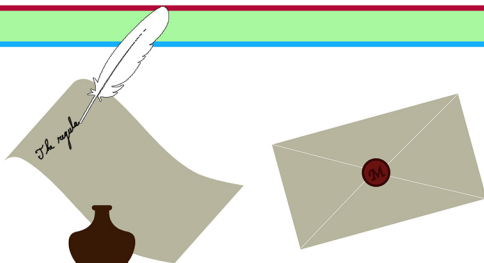


# PATRIOT COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

It's a lot of work to organize a revolution! Each colony needed to communicate with the other colonies to see how the patriot movement was going and what the British were up to. They didn't have cell phones or the internet, though. So how did the patriots communicate with one another when they were separated by hundreds of miles? They set up a communication network!



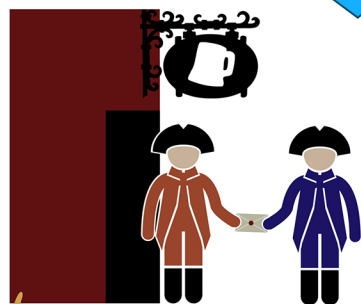
**Committees of Correspondence** were in each colony. They were groups of men who decided what information needed to be shared with patriot leaders in other colonies. Many towns had their own committee too.



People wrote **letters** with a pen and ink on paper, and sealed them with **wax** so other people wouldn't read them.

**Riders** on horses carried the mail from colony to colony. Sometimes they rode all night and in secret to carry the letters. If the distance was very far, the rider would hand the letter off to another rider to take it on the next leg of the journey.

They used **post roads** that were direct, well-traveled routes.



The letter would be **delivered** to the care of a person friendly to the patriots, where someone from the committee of correspondence in that town would have to pick it up. This place was usually a tavern or someone's home.

**PORTSMOUTH to...**  
BOSTON - 1 day  
PHILADELPHIA - 7 days  
WILLIAMSBURG - 12 days  
CHARLESTON - 18 days

Even if everything went smoothly, it could take **weeks** to deliver a letter. Still, the patriots were very good at spreading information around.

**WHO WAS THE MOST FAMOUS PATRIOT RIDER?**  
**PAUL REVERE!**



1. What do you think a post road was? What else were they used for?
2. What parts of the communication network were designed to keep secrets from the British? How?
3. Write an imaginary message from the colony of New Hampshire to the colony of New York. What kind of information do you think would have been included?