The Importance of BAH-st-ten (That’s Boston for most of us)

How and why Boston was at the center of the Beginnings of the American Revolution
The Importance of BAH-st-ten

• With this presentation, you will learn why Boston was at the center of the Beginnings of the American Revolution.
• You will study about:
• 5 Important People or Groups of People
• 5 Important Events
• A Summary of Boston’s Importance
Five Important People or Groups of People who lived in Boston
1. The Sons of Liberty

• Originally, the Sons of Liberty were a group of Boston merchants which worked against Great Britain’s Stamp Act (1765). They were PATRIOTS and they would sometimes meet under the Liberty Tree. The group spread throughout the colonies. This group was responsible for the Boston Tea Party and probably the entire American Revolution. Without this group, no one would have dared rebel against the Great British empire.
2. Paul Revere

- A Boston silversmith who is a major player with the Sons of Liberty. Engraved the famous “Boston Massacre” picture for the newspaper. Was “probably” at the Boston Tea Party. Along with two other riders, Revere rode to warn John Hancock, Sam Adams, and ordinary people of the British plans to march on Lexington and Concord.
3. John Hancock

- A major player in Boston and the colonies. He was a VERY wealthy trade merchant in Boston. Also, he was a driving force behind declaring independence from Great Britain. He becomes President of the 2nd Continental Congress.
4. Samuel Adams

- A brewer (created beer) in Boston. The Sons of Liberty would meet in his pub. Samuel Adams was a leader in the group and was “the leader” during the Boston Tea Party. He was strongly anti-British, and eventually helped his cousin John Adams create the Massachusetts Constitution.
5. John Adams

• A Harvard (Harvard is based in Boston) educated lawyer. Successfully DEFENDed the British soldiers at the Boston Massacre trial. In time, John Adams became the MAJOR voice--an obnoxious one at that--for declaring independence from Great Britain. He helped create the Treaty of Paris 1783 which ended the American Revolution and eventually Adams became President after George Washington.
Five Important Events which happen in Boston
1. The Boston Massacre

- See the other presentation and handout for more information about the Boston Massacre. In short, British soldiers fire and kill several colonists. Did the British provoke the fight? John Adams actually defended the British soldiers in court and most of the soldiers won their court case.
2. The Boston Tea Party

- The British Parliament created a monopoly for the East India Company by allowing the company to be the only seller of tea without taxes (The Tea Act). Angry about this British control of colonial trade, the Sons of Liberty, dressed as Mohawk indians, boarded ships in Boston Harbor and dumped the tea carried on the ships overboard. Nothing but tea was destroyed, and a padlock which was accidentally broken during the event was replaced, free of charge, to the ship’s captain. Those nice indians...
3. Battles at Lexington and Concord

- Rebel leaders John Hancock and Samuel Adams hide from the British at Lexington, MA. A stockpile of gunpowder and muskets for the militia is hidden at Concord, MA. The British learn of the hiding places and decide to capture the leaders and weapons.
3. Battles at Lexington and Concord

- Paul Revere makes two rides, one during the day and another at night, to warn people of the British plans. On April 18, Revere and William Dawes ride out of Boston to give the final warning. They are joined by Dr. Prescott and approximately 40 other riders. Revere, Dawes, and Prescott are all captured and later released by the British.
3. Battles at Lexington and Concord

- The British march to Lexington and find no one of importance, but skirmish with militia on the "common ground." A handful of American patriots die. The British move on to Concord and search for weapons. The search turns up very little and the British begin their march back to Boston. Shooting from behind stone walls and trees, the Americans have a field day and soundly beat the British.
4. The Battle at Breed’s Hill  
(Mistakenly called Bunker Hill)

• It was at Breed’s Hill (commonly mistaken as the Battle at Bunker Hill) where the Colonists proved that they were a strong military force. Although the battle was technically a British victory, the colonists won a major mental victory. Great Britain lost LOTS of men and material (guns, etc). The Colonists lost only because they ran out of ammo. It was here that Dr. Prescott yelled out “Don’t shoot until you see the whites their eyes.”

[Image of Battle scene]
5. Dorchester Heights Battle

- After the Bunker Hill Battle, the colonists and the British both fought for control of Boston. The fight lasted for months and George Washington took over as commander. Finally, a colonial officer (not Washington) arrived with artillery from New York. On March 4, 1776, the colonists secretly moved onto Dorchester Heights. This military action, led by George Washington, forced the British to leave the city of Boston and left the colonists in sole possession of the city.
Throughout the colonies, people were upset with Great Britain. Yet without the anger, fury, and opinions of the citizens of Boston, the American Revolution might never have happened. Boston is responsible for beginning the American Revolutionary War.