

Paul Revere, 1768 by John Singleton Copley [1738–1815]

1. What is Paul Revere holding?
2. Find the three engraving tools on the table. Why do you think Copley included these tools and the teapot in this portrait?
3. How has Copley drawn our attention to Revere's face?
4. What part of the face did Copley make the most important?
5. How did he do this?
6. Why did he emphasize the eye?
7. We know that some artists (such as Leonardo da Vinci) were left-handed. Can you prove whether Paul Revere worked with his right or left hand according to clues in the painting?
8. If he is left-handed, why are the engraving tools to his right?
9. If he is right-handed, why does he hold the pot in the left?
10. By placing Revere's hand under his chin, what does Copley suggest about Revere's personality?
11. What might the combination of these three things tell us about Paul Revere as an artist: the pot he made and prominently holds, the thoughtful gesture of the hand on chin, and the emphasis on his right eye?
12. Paul Revere was a craftsman in a busy studio. How has Copley idealized the setting for this portrait?
13. Some writers on art see a connection between Copley's portrait of Revere and the symbol on the dollar bill. Compare Revere's portrait with the eye on the back of a dollar bill. How are they alike?
14. Encourage students to debate this connection. Do they think the similarity between these two images is deliberate?

History: Sons of Liberty; famous ride and ensuing battles in Lexington and Concord (American Revolution)

Historical Figures: Paul Revere; King George III; Patrick Henry; John Adams; Samuel Adams; Crispus Attucks

Civics: Whigs v. Tories

Geography: Massachusetts Bay; Charles River; Coastal Lowlands

Literary Connections and Primary

Documents: *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine (secondary); *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, Washington Irving (elementary); "Paul Revere's Ride," Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (elementary)

Arts: portraiture; American colonial art