



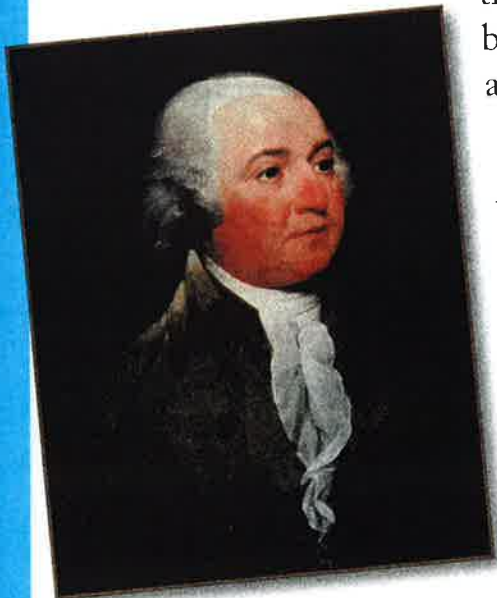
Theme: The Boston Massacre

Why did a simple tax on British goods cause the American colonists to protest? What really happened on the day of the Boston Massacre in March 1770? In this unit, you will find answers to these and other questions as you read, think, and write about the events leading up to and surrounding the Boston Massacre.

In *Boston in Turmoil*, you will learn about the tension created when the British passed the Townshend Revenue Acts.

In *The Boston Massacre*, you will read two different accounts of what happened in Boston on the night of the conflict between British soldiers and American colonists.

In *The Trials of the Boston Massacre*, you will learn about the famous court case involving several British officers who were present at the Boston Massacre.



John Adams

Unit Overview

READ!

First, you will read an article and answer questions. These questions ask you to cite evidence from the text.

THINK!

Then, you will answer questions using information from the article, check your comprehension, and analyze what the author had to say.

WRITE!

Finally, it's time to write! You will use information from the sources you read to write one or more of the following: a journal entry, an article, or an opinion essay. Each of these genres fits into a text type, as you can see below.



Narrative

Journal Entry

A **journal entry** is a first-person account of something that has happened.

Informative/ Explanatory

Article

An **article** explains a concept or an idea. Often the information comes from research the author has done.

Opinion

Opinion Essay

An **opinion essay** is an essay that states an opinion and gives reasons to support it.



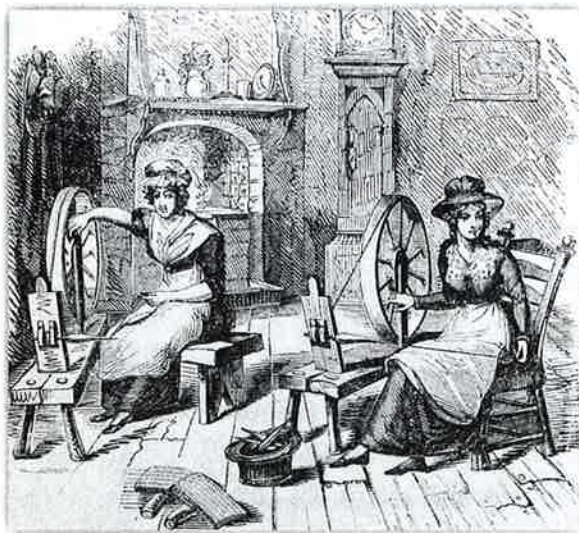
Boston in Turmoil

by Michael K. Smith

In June 1767, the British passed the Townshend Revenue Acts. These laws forced the American colonists to pay taxes on British goods, such as glass, paper, and tea. Patriots circulated sheets urging colonists not to buy these everyday items and staged boycotts. The Daughters of Liberty organized spinning meetings. They spun their own cotton to avoid purchasing British materials. They also began to make their own teas or drink coffee rather than buy British tea. These protests were an early form of a “Made in America” campaign. The colonists’ refusal to buy these goods hurt British merchants.

Protesters used the slogan “taxation without representation is tyranny.” James Dickinson, a Patriot

writer, warned that the Townshend Acts were a “dangerous innovation.” The colonists worked together to resist obeying these new laws. As Benjamin Franklin once said, “We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.” While many colonists wrote letters and staged boycotts, others resorted to violence. Some British custom officials, who collected the taxes, were tarred and feathered.



The Daughters of Liberty organized spinning meetings like these.

The protests angered Great Britain. So the British sent troops to maintain order in Boston. The soldiers arrived in October 1768. As soldiers marched through the streets of Boston, colonists silently stared at them. The silence did not last. Colonists taunted the soldiers, calling them “Redcoats.”

Cite Text Evidence

1. Determine Main Idea and Key Details Why did the Daughters of Liberty make their own tea? Highlight the sentence where you find your answer and label it 1. Write your answer below.

2. Quote Accurately How did the colonists react to the arrival of British soldiers? Highlight the sentence that answers this question and label it 2. Write the sentence below using quotation marks.

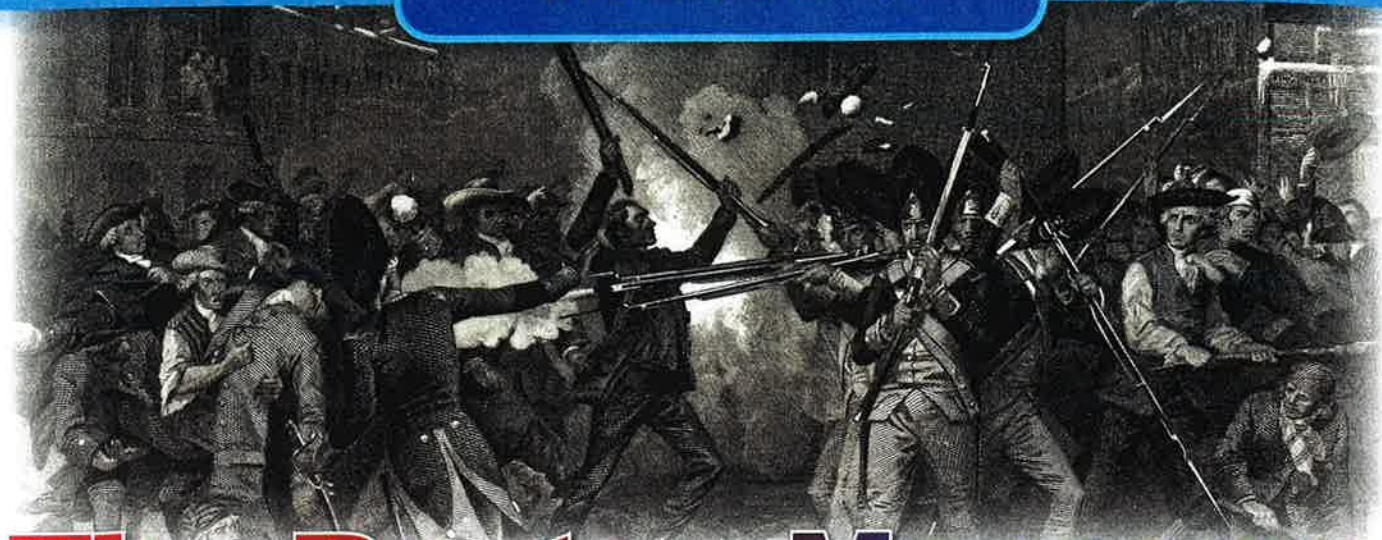
3. Determine Main Idea and Key Details Why did Great Britain send soldiers to Boston? Highlight the sentence that answers the question and label it 3. Write your answer below.



Colonists riot after the British impose the Stamp Act in 1765, only a couple of years before the Townshend Acts.

Protests prevented soldiers from doing their jobs. Tensions between the colonists and soldiers escalated.

On the morning of February 22, 1770, a crowd gathered to protest and demonstrate in front of a merchant's office. The merchant was suspected of breaking the boycott of British goods. During the protest, the mob spotted and chased a British informer named Ebenezer Richardson. Scared, he fired into the crowd, hitting an eleven-year-old boy. The young boy died from the gunshot wounds. The boy was seen as a hero. Samuel Adams paid for the boy's funeral. Many people attended, and John Adams said that he had never seen such a funeral. This incident added to the rising tension in Boston, setting the stage for the Boston Massacre.



The Boston Massacre

by Cheryl Cruz

The event that came to be known as the Boston Massacre occurred on March 5, 1770. Loyalists and Patriots viewed the event very differently. Whose view was the right one? You decide.



A Loyalist's View

I, a loyal servant of his Majesty, witnessed the events of March 5. On that night, I saw the King's sentry being harassed by local ruffians whose sole aim was to cause trouble. When the alarm bell rang, an angry mob gathered and Captain Preston, along with his soldiers, arrived to protect the young sentry and restore order. Angered by the soldiers' presence, the crowd shouted, "Fire if you dare!" I never heard Captain Preston give an order to fire; he wanted them to hold their fire.

The mob started throwing massive chunks of ice and sharp oyster shells. A heavy club was thrown, as well, which hit a soldier. The soldier staggered, discharging his gun. The angry mob rushed forward and someone shouted, "Why don't you fire?" The soldiers mistakenly thought this was an order from their captain and fired. Three rioters were killed in the shuffle. Several Patriots claim they heard Captain Preston command his troops to fire, but I swear he did not. It was self-defense.



Cite Text Evidence

A Patriot's View

I was walking home the evening of March 5 and noticed a local lad in a heated exchange with a Loyalist sentry. A few people gathered to watch the argument. During the disagreement, the sentry smashed the young boy with his musket, knocking him to the ground.

As alarm bells rang, a few more Boston men came into the street. Meanwhile, the sentry called for additional soldiers. Troops arrived shortly and assumed a fighting stance. I stood near Captain Preston and heard a man ask if his soldiers' guns were loaded. Preston replied, "Yes." A few members of the crowd threw snowballs. A stick struck one soldier who then fired into the gathering. I heard the command "Fire!" and the other soldiers fired fast. Two innocent men and a young boy were killed instantly, their blood coloring the snow while others were severely wounded. I swear that none in the crowd surged against the soldiers until the Redcoats fired upon them. It was certainly murder. Those killed were heroes.



1. Determine Main Idea and Key Details

What did the colonists throw at the British soldiers? Highlight the sentences in each account that answer the question. Label them 1 and write your answers below.

2. Analyze Multiple Accounts

Compare and contrast how each account describes those who were killed that day. Write your answer below.

3. Quote Accurately

Find the sentences that reflect the Loyalist's view and the Patriot's view of what the British soldiers did. Highlight your choices and label them 3. Write the sentences below.

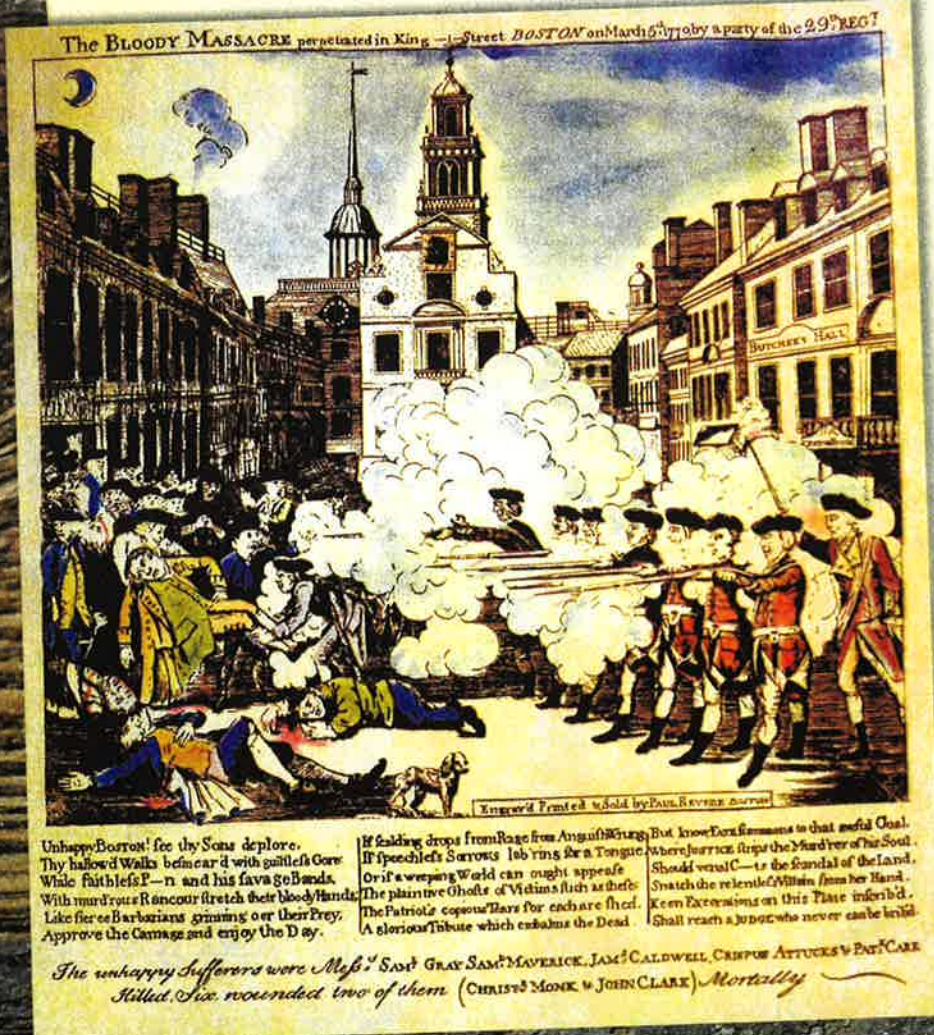
THE TRIALS OF THE BOSTON MASSACRE

by Shawn Williams

After the Boston Massacre, the air was swirling with varying accounts of what truly happened that fateful day. In this story, you will read about a reporter tasked with writing about the trial of several British soldiers involved in the massacre. Will the reporter be able to sift through the differing opinions and write a fair article?

The reporter reviewed his notes, wondering if he would be able to present the facts in an unbiased

manner, as he personally knew many of the key players. And, fair or not, thanks to a pamphlet written by Samuel Adams, people were calling the event a massacre. Adding fuel to the fire, Adams had also published a narrative, which was biased in favor of the colonists and further tarred the British soldiers. But the most vivid propaganda was Paul Revere's engraving that showed British soldiers lined up in a row and firing on the "innocent" colonists. The reporter sighed. Sorting the facts from the rumors and opinions would be no easy task. And, given that the reporter's politics favored the Patriots, could he even write a fair article? He reviewed his list of unadorned facts.



Engraving of the Boston Massacre by Paul Revere

Cite Text Evidence

1. Explain Relationships Which sentence explains why the reporter thinks he may not be able to write a fair report? Highlight your choice and label it 1. Write your answer below.

2. Analyze Reasons and Evidence Study the image on page 34. How does Paul Revere's engraving of the Boston Massacre work as propaganda? Write your answer below.

3. Determine Main Idea and Key Details According to the facts the reporter included in his notes, what caused the soldiers to fire? Highlight the sentence that answers the question and label it 3. Write your answer below.

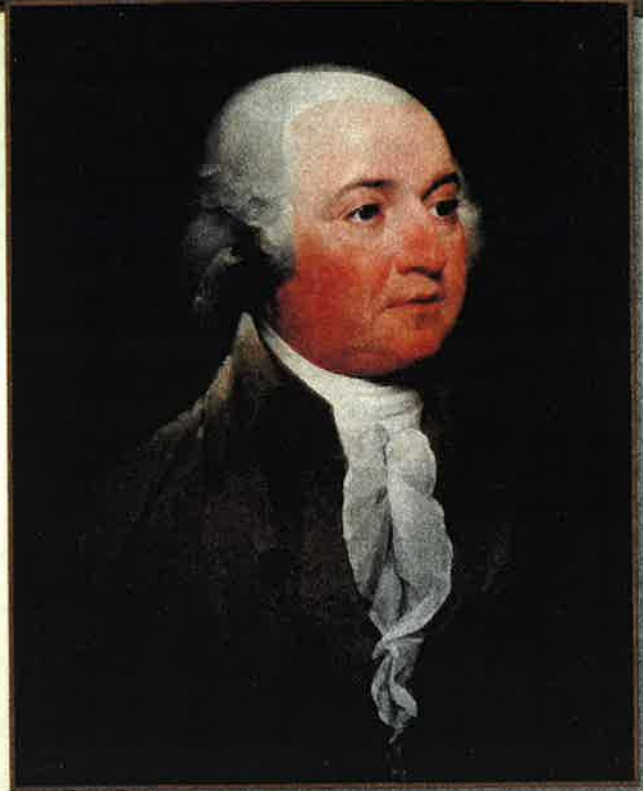


Notes

- Fact #1: The event happened on March 5, 1770 on King Street in Boston.
- Fact #2: Five citizens of Boston died. Three died on the scene. Two died later.
- Fact #3: One of the victims was Crispus Attucks. (Verify: Free man?)
- Fact #4: British Private Hugh White was the lone sentry on guard at the Custom House. Young boys, local apprentices, taunted him. This escalated.
- Fact #5: A crowd of colonists joined in the confrontation. White called for help. Captain Thomas Preston marched out soldiers.
- Fact #6: Crowd knocked down British Private Hugh Montgomery. British Private Kilroy hit by rock. Musket fired. More shots fired into crowd. (Query: Who fired first? Kilroy or Montgomery? Did someone yell "Fire?")
- Fact #7: Captain Preston and the soldiers were charged with murder. Trials are set.
- Fact #8: John Adams, cousin to Sam Adams, will defend Captain Preston and the British soldiers. (Query: Will he be fair and defend them honorably? Fair trial?)

The day of the trial arrived, and the reporter made his way into the courtroom. As the trials began, Lieutenant-Governor Thomas Hutchison declared: "The Law shall have its course; I will live and die by the law!" But would the trial be fair?

John Adams, defending Captain Preston, was fighting an uphill battle. Most were convinced Preston and the soldiers were guilty of murder. Adams appeared calm and sure of his facts. The reporter had interviewed Adams earlier. Adams wanted a fair trial, with the judgment based on the evidence, not opinion or emotion. *Is that possible?* wondered the reporter. Outside the court, an angry mob, fired up by the speeches of the Patriots, wanted blood, while Adams wanted justice. The reporter jotted down Adams' words, as it was a good lead for his story: "The facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of



John Adams

facts and evidence." Witnesses were called. Testimonies conflicted, but one testimony riveted the courtroom.

The court allowed a dead man's words as testimony for the first time. The deathbed testimony was considered

factual, not hearsay. Dr. John Jeffries testified about Patrick Carr's last words. Carr's dying words were that the soldiers did fire against the colonists, but the soldiers were provoked. The reporter gasped. *It will likely be a guilty verdict*, he surmised. Still, Adams pleaded his case and said, "The eight prisoners



Cite Text Evidence

at the bar, had better be all acquitted....” Justice Peter reminded the jury that if they had any reasonable doubt, they should declare the soldiers innocent.

The verdict came back. Captain Preston was found not guilty. The soldiers were also found not guilty of murder at their trial. Reasonable doubt was given as the reason for the verdicts. Kilroy and Montgomery were found guilty of manslaughter. Their thumbs were branded with an “M.” It was over. The reporter raced out to file his story.



The Old State House and site of the Boston Massacre

Commemorative memorial at site of Boston Massacre



4. Explain Relationships How did Adams feel about defending Captain Preston? Write your answer below. Highlight the sentence that supports your response and label it 4.

5. Quote Accurately What did the court allow for the first time? Highlight the sentence where you find your answer and label it 5. Quote the sentence below.

6. Draw Inferences How did Carr’s dying words help Adams defend the soldiers? Write your answer below.