

# LESSON 3 - Boston

**PART 1:** Watch the videos and go to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston> to collect general information about Boston. Then, write a short paragraph to introduce the city!

Foundation (date, by whom?)	
Nicknames	
Importance of the city of Boston in the history of the US (2 major events + dates)	
Opinion of the nation about Boston	
Population	
Profile (old city?, young city?)	
Education (number of colleges and universities)	
Sports	

## Boston, Massachusetts

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### PART 2: Two Important Events in the History of Boston.

#### a) The Boston Massacre

Go to <http://www.history.com/videos/boston-massacre-helps-spark-the-american-revolution#cities-of-the-underworld-freemason-underground>.

It's \_\_\_ defining moment on \_\_\_ path of \_\_\_ American Revolution. \_\_\_ young wig maker taunts \_\_\_ British soldier over \_\_\_ unpaid bill, and \_\_\_ sudden violence breaks out, in \_\_\_ tragedy known as \_\_\_ Boston Massacre. \_\_\_ tensions between \_\_\_ colonists and \_\_\_ British had been high for 6 years. In \_\_\_ series of \_\_\_ unpopular laws - \_\_\_ Sugar Act, Stamp Act, and Townshend Act - \_\_\_ British began taxing \_\_\_ essential everyday goods like \_\_\_ sugar and \_\_\_ tea. \_\_\_ Bostonians protested so loudly that \_\_\_ Britain sent \_\_\_ soldiers to keep \_\_\_ order. That just made \_\_\_ things worse. By March 5, 1770, \_\_\_ town is primed for \_\_\_ fight, furious about \_\_\_ recent death of \_\_\_ colonist shot by \_\_\_ British customs

official. That night, \_\_\_ violence erupts after \_\_\_ apprentice taunts \_\_\_ Red Coat and is hit with \_\_\_ rifle butt. \_\_\_ large crowd forms and \_\_\_ situation rapidly gets out of hand. \_\_\_ soldiers began firing at \_\_\_ crowd, which quickly disperses. Five colonists are on \_\_\_ ground, dead or dying. Nine soldiers are arrested. Only two were later found guilty of \_\_\_ minor charge. Even though \_\_\_ colonists are partially to blame for \_\_\_ fight, some see \_\_\_ opportunity to blame it all on \_\_\_ British. \_\_\_ Paul Revere publishes \_\_\_ hugely popular engraving he titles, "\_\_\_ Bloody Massacre perpetrated in \_\_\_ King Street." Though \_\_\_ British troops stay in \_\_\_ Boston for another 5 years without \_\_\_ major bloodshed, \_\_\_ massacre is not easily forgiven. It becomes one more reason to consider \_\_\_ rebellion.

**What are the causes of the Boston Massacre?**

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## b) The Boston Tea Party

Go to <http://www.history.com/videos/the-sons-of-liberty-and-the-boston-tea-party#the-sons-of-liberty-and-the-boston-tea-party>

**Task 1: Fill in the blanks with 'a', 'an', 'the' or 'Ø'**

On \_\_\_ cold winter night of December 16, 1773, \_\_\_ band of American colonists approached three British ships in \_\_\_ Boston Harbour. \_\_\_ men are disguised as \_\_\_ Indians and they have \_\_\_ mission: destroy \_\_\_ tea on board each ship to protest yet another British task on \_\_\_ colonies. \_\_\_ Boston Tea Party as it comes to be known is rooted in \_\_\_ growing frictions between \_\_\_ colonies and \_\_\_ British Crown over \_\_\_ Parliament's right to levy \_\_\_ taxes. For \_\_\_ past 13 years, \_\_\_ Britain has taxed \_\_\_ number of items used in \_\_\_ colonies, everything from \_\_\_ sugar to \_\_\_ playing cards. Each time \_\_\_ colonists protested. In 1773, \_\_\_ Parliament passed \_\_\_ Tea Act. This required \_\_\_ colonists to purchase only \_\_\_ British tea. Though it was actually cheaper than other teas, it was taxed and to many colonists that was intolerable. In \_\_\_ Boston \_\_\_ colonists demanded \_\_\_ tea ships return to \_\_\_ Britain. \_\_\_ British refused, so \_\_\_ colonists took \_\_\_ matters into their own hands. "\_\_\_ interesting thing about \_\_\_ Tea Party is we think like there's like \_\_\_ wild sort of riot or mob, and that there's \_\_\_ mass confusion, and actually \_\_\_ colonists were really specifically interested in making \_\_\_ point about \_\_\_ tea to \_\_\_ British. So they didn't storm and destroy \_\_\_ ship. They actually didn't damage this ship at all. They just went for \_\_\_ tea. They didn't even wreck \_\_\_ lock to \_\_\_ hatch. They just wanted to make \_\_\_ point that \_\_\_ tax was bad

and they were going to show that by just destroying \_\_\_ tea." \_\_\_ British were outraged. They closed \_\_\_ Boston Harbor to \_\_\_ trade and tried to assert even more control over \_\_\_ Massachusetts. \_\_\_ colonists resisted, united in \_\_\_ growing defiance against \_\_\_ England. Sixteen months after \_\_\_ Boston Tea party, in 1775, \_\_\_ American Revolution began.

**Task 2: Answer the following questions.**

1. What did the British ships transport? \_\_\_\_\_

2. True or False?

a) A group of Indians went aboard the ships to accomplish a mission.

True.     False.

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b) The American colonists knew exactly what to do. Their mission was well organised.

True.     False.

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c) The American colonists burned the British ships down.

True.     False.

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d) The British surrendered immediately.

True.     False.

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3. Find a link word expressing CONTRAST.

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4. Find a link word expressing CONSEQUENCE.

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## GRAMMAR POINT 1: The Articles 'A/An', 'The' and 'Ø'.

Observe the following sentences and deduce a few rules about the use of the articles 'a/an', 'the' and 'Ø' in English.

- 'It's a defining moment on the path of the American Revolution.'
- 'On a cold winter night of December 16, 1773, a band of American colonists approached three British ships in Boston Harbor'
- '...they have a mission: destroy the tea on board each ship ...'
- 'Sixteen months after the Boston Tea party, in 1775, the American Revolution began.'
- 'On a cold winter night of December 16, 1773, a band of American colonists approached three British ships in Boston Harbor. The men are disguised as Indians'
- 'Even though the Colonists are partially to blame for the fight, some see the opportunity to blame it all on the British.'
- 'For the past 13 years, Britain has taxed a number of items used in the colonies, everything from Ø sugar to playing Ø cards.'
- 'Ø Paul Revere publishes a hugely popular engraving'
- '[The British] closed Ø Boston Harbour to trade and tried to assert even more control over Ø Massachusetts. The Colonists resisted, united in a growing defiance against Ø England.'

A / An

The

Ø

**PART 3: Things to see or do in Boston.**

a) Watch the video and take a few notes about the top 10 attractions in Boston

ATTRACTION	NAME	WHAT SORT OF PLACE IS IT?
N°1		
N°2		
N°3		
N°4		
N°5		
N°6		
N°7		
N°8		
N°9		
N°10		

## b) Places of interest in Boston

Go to <http://www.aviewoncities.com/boston/bostonattractions.htm> and <http://www.iboston.org/pap/freedom.htm> and find the characteristics of the following places in Boston.

1. How long is the Freedom Trail?

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2. How big is Boston Common?

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3. How many storeys do the houses in Back Bay have?

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4. How old is Paul Revere's house?

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5. How tall is Bunker Hill Monument?

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### GRAMMAR POINT: Compound Adjectives of Measurement.

- In English numbers can be combined with nouns in the SINGULAR to form compound adjectives with hyphens:

*a twenty-year-old man* (Not \**a twenty-years-old man*)

- Compound adjectives of this kind can refer to:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| - age: <i>a three-year-old building</i> | - area: <i>a twenty-acre farm</i>         |
| - volume: <i>a two-litre car</i>        | - duration: <i>a four-hour meeting</i>    |
| - length: <i>a twelve-inch ruler</i>    | - depth: <i>a six-foot hole</i>           |
| - price: <i>a sixty-dollar dress</i>    | - time/distance: <i>a ten-minute walk</i> |
| - weight: <i>a ten-kilo bag</i>         |   |

### Time to Practise!

Use the information you collected about The Freedom Trail, Boston Common, Back Bay, Paul Revere's house, Bunker Hill Monument and write sentences about these places using compound adjectives of measurement and words from the word bank.

1) The Freedom Trail is a \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) Boston Common \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Back Bay \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ houses.
- 4) Paul Revere's house \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Bunker Hill Monument \_\_\_\_\_

WORD BANK

a dwelling (= house) - an affluent neighbourhood - a granite obelisk -  
a public park - a walking tour

PART 4: A Famous Bostonian: Edgar Allan Poe.

Listen to the recordings, take a few notes, then write a short paragraph about this person.

YOUR NOTES

Blank box for taking notes.

Blank lines for writing a short paragraph.