete in the Boston Marathon, what would you have to do to make it happen? Marathons are hard and exhausting, but they can still be fun!

Consider these important questions:

-  How would you prepare physically to start training for a race?
-  What would your running schedule look like?
-  How would you motivate yourself?
-  Do you think you could finish the race?
-  Would you want to run it again?
-  How would you pace yourself?
-  Would you want to run alone or with a partner?
-  What special charity or cause could you earn money for while running?
-  How fast do you think you could run the marathon?
-  What would your final time be?



## Boston Marathon Fast Facts!

- The Boston Marathon is the world's oldest annual marathon!
- The Boston Marathon is the most widely viewed sporting event in New England with around approximately 500,000 spectators on site at the course.
- Charity programs raise millions of dollars for several causes through the Boston Marathon program; runners are estimated to raise around \$7 million in 2003.
- As of 2002, runners have participated in 106 Boston Marathons.
- The Boston Marathon started to award prize money for winners and course records in 1986; more than \$8 million has been awarded so far.
- 38,708 runners officially participated in the 1996 Boston Marathon. This event set a Guinness World Record for the largest number of entrants in a single race during the sport's history. Wow!

### **BOSTON MARATHON WORLD RECORDS (AS OF 2002)**

*Men's Open:* .....Cosmas Ndeti (Kenya), 2:07:15, 1994  
*Women's Open:* .....Margaret Okayo (Kenya), 2:20:43, 2002  
*Men's Masters:* .....John Campbell (New Zealand), 2:11:04, 1990  
*Women's Masters:* .....Firaya Sultanova-Zhdanova (Russia), 2:27:58, 2002  
*Men's Wheelchair:* .....Heinz Frei (Switzerland), 1:21:23, 1994  
*Women's Wheelchair:* .....Jean Driscoll (United States), 1:34:22, 1994



# *The Mystery on the Freedom Trail*

## *Cross-out*



One of the most famous buildings in Boston is Christ Church, popularly known as the Old North Church. Paul Revere and William Dawes waited to see the lantern(s) hung from the steeple before riding to warn the colonists that the British were about to attack. One lantern was to be lit and hung if the British were coming to attack by land. Two lanterns lit meant that the British would be attacking by sea.

The church is a Georgian-style brick building that was built in 1723. That was fifty-two years before the lantern was used as a signal. The church has continued to be used for worship since that time. Inside the church is an organ adorned with cherubs and tall box pews. A lantern, similar to the 1775 signals hangs in a window.

*One of the statements is false in each pair of sentences below. Read them carefully, and then choose the sentence that is NOT true. Cross out the false sentence, and circle the true sentence. Rewrite the false sentence on the lines provided to make it true.*

1. The Old North Church is located in Cambridge.  
Boston is where the Old North Church is located.




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2. Paul Revere and William Dawes waited for the lanterns' signal from the steeple.  
A red flag was the signal used to warn that the British were coming.




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3. The church was built in 1723 and is a Georgian-style brick building.  
The church was built sixty-two years before the Revolution.




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4. The Old North Church was never used again after the American Revolutionary War.  
The Old North Church continues to be used for religious activities.




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5. The organ in the church is adorned with cherubs.  
A replica of the red flag used to give the signal to Paul Revere hangs in a window.




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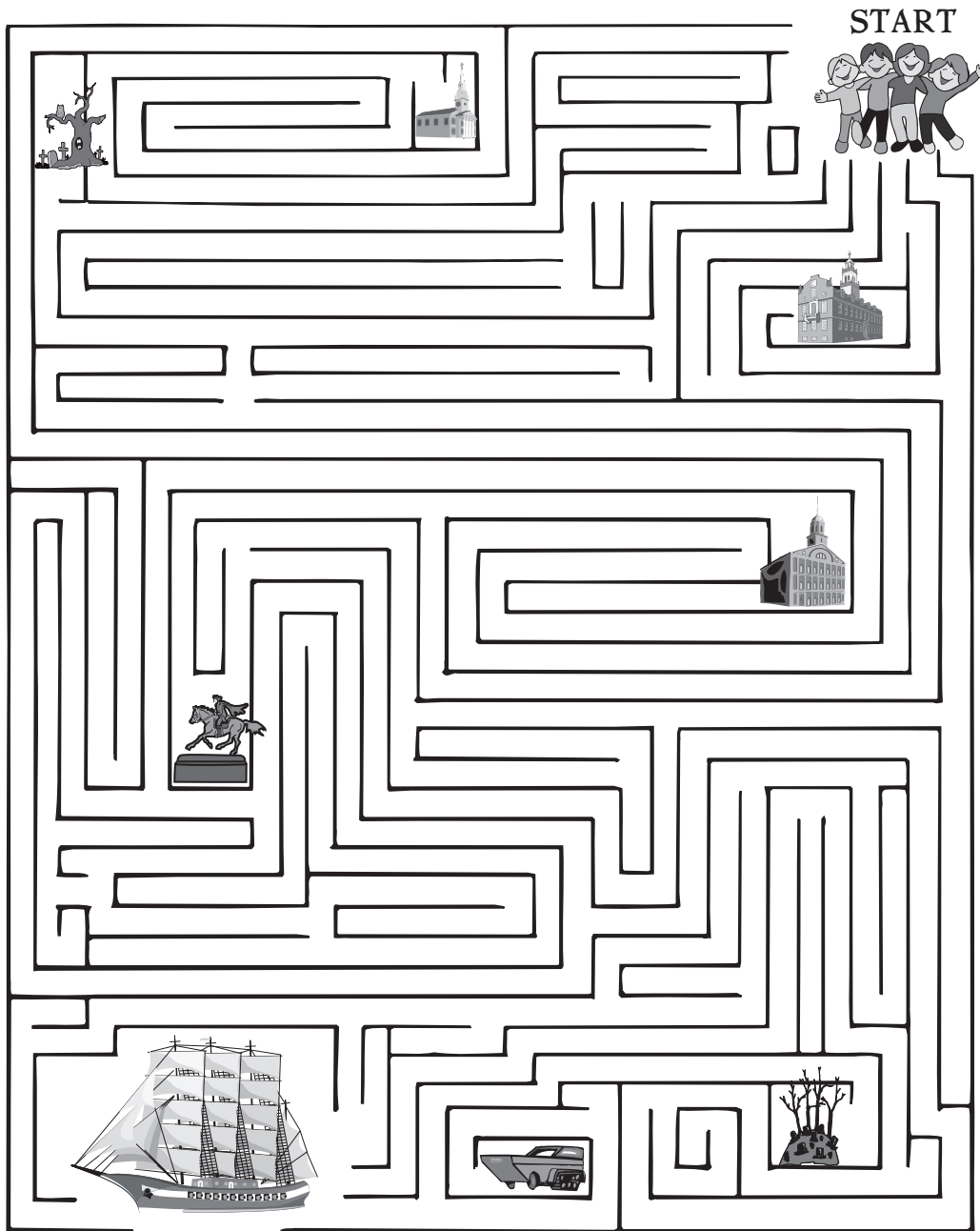


## The Mystery on the Freedom Trail Maze



Follow the Freedom Trail!

Help Christina, Grant, C.F., and Derian find their way through  
the maze to the USS Constitution!



START

FINISH



## The Mystery on the Freedom Trail Clue Scramble



*Unscramble the words below to find mystery clues in Boston!*

1. KPNI \_\_\_\_\_



2. KCCLO \_\_\_\_\_

3. PEESLTE \_\_\_\_\_

4. NNLETU \_\_\_\_\_



5. OBSTLER \_\_\_\_\_



6. KPRA \_\_\_\_\_

7. THAP \_\_\_\_\_

8. VGRE A \_\_\_\_\_



9. TENRLNA \_\_\_\_\_

10. WSNA \_\_\_\_\_

# The Mystery on the Freedom Trail Word Search



See if you can find the "Boston Marathon" words hidden  
in the maze of letters below!



L M S I O E M E N T R A I L O R F  
 O A W M R O B R A H M E C E M E T  
 R R I L M O D E E R F L L W O T A  
 E A L O B T N G R A N T U A N S N  
 N T C G M A V S S I B D E S U B A  
 N H G E I R O P I N K H C V M O W  
 U O R R L M I E L D R K D A E L S  
 R N E C E M E T A P E B W N N A W  
 R D C E M E T E R Y O S D E T W N

FREEDOM

RUNNER

GRANT

IRONSIDES

MARATHON

LOBSTER

PINK

HARBOR

RACE

MONUMENT

SWAN

MILE

CEMETERY

TRAIL

DERIAN

CLUE



## The Mystery on the Freedom Trail Fill-in-the-Blank Crossword



See if you can fill in the rest of the blanks to  
find the missing words!

1. Boston neighborhood famous for Irish American heritage:

“S \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_”

2. Oldest higher education institution in America:

\_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ V \_\_\_\_\_  
U \_\_\_\_\_ V \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_



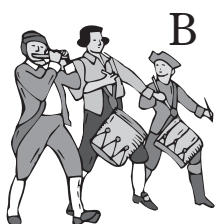
3. Historical path in Boston:

\_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_

4. Old Ironsides:

\_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_  
C \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_

5. Monument to remember a great American Revolutionary battle:



B \_\_\_\_\_ K \_\_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ T



6. Where the Boston Red Sox play baseball:

\_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_ K

7. Oldest continuously used pulpit in America stands in  
which Boston church building:

K \_\_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_

## ***The Mystery on the Freedom Trail Matching Facts***



*Match these famous people with their amazing facts!*



1. Benjamin Franklin

A. Desired for “the ladies” to be remembered in the writing of the Declaration of Independence

2. Paul Revere

B. One of Boston’s founding fathers

3. John Winthrop

C. Mystery writer from Georgia

4. Crispus Attucks

D. First casualty of the American Revolutionary War in the Boston Massacre

5. Abigail Adams

E. Renaissance Man of the colonial days who also wrote an almanac

6. Ralph Lowell

F. Silversmith who took a midnight ride to warn the patriots about the British

7. Carole Marsh

G. Known as “Mr. Boston” in the early 1900s



# ***The Mystery on the Freedom Trail Fill-in-the-Blanks***



*Answer the questions about each interesting place in Boston!*

1. Outdoor amphitheater where the Boston Pops play:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. “House for books” built in 1887:

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Oldest church building in Boston:

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Not just for burying police officers:

\_\_\_\_\_

5. America’s oldest public park which starts the Freedom Trail:

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Marketplace that carries just about anything:

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Town where the Boston Marathon begins:

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Early Boston neighborhood where many influential families lived:

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Museum in Boston just for kids:

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Government building that symbolizes Massachusetts history:

\_\_\_\_\_



## ***The Mystery on the Freedom Trail True or False***



*Mark each statement true or false.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Boston Harbor is a huge lake in the middle of the city.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Only a few hundred runners compete in the Boston Marathon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Copp's Hill Burying Ground holds hundreds of tombstones.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Boston Marathon course measures 16 miles.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The Freedom Trail is pretty new.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Boston is the capital city of Massachusetts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The *USS Constitution* is a tugboat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Boston Common is the oldest public park in America.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Christina and Grant are from South Carolina.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Runners train for months to prepare for the Boston Marathon.



## ***Answer Key...***

# ***to The Mystery on the Freedom Trail Activities***



### ***Math Activities***

1. 106 races; 2. 23,300 runners; 3. 137,280 feet; 4. 34,400 runners; 5. 15 volunteers; 6. 15,700 finishers; 7. 72 races; 8. 75,400 miles; 9. 2,756 miles; 10. 60,000 shoes

### ***The Mystery on the Freedom Trail Cross-Out***

1. First – False; 2. Second – False; 3. Second – False; 4. First – False; 5. Second – False

### ***The Mystery on the Freedom Trail Clue Scramble***

1. Pink; 2. Clock; 3. Steeple; 4. Tunnel; 5. Lobster;  
6. Park; 7. Path; 8. Grave; 9. Lantern; 10. Swan

### ***The Mystery on the Freedom Trail Fill-in-the-Blank Crossword***

1. Southie; 2. Harvard University; 3. Freedom Trail; 4. *USS Constitution*; 5. Bunker Hill Monument; 6. Fenway Park; 7. Kings Chapel

### ***The Mystery on the Freedom Trail Matching Facts***

1. E; 2. F; 3. B; 4. D; 5. A; 6. G; 7. C

### ***The Mystery on the Freedom Trail Fill-in-the-Blanks***

1. The Hatch Shell; 2. Boston Public Library; 3. Old North Church; 4. Copp's Hill Burying Ground; 5. Boston Common; 6. Quincy Market; 7. Hopkinton; 8. Beacon Hill; 9. Children's Museum; 10. Massachusetts State House

### ***The Mystery on the Freedom Trail True or False?***

1. False; 2. False; 3. True; 4. False; 5. False; 6. True; 7. False; 8. True; 9. False; 10. True

