

# My American Newspaper

Published for the week of March 8, 2007

Your  
School  
Logo

# Teacher Edition

## A Printer's Apprentice - 1780

**Before Reading:** What kinds of jobs do teenagers have today? What kinds of jobs do you think teenagers had after the Revolutionary War?

**Check Comprehension:** What is the apprentice paid for his work? (*He gets paid nothing, but he eats his meals with the Johnsons and lives over the print shop.*) What did he start out doing? (*He swept floors and carried piles of paper.*) What is newspaper made from? (*Paper after the revolutionary war was made from rags.*)

**Discussion Questions:** Why would a teenager work for food and a place to sleep? (Answers will vary, but may include it is the only way to learn a trade so you can make a living.)

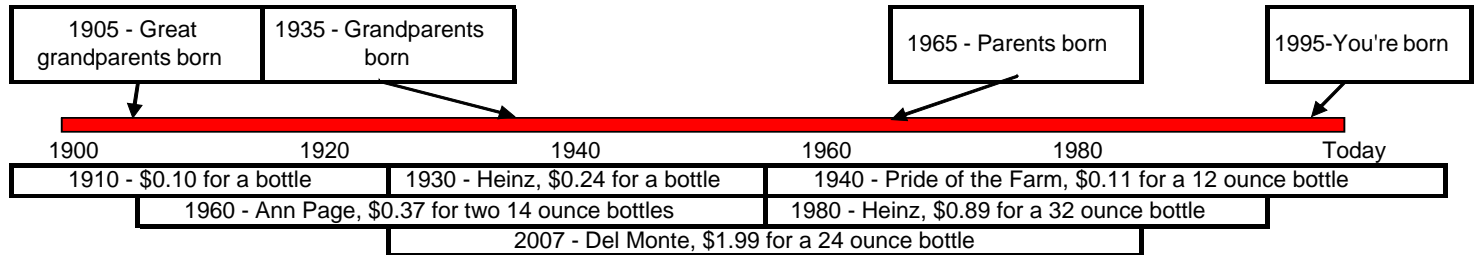
## March 5, 1770: "Boston Massacre"

**Before Reading:** Have you heard of the Boston Massacre?

**Check Comprehension:** When did the Boston Massacre occur? (*It happened in March at night, and there was snow on the ground.*) What caused the English soldiers to fire into the crowd? (*The crowd was throwing snowballs, hit the British captain and he got angry.*) Were the English soldiers punished? (*A court found two soldiers guilty of manslaughter.*)

**Discussion Questions:** This story is taken from a newspaper article. What part does the news play in making history? (The discussion will lead to documentation of facts that can be relied upon later on.)

## Ketchup gets expensive



**Before examining timeline:** Do you think that things cost a lot less when your grandparents were kids? How about your great grandparents?

**Discussion Questions:** Why do prices for things change over time? (Answers will include it costs more to make things or it costs more to ship things.)

## March 1, 1859: Oregon Trail Week 1

**Before Reading:** What kind of people were the pioneers? What kinds of families did they have?

**Check Comprehension:** What members of the family are making this trip? (*A mom, a dad, their 12 year old daughter and 6 year old son went on the trip.*) What were the choices they had to pull the wagon? (*They could have picked horses or mules, but oxen were the best choice.*) Was everyone looking forward to the trip? (*No, Sally wasn't.*)

**Discussion Questions:** Why would it be hard for kids to make such a long trip? (The children might discuss leaving family and friends, never seeing them again. They might also talk about the uncertainties of the new land.)

## March 4 - 1868 : Founder of Chisholm Trail dies

**Before Reading:** How does food get to grocery stores today? How did it get to cities 100 years ago?

**Check Comprehension:** What was the Chisholm Trail used for? (*It was a trail for cattle to go from Texas to Kansas and then by train to the East.*) What was Chisholm's main job? (*He was a trader who worked with Native Americans and the US government.*) How many cattle traveled the Chisholm Trail before trains were brought to Texas? (*About 5 million head of cattle.*)

**Discussion Questions:** How do you think life would have changed for people after the Civil War? (Answers will range from no more slaves to soldiers coming back from war – but this story will lead to economic change from war time rationing to peace time living.)