

ACTIVITY

Signal Lantern

Supplies: *medium-size empty tin can with label removed, scissors, 1 piece of white paper, water, freezer, towel, tape, large nail, hammer, 12-inch-long piece of thin wire (30 centimeters), tea candle and matches, dry spaghetti*

Robert Newman was the caretaker of the Old North Church. On the night of April 18, 1775, he climbed the tall steeple in total darkness. When he reached the top, he lit two lanterns and held them to the window. This signaled to the patriots on the other side of the river that British troops had taken the water route to Concord. Ask an adult to help you make your own signal lantern.

1 Cut a piece of paper large enough to fit around the outside of the can.

2 Fill the can with water and freeze until solid.

3 While the water is freezing, draw a simple design of dots, diamonds, or squares on the paper.

4 Lay the can of frozen water on a towel on a flat surface. Tape your paper design to the outside of the can.

5 Use the nail and hammer to puncture a hole in the can about every half inch along the design on your paper.

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6 Pound two holes on opposite sides along the top of the can.

7 Remove the paper from the outside of the can. Soak the can in hot water until the ice melts. Let the can air dry.

8 Slide the wire through the holes at the top of the can to make a handle. Bend the ends up so the wire does not slip out and poke you.

9 Place a tea candle in the bottom of the can. Ask an adult to use a piece of dry spaghetti to light the candle. Now you are ready to alert the land!

DID YOU KNOW?

Robert Newman and John Pulling were the rebels who risked capture to hang to lanterns in the Old North Church on April 18, 1775.



One If By Land, and Two If By Sea

The phrase "One if by land, and two if by sea" was written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his famous poem of Paul Revere's ride. It refers to the lanterns hung in the tower of the Old North Church in Boston, which signaled to the patriots that the British were coming over the water instead of marching over land. Every year on April 18, two lanterns are hung in the tower of the Old North Church to commemorate the bravery of the patriots.