

## *The Massachusetts Spy* Student Worksheet

List 3 ways this newspaper is different from one of today.

1.

2.

3.

Who produced this newspaper? \_\_\_\_\_

When was it produced? \_\_\_\_\_

On page 1, the author states his objectives in publishing this paper. What are they?

For what audience was this paper created?

**The answers to the following questions can be found on page 3.**

What has stopped in the province? Why do you think this is important?

Who has left for Philadelphia? Why are they going there?

What has recently arrived from England?

What is expected soon?

What was lost in Northborough? Is it important? Give your reasons.

**The following questions relate to the account of the battles of Lexington and Concord.**

Was the author an eyewitness to the event?    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No    \_\_\_ Cannot tell

Are there any other sources cited by the author? List them.

Who fired first on the Lexington town green?

What were the Americans doing on the Lexington green?

Who fired first at the North Bridge?

What property did the British troops destroy?

How does the author describe the conduct of the British troops? (Quote from the document.)

How does he describe the conduct of the Americans?

What was the situation in Boston after the battle?

Can you find any evidence of Isaiah Thomas's bias in this newspaper? List any examples.

List two things this newspaper tells you about life in America at the time it was written:

1.

2.

Why do you think this newspaper is important?

# *The Massachusetts Spy*

## Answer sheet

List 3 ways this newspaper is different from one of today.

**1. No photos** **1 section**

**2. Small, crowded type** **No by lines**

**3. Major news on page 3**

Who produced this newspaper? **Isaiah Thomas**

When was it produced? **May 3, 1775**

On page 1, the author states his objectives in publishing this paper. What are they?

**“...my poor Endeavours shall be used to maintain those rights and Priviledges for which we and our Fathers have Bled! And that all possible Care will be taken to procure the most interesting and authentic Intelligence.”**

For what audience was this paper created?

**Colonists, particularly whigs who favor independence and live far away.**

**The answers to the following questions can be found on page 3.**

What has stopped in the province? Why do you think this is important?

**Post riders**

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Who has left for Philadelphia? Why are they going there?

**John Hancock, Samuel Adams, Robert Treat Paine, John Adams to meet at the “Grand American Congress” (Continental Congress)**

What has recently arrived from England?

**The British ships – Nautilus, Otter, and Falcon**

What is expected soon?

**More British soldiers – 35<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup>, and 63<sup>rd</sup> regiments**

What was lost in Northborough? Is it important? Give your reasons.

**2 packs – 1 marked “L.P.” containing 4 shirts, 2 pairs of stockings, and provisions.**

**It is not important.**

**The following questions relate to the account of the battles of Lexington and Concord.**

Was the author an eyewitness to the event?     Yes     No     Cannot tell

Are there any other sources cited by the author? List them.

**We have seen an account of the loss of the enemy**

Who fired first on the Lexington town green?

**The British**

What were the American doing on the Lexington green?

**Mustered at meeting house, dispersed as soon as they saw British**

Who fired first at the North Bridge?

**British (thus did the troops of Britain’s king fire first at two several times upon his loyal American subjects and put to a period to 10 lives before one gun was fired upon them.)**

What property did the British troops destroy?

**Spiked up and damaged two cannons; broke and set fire to carriages; emptied 40 barrels of flour into the river; set fire to the town-house.**

How does the author describe the conduct of the British troops? (Quote from the document.)

**Inhuman manner. “But the savage barbarity exercised upon the bodies of our unfortunate brethren who fell, is almost incredible: Not content with shooting down the unarmed, aged and infirm, they disregarded the cries of the wounded, killing them without mercy, and mangling their bodies in the most shocking manner.”**

How does he describe the conduct of the Americans?

**Listening to the merciful dictates of the Christian religion, ‘they breathed higher sentiments of humanity’.**

What was the situation in Boston after the battle?

**Tense**

Can you find any evidence of Isaiah Thomas’ bias in this newspaper? List any examples.

**1. “...deceased brethren, who gloriously sacrificed their lives in fighting for the liberties of their country. By their noble intrepid conduct, in helping to defeat the forces of an ungrateful tyrant...”**

**2. “...British troops, unmolested and unprovoked, wantonly, and in a most inhuman manner fired upon and killed a number of our countrymen.... – or divert them from their DESIGN of MURDER and ROBBERY!”**

List two things this newspaper tells you about life in America at the time it was written:

**1.**

**2.**

Why do you think this newspaper is important?

**Describes an important event. Influenced the actions of others**