

US History Summer Assignment

Students enrolled in US History are to complete a visit to one site of historical importance, shown below, following the guidelines and requirements listed for each assignment.

Students may visit any of the following sites or may design a similar task at another place of their choosing. If a student chooses to visit a site other than one of those below (the State Archives and the Ted Kennedy Museum are other local sites to consider), they must meet these criteria:

- 1) the site must be important to United States history
- 2) they must document their visit with pictures, ticket stubs, brochures, or other items that establish their presence there, and
- 3) they must prepare information and perform research similar to the prearranged sites' requirements in order to obtain full credit.

The pre-selected sites are:

The Freedom Trail (Boston)

Black Heritage Trail (Boston)

Minuteman National Park (Lexington)

JFK Library (Boston)

Massachusetts State House (Boston)

THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DUE IN FULL ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS--

This is a major assignment and will count as much as a single test grade.

You may visit the sites with friends, but each student is to complete their own work

I. Freedom Trail Summer Assignment

Website for FREEDOM TRAIL: Visit this site to plan your visit in advance:

<http://www.nps.gov/bost/index.htm>

Tours of the Freedom Trail

*Take a free 60-minute walking tour led by National Park Service Rangers along the heart of Boston's Freedom Trail®. Discover Boston's role in the American Revolution. For more information call (617) 242-5642. Tours are offered weather permitting. **Each tour is limited to 30 people: first come, first served.** On the day of the tour, rangers will distribute free stickers 30 minutes before tour time. Reservations are not accepted. Tours fill up quickly in summer months. Tours start at the Boston National Historical Park Visitor Center on the first floor of Faneuil Hall.*

Scheduled tours offered daily at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m.

Your assignment:

- 1) As you walk the Freedom Trail, take notes on what you see.

- 2) Choose one of the sites and its exhibits that you saw and write a one to two paragraph summary expressing your opinion of the information. Included in the summary should be specific references to photos or artifacts that you saw and your personal reaction to them.

- 2) Choose one of the following options and write a one to two page response. (Typed in 12 point font with 1.5 line spacing)
 - Research one of the important people who are mentioned on the tour such as William Lloyd Garrison, John Adam, John Hancock, Paul Revere and Samuel Adams.
 - Explain what actions the Sons of Liberty from Boston, Massachusetts took and how they were a driving force in the push for American Independence.
 - Research a historic event or an important person mentioned on the tour (i.e., Boston Massacre, Paul Revere's Ride, Battle of Bunker Hill or USS Constitution) and explain how it impacted the city of Boston and/or early American History.

Summary of work to be submitted after this visit:

- 1) One to two pages of handwritten notes based on what you learned during the tour.
- 2) One to two paragraphs on an exhibit or one particular site on the trail.
- 3) One to two page response based on follow-up research on one of the above topics.

II: Black Heritage Trail Summer Assignment

Visit these sites to plan your visit in advance:

Museum of African American History:

<http://www.afroammuseum.org/exhibits.htm>

Black Heritage Trail:

<http://www.nps.gov/boaf/index.htm>

Free guided tours are given daily by National Park Service rangers at 10 am, noon, and 2 pm and by appointment by calling (617) 742-5415. They begin at the monument to the 54th Regiment Memorial located on Beacon Street directly opposite the Massachusetts State House. Self-guided tours start at the Abiel Smith School, 46 Joy Street on Beacon Hill. If you choose to visit the museum in the Abiel Smith School, please be aware that there is a fee of \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. Maps for the tours are found at the School and here:

<http://www.nps.gov/boaf/planyourvisit/index.htm>

Your Assignment:

1) As you tour, take some notes on what you see, including information that surprised you or that you were never aware of before. Most people who have lived in Boston all of their lives have no knowledge of the active black community that existed in Boston in the early days of the nation.

2) After visiting the museum or the African Meeting House, write a one to two paragraph summary on what you saw. Information in the summary should include specific references to photos or artifacts that you saw and your personal reaction to them. Other sites on the Black Heritage Trail have limited information from which to write a report.

3) Choose one of the following options and write a one to two page response. (Typed in 12 point font with 1.5 line spacing)

- Research one of the important people who are mentioned on the tour such as Lewis Hayden or William Cooper Nell.)
- Describe the free black community in Boston and their work on education for African American children--or the work that they did on abolition.
- Research the Massachusetts 54th Regiment and include how they were recruited and what action they saw in the Civil War.
- Pick a historic event that took place at, or an important person (such as Frederick Douglass or William Lloyd Garrison) who visited or worked in, the African Meeting House.

Summary of work to be submitted after this visit:

- 1) One to two pages of handwritten notes based on what you learned during the tour.
- 2) One to two paragraphs on an exhibit in the museum or African Meeting House.
- 3) A one to two page response based on follow-up research on one of the above topics.

III: Minuteman National Park Summer Assignment

Website for Minuteman National Park: Visit this site to plan your visit in advance:

<http://www.nps.gov/mima/index.htm>

Please begin your visit to Minuteman National Park at their main center known as Minuteman Visitor Center located at 250 North Great Road, Lincoln, MA. Open Daily 9:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Your Assignment:

1. Begin your day at the Visitor Center.

- Go to the Visitor Center lobby. There are several newspaper articles exhibited there. Write down a brief (one short paragraph) summary of one of them.
- Also in the lobby, there are several other items exhibited. Briefly write about two of the items that you see. What are they? How did they add to your understanding of the events that took place in Lexington and Concord?
- Watch the introductory film "The Road To Revolution," that describes the circumstances of Paul Revere's ride and the first shots being fired in the American Revolution. Write down things that you saw in the video that you didn't know before or something that contradicted what you thought you already knew.

2. Walk or drive to the Hartwell Tavern (about a mile down the trail) There you can take a ranger tour or just take a look around. Write down a couple of sentences about what the purpose of a tavern was to the people of the time. What was its importance in the community?

3. As you walk along the Battle Road, what do you notice about it? Describe it's features and surroundings in a paragraph or two.

4. Continue the tour by walking or driving to the Old North Bridge and the nearby North Bridge Visitor Center. This is where the "shot heard 'round the world" took place and you can see the famous Minuteman statue. Optionally, you can take part in a Ranger tour or just browse the information available on your own.

- Think about what you saw and write one to two paragraphs to this question: "What did it mean to be a Patriot if you were living in the Boston area in 1775-1776. How is being a patriot today the same or different?"

Summary of work to be submitted after this visit:

- 1) Approximately three paragraphs from what you learned at the Visitor Center.
- 2) A few sentences on the Tavern and its importance during that time period.
- 3) One to two paragraphs on your observations of the Battle Road.
- 4) One to two paragraphs on the question from the North Bridge.

IV: JFK Library and Museum

Website for JFK Library: Visit this site to plan your visit in advance: www.jfklibrary.org

Assignment:

1. As you tour the museum, take notes on what you see, hear, or otherwise notice.
2. Then, choose one of the exhibits currently on display and write a one or two paragraph summary on what you saw. Information in the summary should include specific references to photos or artifacts that you saw and your personal reaction to them
3. Choose one of the following options and write a one to two page paper. (Typed in 12 font with 1.5 line spacing):

A. The Space Program:

What were the goals of the space program advocated by President Kennedy? Why did President Kennedy so adamantly push for the space program? Through the artifacts presented in this exhibit, how did you draw this conclusion?

B. The Oval Office:

During President Kennedy's first year in office what was the most pressing issue facing him and his administration? What were some of the actions taken by President Kennedy when confronting those issues that are present in this exhibit?

C. The Attorney General:

How does this exhibit connect to this pressing issue highlighted in the Oval Office exhibit? Does the pressing issue of the time of President Kennedy's first year in office still one right now in America?

D. Briefing Room:

Through examples from this exhibit please explain President Kennedy's foreign policy. Do the foreign policies implemented by President Kennedy differ from today's handling of Iraq, Afghanistan, and North Korea?

E. First Lady Exhibit:

Through examples from this exhibit how did the Mrs. Kennedy transform the role of the First Lady? Did Mrs. Kennedy in your opinion help the advancement of women in American society or hamper it? (Please use examples from the exhibit)

Summary of work to be submitted after this visit:

- 1) One or two pages of handwritten notes based on the tour that you saw.
- 2) One paragraph on an exhibit in the museum
- 3) One to two page paper based on follow up research on one of the five topics above.

V: Massachusetts State House

Directions: The State House is at the corner of Beacon and Park Streets. It is accessible by MBTA via the Red or Green lines at the Park Street Station. Visitors should enter at the General Hooker entrance which is just to the right of the main gate if you are facing the State House. Visitors can proceed past the statue of Civil War General Joseph Hooker, then once inside after going through security, go to the left, past the State Bookstore and at the end of the hallway on the left take the elevators up to the second floor. (For stairs, proceed past elevators and take another left (near room 190) The State House Tours & Information Desk is located in Doric Hall on the second floor. Visitors should check in for guided tours or other information. Handicap entrances are located at Ashburton Park. State House tours are conducted by the staff of the Tours and Government Education Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office and by volunteers well-versed in the history and architectural background of the State House. The tours are given weekdays year-round from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and are free of charge. The Massachusetts State House is closed on weekends and holidays. Advance reservations are requested for conducted tours. Please call (617) 727-3676 to arrange a tour for groups from one to fifty people. Tours last approximately 30-45 minutes and include an overview of the history and architecture of the State Capitol. Visitors can see the House and Senate Chambers, learn about the Ladybug (our state insect) and of the "Sacred Cod". Self-guided materials are available if visitors do not wish to join a conducted tour.

Assignment:

- 1) Whether you take a guided or self-directed tour, you should take extensive notes on what you learn and observe for future class use.

- 2) Choose one of the following topics and submit a one to two page paper (12 font/1.5 line spacing) describing what you learned about any of the following:
 1. The Capitol Building
 2. The Golden Dome
 3. Doric Hall
 4. Nurses' Hall
 5. Hall of Flags
 6. Making State Laws
 7. House of Representatives
 8. The Senate Chamber
 9. The Governor's Office
 10. The Sacred Cod/Holy Mackerel
 11. The Ladybug
 12. A person involved in the history of the State House

- 3) In addition to this one to two page paper, each student is requested to submit at least one artifact from this visit. Examples of artifacts include but are not limited to photographs from your visit, souvenirs, handouts, etc...

Summary of work to be submitted after this visit:

- 1) One or two pages of handwritten notes based on the tour that you took.
- 2) A one to two page paper on a topic listed above.
- 3) An artifact from your visit.