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Boston's Freedom Trail™¹

Boston's Freedom Trail™ contains more sites related to the Revolutionary War and the events leading up to that war than any other city in the United States. These sites had existed for 175 years or more before someone had the idea of uniting them into a single tourist attraction. Boston newspaperman William G. Schofield had the idea in 1950 for the name Freedom Trail™ and for combining the sites into a single walking tour. Previously, the historical sites had been run, funded and advertised separately.

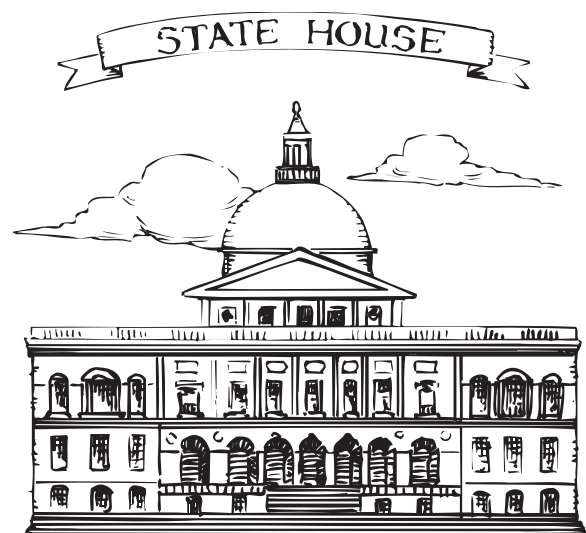
Because of the length of this book and the desire by the author to generally keep to the Revolutionary War theme in the sites chosen for the text, several of the sites on the Freedom Trail™ have been omitted. The Quincy Market was built under the leadership of Mayor Josiah Quincy in 1825 to expand the facilities for people selling their goods in Boston. The Old State House was built after a fire in 1711 burned down the original town meeting house. Old South Meeting House, Park Street Church and Saint Stephen's Church attest to the importance of religious worship among the early residents of Boston.

The Old Corner Bookstore began as a business selling books, but it evolved into a publishing company called Ticknor and Reed. By the mid-1800s it was doing business as Ticknor and Fields, Inc., and publishing the works of the New England authors (Longfellow, Hawthorne, Emerson, Stowe, Whittier, Holmes and Thoreau) who created a distinctly American literature. The Old Granary Burying Ground, dating back to 1660, contains the remains of many famous people including John Hancock, Samuel Adams, Paul Revere and the five people killed during the Boston Massacre. Boston Common, now the oldest public park in the U.S., began as an open space on which to graze the citizens' cows and goats, to drill the local militia and to publicly execute crim-

inals. Among those executed were religious dissenters such as Quakers, three women convicted of consorting with the Devil and an Indian sagamore (a subordinate chief of the Algonquian Indians of the north Atlantic coast). Now Bostonians stroll the park and enjoy its natural setting in the midst of the city.

The State House designed by famous architect Charles Bulfinch and built between 1795 and 1798 was the seat of government in Boston. Bulfinch also designed the monument that was originally on Beacon Hill. It commemorated the fact that Beacon Hill (formerly Sentry Hill) had been a lookout post from the beginning of Boston's history. A beacon burned on the hill to warn the citizens when they were in danger. Copp's Hill was, at various times, a mill to grind corn, a fortress and a cemetery. It is now Copp's Hill Burying Ground where many famous and interesting names from colonial Boston may be found.

Interested students can research these places on the Freedom Trail™ on the internet either through the National Park Service or the names of the specific sites.



¹*Boston's Freedom Trail* (2nd ed.) by Robert Booth, Chester, Connecticut, The Globe Pequot Press, 1986.

Name _____

Boston's Freedom Trail™ Questions

1. Who first had the idea of combining all of the colonial and Revolutionary War sites into the Freedom Trail™? _____
2. If the Revolutionary War sites had been around for 175 years or more in 1950, how old are they now?

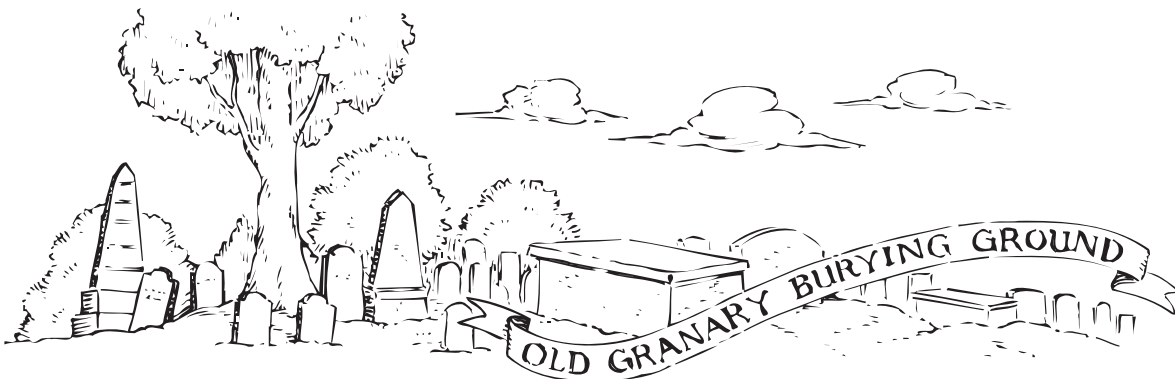
3. What were three things Boston Common was originally used for? _____

4. Why was Ticknor and Fields, Inc., an important business? _____

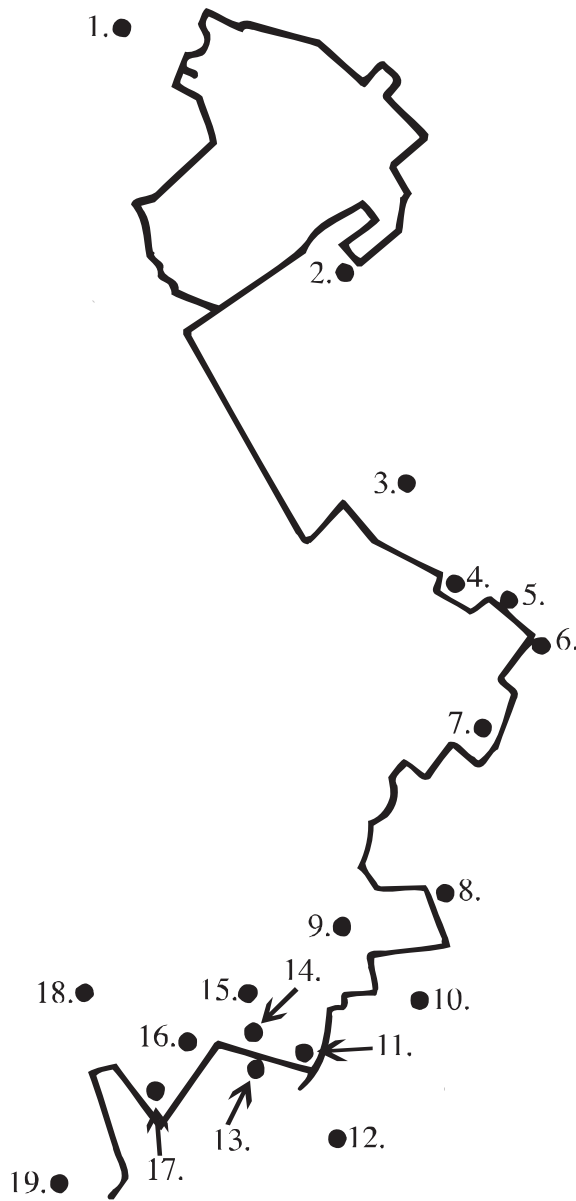
5. a. Name three famous people buried in the Old Granary Burying Ground. b. Who are the five famous but unnamed people also buried there? _____

6. How do you know that Charles Bulfinch was a highly respected architect? _____

7. Thought Question: Why are there so many historic cemeteries in Boston? _____



Map of Boston's Freedom Trail™



Freedom Trail™ Sites & Structures

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Bunker Hill Monument | 11. Old Corner Bookstore |
| 2. U.S.S. <i>Constitution</i> | 12. Old South Meeting House |
| 3. Copp's Hill Burying Ground | 13. Site of the First Public School |
| 4. Old North Church | 14. Benjamin Franklin Statue |
| 5. Paul Revere Mall | 15. King's Chapel and Burying Ground |
| 6. Saint Stephen's Church | 16. Old Granary Burying Ground |
| 7. Paul Revere's House | 17. Park Street Church |
| 8. Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market | 18. State House |
| 9. Old State House | 19. Boston Common |
| 10. Boston Massacre Site | |