“The BLOODY MASSACRE”

Whodunnit?

Spiro Bolos & Anne Twadell
New Trier High School
ush.posthaven.com

Spiro Bolos & Anne Twadell
New Trier High School
“The BEGINNING”

Primary versus Secondary Sources
The Death of Mr Bolos:

An Exercise in Interpreting Artifacts
“The BACKGROUND”
Collaborative Lecture
“Tightening the Screws”
“Tightening the Screws”

“peace force”

deficit spending

20%...

BRITAIN’S POST-WAR PROGRAM

7500 soldiers

Parliamentary Taxation

SUGAR ACT (1764)

£ 20,000
“Tightening the Screws”

SUGAR ACT (1764)
£ 20,000

STAMP ACT (1765)
£ 60,000

STAMP ACT (1765)
£ 10,000

TOWNSHEND DUTIES (1767)
£ 40,000

TOWNSHEND DUTIES (1767)
£ 40,000

TOWNSHEND DUTIES (1767)
£ 40,000

RESISTANCE AND RETREAT

Parliamentary Taxation
WITHOUT REPRESENTATION
“Tightening the Screws”
“Tightening the Screws”

Result?

concessions...

repeal Stamp Act (1766)

lowered duty on molasses (1766)

repeal Townsend Duties (1770)

except

except

BRITAIN’S “NASTY PLOT”

Boston “Massacre”

1770
“Tightening the Screws”
“Tightening the Screws”
Peace force was a plan of defence for the colonies as territories disputes rose as a result of the French and Indian War. The plan would require England to spend 200,000 pounds/year, money they didn't have.
“See / Think / Wonder”
An Exercise in Visual Literacy
SEE, THINK, WONDER: An Exercise in Visual Literacy

Once you have learned how to ask questions — relevant and appropriate and substantial questions — you have learned how to learn and no one can keep you from learning whatever you want or need to know.” — Neil Postman and Charles Weingartner

Look carefully at the image on the screen. Then respond to the following on the back of this sheet:

1. "SEE": call attention to at least 5 details in the picture, mentioning each in detail. Do NOT interpret these details. Merely describe what you observe.

2. "THINK": now make an interpretation of what you “see”. For each interpretation, answer the follow up question, “why makes you say that?”

3. "WONDER": come up five question you would like to ask and have answered for a even deeper understanding of the image.

PLEASE FLIP THIS PAGE.
“SEE, THINK, WONDER”: An Exercise in Visual Literacy

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• “THINK”: Based on those five details, now make an interpretation of what you “see”. For each interpretation, answer the follow up question, “what makes you say that?”

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• TITLE: write your own idea of what this image should be titled.
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“THINK”. Based on these five details, how makes an interpretation of what you “see”. For each interpretation, answer the follow up question, “what makes you say that?”

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“TITLE”. Write your own idea of what the image should be titled.
The Bloody Massacre perpetrated in King Street, Boston, April 19, 1770. A protest against the massacre.

The unhungy sufferings of M. J. G. and Sam. M. and J. Cameron, as seen by the crowd. The clothes of John Clarke. The picture was published in 1770 by Paul Revere.
“The PREPARATION”

Materials
www.gilderlehrman.org
www.bostonmassacre.net

(free registration required)
The Boston Massacre

By Elizabeth Berlin Taylor

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson, students will be asked to learn the disputed and agreed-upon facts of the Boston Massacre in small groups and then discuss them and propose a website definition of the massacre as a class. This lesson should not only provide students with an opportunity to look at disparate representations of so-called historical facts surrounding a very famous event that preceded the American Revolution, but will also teach them to deliberate with their classmates in a critical fashion.

BACKGROUND

On the night of March 5, 1770, American colonists attacked British soldiers in Boston, which resulted in the soldiers firing on the crowd and killing five of the colonists. This event became known as the Boston Massacre, a rallying point for colonists against the quartering and quartering of British troops throughout the colonies, and against the Townshend Acts, which the British soldiers were deployed to enforce. Many different accounts of this encounter are extant as John Adams successfully defended the British soldiers in court and thus had to depose numerous witnesses.

MATERIALS

PRIMARY SOURCES

“The Bloody Massacre,” by Paul Revere (PDF)

Depositions of burning trials, Boston Massacre Historical Society

Captain Thomas-Preston’s Account of the Boston Massacre, Boston Massacre Historical Society

“The Soldiers Trial. October 24 to 30, 1770, “Deceased Testimony,”” The University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, Famous Trials Project

Summation of John Adams, The University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, Famous Trials Project

Anonymous Account of the Massacre, The University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, Famous Trials Project

SECONDARY SOURCES

Library of Congress “America’s Library” site for kids, which gives a brief
The Boston Massacre

By Elizabeth Berlin Taylor

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson, students will be asked to learn the disputed and disagreed upon facts of the Boston Massacre in small groups and then devise them and propose a website definition of the Massacre as a class. The lesson should not only provide students with an opportunity to learn about the disparate representations of so-called historical facts but also to consider the very famous event that preceded the American Revolution, to learn to collaborate with their classmates in a cooperative environment.

BACKGROUND

On the night of March 5, 1770, American soldiers in Boston, which resulted in gunfire and killing five of the colonists. The conflict that led to the Boston Massacre, a fatal shooting of 18 American soldiers and the killing of five colonists, and against the British troops, which were destroyed in the American Revolutionary War. A few months later, the soldiers were arrested and tried in court and thus had to disclose the numbers.

MATERIALS:

PRIMARY SOURCES

"The Bloody Massacre," by Paul Revere

Declaration of Freedom, Boston Massacre Historical Society

Captain Thomas Preston’s Account of the Boston Massacre, Boston Massacre Historical Society

"The Soldiers Trial, October 24 to 30, 1770: Selected Testimony," The University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, Famous Trials Project

Summarized Minutes of the Court, The University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, Famous Trials Project

Anonymous Account of the Massacre, The University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, Famous Trials Project

SECONDARY SOURCE

Library of Congress "America's Library" site for kids, which gives a brief overview...
The Boston Massacre Trial

Trial Summary
The fascinating events that occurred around the most interesting aspects of the two landmark trials for the Captain and for eight soldiers, the biggest in Colonial history. It was the first time a judge used the phrase 'reasonable doubt.' And a lawyer, the Benefit of Clergy, was used by two soldiers to escape the death penalty.

The results of the trial
The Massacre trials ended quietly. Samuel Adams wrote several articles in the Boston Gazette during December, 1770, that accused the soldiers of escaping with blood on their hands.

Speech for defense by John Adams
The trial speech that brought acquittal to the accused. May it please your Honours...

Witness Testimonies
There were dozens of witnesses testifying during the trial, each presenting his own version of the events.

Deposition of Theodore Sims
Went to the Customs House. Saw Captain Preston there with the Soldiers. Asked him if they were loaded...

Anonymous Account
The most famous account is a successful anonymous piece printed by patriot.

Preston's Account
An emotional first-hand account of the mob attack on the British Soldiers.

Boston Massacre Oration
John Hancock's speech in 1774, on the 4th Anniversary of the Massacre.

Deposition of Benjamin Burdick
When I came into King Street about 9 o'clock I saw the Soldier round the Carriage.
The Boston Massacre Trial

Trial Summary:
The fascinating overview covers the most interesting aspects of the two landmark trials for the Captain and for the eight soldiers, the largest in Colonial history. It was the first time a judge used the phrase "reasonable doubt." And a Medieval rite, the Benefit of Clergy, was used by two soldiers to escape the death penalty.

The results of the trial:
The Massacre trials ended quietly. Samuel Adams wrote several articles in the Boston Gazette during December, 1770, that accused the soldiers of firing on the crowd.

Speech for defence by John Adams:
The trial speech that brought out the full horror of the event.

Witness Testimonies:
There were dozens of witnesses testifying during the trial, each presenting his own version of the events.

Deposition of Theodore Bliss:
Went to the Custom House. Saw Captain Preston there with the Soldiers. Asked him if they were loaded...

Deposition of Benjamin Burdick:
When I came into King Street about 9 o’clock I saw the Soldiers round the Custom House.
Andrew, a Negro servant to Oliver Wendell  
I jump'd back and heard a voice cry fire and immediately the first Gun fired. It seemed to come from the left wing from the second or third man on the left. The Officer was standing before me with his face towards the People. I am certain the voice came from beyond him. The Officer stood before the Soldiers at a sort of a corner. I turned round and saw a Grenadier who stood on the Captain's right swing his Gun and fire.

Jane Whitehouse
A Man came behind the Soldiers walked backwards and forward, encouraging them to fire. The Captain stood on the left about three yards. The man touched one of the Soldiers upon the back and said fire, by God I'll stand by you. He was dressed in dark colored clothes. He did not look like an Officer. The man fired directly on the word and clap on the Shoulder. I am positive the man was not the Captain. I am sure he gave no orders. I saw one man take a chunk of wood from under his Coat throw it at a Soldier and knocked him. He fell on his face. His firelock was out of his hand. This was before any firing.

Benjamin Burdick
When I came into King Street about 9 o'Clock I saw the Soldiers round the Centinel. I asked one if he was loaded and he said yes. I asked him if he would fire, he said yes by the Eternal God and push his Bayonet at me. After the firing the Captain came before the soldiers and put up their Guns with his arm and said stop firing, dont fire no more or dont fire again. I heard the word fire and took it and am certain that it came from behind the Soldiers. I saw a man passing busily behind who I took to be an Officer. The firing was a little time after. I saw some persons fall. Before the firing I saw a stick thrown at the Soldiers. The word fire I took to be a word of Command. I had in my hand a highland broad Sword which I brought from home. Upon my coming out I was told it was a wrangle between the Soldiers and people, upon that I went back and got my Sword. I never used to go out with a weapon. I had not my Sword drawn till after the Soldier pushed his Bayonet at me. I should have cut his head off if I had stepped out of his Rank to attack me again. At the first firing the People were chiefly in Royal Exchange lane, there being about 50 in the Street. After the firing I went up to the Soldiers and told them I wanted to see some faces that I might swear to them another day. The Centinel in a melancholy tone said perhaps Sir you may.
THE EVIDENCE

1. Site of the Boston Massacre, Town House Area, 1770.

Main Street

Town House

King Street

Royal Exchange Lane

Custom House

Sentry Box

Steps

Soldiers

Quaker Lane

Private Dwelling

Private Dwelling

Private Dwelling

Shops

Court Square

Shops

Private Dwelling

Private Dwelling

Private Dwelling

Private Dwelling

Office

Private Dwelling

Private Dwelling

Private Dwelling
THE EVIDENCE

1. Site of the Boston Massacre, Town House Area, 1770.

Main Street

Shop
Private Dwelling
Office
Private Dwelling

Shops
Court Square
Shops

Quaker Lane
Private Dwelling
Private Dwelling
Private Dwelling

Town House

King Street

Private Dwelling
Exchange Tavern
Royal Exchange Lane

Custom House
Private Dwelling

Soldiers

Sentry Box
Steps
Unhappy Boston! I see thy Sons deplore,
Thy bloodily Walks befouled with guile & Gore.
While faithlees En and his savage Bands,
With numberless Baccoc stretch their bloody hands.
Like fierce Barbarians grinning o'er their Prey, -
Approve the Courage and enjoy the Day.

If shedding drops from Villages and Towns but kiss God's favour to that awful God,
If Speechless Sorrows - th' Raint for a Tongue,
Whose justice th' Mind of his Soul,
Orsow I'm whelped, World can ought appear,
The plaintive Odes of victims richly enrich,
The Patriot's cup's been for thee so fixed.
A glorious Tribute which enthralls the Dead.

Killed Six wounded; two of them (Christus Mason & John Clark) Mortally.

Published in 1770 by Paul Revere.
“The ASSIGNMENTS”

Tips for Organization
ity, the American Revolution made many European rulers tremble because if the ideas contained in the Declaration of Independence (especially that of the right of revolution against unjust rulers) ever became widespread, their own tenures might well be doomed. And, beginning with the French Revolution, this is precisely what happened; gradually, crevasses began to topple all across the Continent. Indeed, many would have agreed with the Frenchman Turgot, who, writing of America in the 1780s, noted the following:

This people is the hope of the human race. It may become the model. It ought to show the world, by facts, that men can be free and yet peaceful, and may dispense with the chains in which tyrants and knowers... have presumed to bind them. The Americans should be an example of political, religious, commercial and industrial liberty. The asylum they offer to the oppressed of every nation, the avenue of escape they open, will compel governments to be just and enlightened.

The Revolution obviously brought independence and in the long run became one of the significant events in world history. But did it alter or reverse the economic and social trends that, as we have seen, were affecting the men, women, and children of colonial New England? In 1838, the U.S. Congress passed an act providing pensions for impoverished veterans of the War of Independence and their widows. Congressmen believed that there were approximately 1,400 poor veterans and widows who were still alive. Yet an astounding 20,000 applied for pensions, 20,000 of whom were ultimately approved to receive these benefits. Clearly, the American Revolution, although an event that had worldwide significance, did not necessarily change the lives of all the men and women who participated in it. Or did it?

CHAPTER 4

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN THE BOSTON MASSACRE?

THE TRIAL OF CAPTAIN THOMAS PRESTON

THE PROBLEM

On the chilly evening of March 5, 1770, a small group of boys began taunting a British sentry (called a "Gentleman" or "Sentry") in front of the Boston Custom House. Pushed to the breaking point by this provocation, the soldier struck one of his tormentors with his musket. Soon a crowd of fifty or sixty gathered around the frightened soldier, prompting him to call for help. The officer of the day, Captain Thomas Preston, and seven British soldiers hurried to the Custom House to protect the sentry.

Upon arriving at the Custom House, Captain Preston must have sensed how precarious his position was. The crowd had swollen to more than one hundred, some armed for a fight, others simply curiosity seekers, and still others called from their homes by the town's church bells, a traditional signal that a fire had broken out. Efforts by Preston and others to calm the crowd proved useless. And because the crowd had enveloped Preston and his men as it had the lone sentry, escape was nearly impossible.

What happened next is a subject of considerable controversy. One of the soldiers fired his musket into the crowd, and the others followed suit, one by one. The colonists scattered, leaving five dead and six wounded.
some of whom were probably innocent bystanders. Preston and his men quickly returned to their barracks, where they were placed under house arrest. They were later taken to jail and charged with murder.

Preston's trial began on October 24, 1770, delayed by the authorities in an attempt to cool the emotions of the townspeople. Soon after the March 5 event, however, a grand jury had taken sworn depositions from Preston, the soldiers, and more than ninety Bostonians. The depositions leaked out (in a pamphlet, probably published by anti-British extremists), helping to keep emotions at a fever pitch.

John Adams, Josiah Quincy, and Robert Auchmuty had agreed to defend Preston, even though the first two were staunch Patriots. They believed that the captain was entitled to a fair trial and did their best to defend him. After a difficult jury selection, the trial began, witnesses for the prosecution and the defense being called mostly from those who had given depositions to the grand jury. The trial lasted for four days, an unusually long trial for the times. The case went to the jury at 5:00 PM on October 29. Although it took the jury only three hours to reach a verdict, the decision was not announced until the following day.

In this chapter, you will be using portions of the evidence given at the murder trial of Captain Thomas Preston to reconstruct what actually happened on that March 5, 1770, evening in Boston, Massachusetts. Was Preston guilty as charged? Or was he innocent? Only by reconstructing the event that we call the Boston Massacre will you be able to answer these questions.

BACKGROUND

The town of Boston2 had been uneasy throughout the first weeks of 1770. Tension had been building since the early 1760s because the town was increasingly affected by the forces of migration, change, and dissatisfaction. The protests against the Stamp Act had been particularly bitter there, and men such as Samuel Adams were encouraging their fellow Bostonians to be even bolder in their renunciations.

In response, in 1768 the British government ordered two regiments of soldiers to Boston to restore order and enforce the laws of Parliament. "They

will not find a rebel," quipped Benjamin Franklin of the soldiers, "they may indeed make one" (italics added).

Instead of bringing calm to Boston, the presence of soldiers only increased tensions. Incidents between Bostonians and redcoats were common on the streets, in taverns, and at the places of employment of British soldiers who sought part-time jobs to supplement their meager salaries. Known British sympathizers and informers were harassed, and Crown officials were openly insulted. Indeed, the town of Boston seemed to be a powder keg just waiting for a spark to set off an explosion.

On February 22, 1770, British sympathizers and informer Ebenezer Richardson tried to tear down an anti-British sign. He was followed to his house by an angry crowd that proceeded to tar and feather his windows with stones. One of the stones struck Richardson's wife. Enraged, he grabbed a musket and fired almost blindly into the crowd. Eleven-year-old Christopher Seider4 fell to the ground with eleven pellets of shot in his chest. The boy died eight hours later. The crowd, by now numbering about one thousand, dragged Richardson from his house and through the streets, finally delivering him to the Boston jail. Four days later, the town conducted a huge funeral for Christopher Seider, probably arranged and organized by Samuel Adams. Seider's casket was carried through the streets by children, and approximately two thousand mourners filled the streets of Boston's total population took part.

Although the next week Boston was an angry town. Gangs of men and boys roamed the streets at night looking for British soldiers foolish enough to venture out alone. Similarly, off-duty soldiers proceeded the same streets looking for someone to challenge them. A fight broke out at a ropewalk between some soldiers who worked there part time and some unemployed colonists.

With large portions of both the Boston citizenry and the British soldiers inflamed, an incident on March 5 touched off an ugly confrontation that took place in front of the Custom House, a symbol of British authority over the colonies. Both sides sought to use the event to support their respective causes. But Samuel Adams, a struggling attorney with a flair for politics and propaganda, clearly had the upper hand. The burial of the five "martyrs" was attended by almost every resident of Boston, and Adams used the event to push his demands for British troop withdrawal and to heap abuse on the mother country.

Therefore, when the murder trial of Captain Thomas Preston finally opened in late October, emotions had hardly diminished.

Crowd disturbances had been an almost regular feature of life, in both England and America. Historian John Bolton has estimated that England was the scene of over one thousand crowd disturbances and riots between 1790 and 1800. Colonial American towns were no more placid, demon-

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1. Patrick Caw (an immigrant from Ireland who worked as a leather-broker), Samuel Grey (a soapmaker), and Samuel Maverick (in an seventeen-year-old apprentice).

2. Adams, Quincy, and Auchmuty (presumably clerk-scribe) also engaged to defend the soldiers, a practice that would not be allowed today because of the conflict of interest (obscuring more than one person charged with the same crime).

3. Although Boston was one of the largest urban centers in the colonies, the town was not incorporated as a city. Several attempts were made, but residents opposed them, fearing they would lose the institution of the town meeting.

4. Christopher Seider is sometimes referred to as Christopher Seider.

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Boston Massacre “The Problem” Groups

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<thead>
<tr>
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Parallel Teach

Main Street

Shop
Private Dwelling
Office
Private Dwelling

Town House
Private Dwelling

King Street
Private Dwelling
Exchange Tavern

Royal Exchange Lane
Commissary House

Quaker Lane
Private Dwelling

Soldiers

Savoy Box
Steps

The evidence

2. Deposition of Captain Thomas Preston, March 12, 1770 (Excerpt).

The mob still increased and were outrageous, striking their clubs or bludgeons one against another, and calling out, come on you rascals, you bloody backs, you lobster scoundrels, fire if you dare, G-d damn you, fire and be damned, we know you dare not, and much more such language was used. At this time I was between the soldiers and the mob, parleying with, and endeavoring all in my power to persuade them to retire peaceably, but to no purpose. They advanced to the points of the bayonets, struck some of them and even the muzzles of the pieces, and seemed to be endeavoring to close with the soldiers. On which some well behaved persons asked me if the guns were charged. I replied yes. They then asked me if I intended to order the men to fire. I answered no, by no means, observing to them that I was advanced before the muskets of the men’s pieces, and must fall a sacrifice if they fired; that the soldiers were upon the half cock and charged bayonets, and my giving the word fire under those circumstances would prove me to be no officer. While I was thus speaking, one of the soldiers having received a severe blow with a stick, stepped a little to one side and instantly fired. . . . On this a general attack was made on the men by a great number of heavy clubs and snowballs being thrown at them, by which all our lives were in imminent danger, some persons at the same time from behind calling out, damn your bloody—why don’t you fire. Instantly three or four of the soldiers fired. . . . On my asking the soldiers why they fired without orders, they said they heard the word fire and supposed it came from me. This might be the case as many of the mob called out fire, fire, but I assured the men that I gave no such order; that my words were, don’t fire, stop your firing. . . .

8. The cock of a musket had to be fully drawn back (cocked) for the musket to fire. In half cock, the cock was drawn only halfway back so that primer powder could be placed in the pan. The musket, however, would not fire at half cock. This is the origin of “Don’t go off half cocked.” See Source 5.

7. Depositions also were taken from the soldiers, three of whom claimed, “We did not Captain’s orders and if we don’t obey his commands should have been confined and shot.” As with Preston’s deposition, the jury was not aware of that statement. In addition, ninety-six depositions were taken from townspeople.
THE EVIDENCE


- Mass Street
- Town House
- King Street
- Royal Exchange Lane
- Custom House
- Stores
- Private Dwelling
- Office
- Private Dwelling
- Shop
- Court Squint
- Shops
- Quaker Lane
- Private Dwelling
- Private Dwelling


2. Deposition of Captain Thomas Preston, March 12, 1770 (Excerpt).

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<td>Michael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Palmes</td>
<td>Sam</td>
<td>Charlie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Murray</td>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>Zach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew</td>
<td>Jake D</td>
<td>Gio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Whitehouse</td>
<td>Hanna</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newton Prince</td>
<td>Luke M</td>
<td>Betsy</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Woodall</td>
<td>Gavin</td>
<td>Lanaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Gifford</td>
<td>Nathan</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
"The Bloody Massacre"
A USH Whodunnit!

We are all so familiar with Paul Revere's engraving, "The Bloody Massacre perpetrated in King Street, Boston, on March 5th, 1770," that the truth of the acts of many Americans today. But we are historians and tellers of stories, people, events, and anecdotes where people lived and died in the American Revolution.

Which side would want to see your witness? Prosecution or Defense? Why?

*Note: This activity is designed to help students understand the historic context of the Boston Massacre and its impact on America's struggle for independence. It encourages critical thinking and historical analysis.*

Matthew Murray
I heard no order given. I stood within two steps of the Captain. He was in front of the town with a Person. I don't know who. I was looking at the Captain when the Gun was fired.

Nathaniel Fitch
I heard the Bell ring, and then I suppose I went out and came down by the Main Guard. Saw some Soldiers firing their Muskets over us. Poured down to the Central. Fronted something in the rear of the street, and saw some Soldiers coming down. They led me out of the way and into my house. I saw them not for my own. The party that I heard the Bell ring was the Officer present. I heard no Orders give a gun; but in about two minutes after the Captain's order's gave it all. The front man on the right who fired after attempting to pull the Gun down and shot it out of his hand. The Person who stood in between the fourth and fifth man when I look upon it gave the order to fire. His back was to me. I always think was him. The Officer had a Way on it. I was in such a situation that I saw as much, and after they saw there were no more give me so that the word fire was spoken.
We are all so familiar with Paul Revere's engraving, "The Bloody Massacre" perpetuated in the minds of many Americans today. But we are historians now. Using multiple sources, critically examine each for bias, and correlate accounts where possible. We are not only historians of events but of people—seeking the complexities and diversity of this pivotal event in the history of the American Revolution.

Which side would want to use your witness? Prosecution or Defense? Why?

**The Evidence**

Jane Whitehouse

"A Man came behind the Soldiers walked backwards and forward, encouraging them to fire. The Captain stood in the front about three yards. The man touched one of the Soldiers upon the back and said fire. By God I'll stand by you. He was dressed in dark colored clothes... He did not look like an Officer. The man fired directly on the word and clap on the Shoulder. I am positive the man was not the Captain. ... I saw men be given no orders... I saw one man take a chunk of wood from under his coat throw it at a Soldier and knocked him. He fell on his face. His head[0] was cut off his hand... This was before any firing."

Matthew Murray

"I heard no order given. I stood within two yards of the Captain. He was in front talking with a Person. I don't know who. I was looking at the Captain when the Gun was fired."

Nathaniel Foulk

"Hearing the Bells ring, for fire I supposed I went out and came down by the Main Guard. Saw some Soldiers fixing their Bayonets on. Passed on. Went down to the Centinel. Perceived something pass me behind. Turned round and saw the Soldiers coming down. They had me stand out of the way and dined my blood. I told them I should not for any man. The party draw up round the Centinel, faced about and charged their Bayonets. I saw an Officer and said if there was any disturbance between the Soldiers and the People there were the Officer present who could settle it. I saw, in about two minutes after the Captain step'd across the Gutter. Spoke to two Men—I don't know who—then went back behind his men. Between the 4th and 5th men on the right. I then heard the word fire and the first Gun went off. In about 3 minutes the second and then several others. The Captain had a Sword in his hand. Was dressed in his Regimentals. Had no Shert on. I saw nothing throws nor any blows given at all. The first man on the right who fired after attempting to push the People slipped down and dropped his Gun out of his hand. The Person who stood in between the 4th and 5th Men I look upon it gave the orders to fire. He was back to me. I shall always think it was him. The Officer had a Wig on. I was in such a situation that I am as well satisfied there were no blows given so that the word fire was spoken."
Edward Gurnick (or Gurnick)

I heard a noise about 8 o'clock and went down to Royal Exchange Lane. Saw some Persons with Sticks coming up Quaker Lane. I said [to the sentry], Capt. Goldsmith owed my fellow Apprentice. He said he was a Gentleman and would pay every body. I said there was none in the Regiment. He asked for me. I went to him, was not ashamed of my face. The Sentry left his Post and struck me. I cried. My fellow Apprentice and a young man came up to the Sentry and called him Bloody Jack. He called to the Main Guard. There was not a dozen people when the Sentry called the Guard.

Cross-Examination of Captain James Gifford

Q: Did you ever know an officer order men to fire with their bayonets charged?
A: No, Officers never give order to fire from charged bayonet. They would all have fired together, or most of them.

James Woodall

I saw one Soldier knocked down. His Gun fell from him. I saw a great many sticks and pieces of sticks and Ice thrown at the Soldiers. The Soldier who was knocked down took up his Gun and Ice thrown at the Soldiers. The Soldier who was knocked down took up his Gun and Ice thrown at the Soldiers. The Sentry in a blue or black plume trimmed with gold. He put his hand toward their backs. Whether he touched them. I know not and said by God I'll stand by you whilst I have a drop of blood and then said fire and two went off and the rest to 7 or 8. The Captains, officers, seemed shocked and looked upon the Soldiers. I am very certain he did not give the word fire.


5. Detail of a Musket.


4. The Position of "Bayonets Charged."
Edward Damp (or Damp)

I heard a note about it and wrote it down to Royal Exchange Lane. Rawson Parsons with Skulls coming up was the next. He said he was the main man. I asked him if I could see my fellow apprentice. He said he was the man who paid the money. The fellow I saw was in the next room. He asked for me, I went to him, was not satisfied. The next room was the main one. The fellow left his foot and reached me. I asked for my fellow apprentice and he was in the next room. I asked for him and he was called the guard. There was no one there when the guard called the guard.

Examination of Captain James Olliff

a. Did you see any officer order men to fire the bayonet charge?

b. No, officers never give orders to fire from the bayonet. They would all have died together, as most of them.

John Woodfall

I saw a soldier knock the gun. The gun fell from him. I saw a great many sticks and pieces of sticks and fire thrown at the soldiers. The soldiers who were knocked down took up the gun and fired directly. Soon after the first gun I saw a gentleman in a red coat and a black hat. He fired at the soldiers. He fired back to the soldiers. He fired at me and then fired at me with his bayonet. He fired at me with his bayonet and then fired at me with his bayonet. The captain, after several shots, went off and the rest of the soldiers. I was very certain he did not give the word fire.
“The Oral Presentations”

Document Camera & Dialogue
### Boston Massacre: Prosecution vs Defense (KEY)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Witnesses for the Prosecution</th>
<th>Witnesses for the Defense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edward Gerrish (Garrick)</td>
<td>Edward Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebenezer Hinkley</td>
<td>Richard Palmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Cunningham</td>
<td>Matthew Murray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Wyatt</td>
<td>Andrew (Negro servant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theodore Bliss</td>
<td>Jane Whitehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Burdick</td>
<td>Newton Prince (Negro)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diman Morton</td>
<td>James Woodall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Fosdick</td>
<td>James Gifford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Question for the student presenter:**

**What is the most compelling quote that either helps or hurts Captain Preston?**
At home, I heard the Bells for fire. I went out. Came to the Town House. The People told me there was going to be a Rumpus with the Soldiers. Went to the Custom house. Saw Capt. Preston there with the Soldiers. Asked him if they were loaded. He said yes. I asked him. He said no.

I saw the People throw Snow Bales at the Soldiers and saw a stick about 3 feet long strike a Soldier upon the right. He fell and then felt. A little time a second. Then the soldier fell after another. One or two Snow bales hit the Soldier, the stick struck, before firing. I knew not whether he fell on account of the stick or step back to make ready. I did not hear any Order given by the Capt. to fire. I stood near him. I thought I could hear him. He gave an order to fire before the first firing. I never knew Capt. Preston before. I can’t say where he had a Surtout on. He was dressed in red. I knew him to be the Officer. The man that first stood next to the Exchange lane. I saw one of the People press upon the Soldiers before the first Gun fired. I did after. I aimed a blow at him myself but did not strike him. I am sure the Captain stood before the men when the first Gun was fired. I had no apprehension. I do not give order to fire when the first Gun was fired. I thought, after the first Gun, the Capt. did order the Man to fire but not certain. Said that Capt. DID order first shot but maybe not second shots.

When I came into King Street about 9 o’clock I saw the Soldiers round the Centinel. I asked one if he was loaded and he said yes. I asked him if he would fire. He said yes by the Eternal God and his Bayonet at me. After the firing the Captain came before the soldiers and put up their Guns with his arm and said stop firing. Don’t fire more or don’t fire again. I heard the word fire and took it and am certain that it came from behind the Soldiers. I saw a man passing by me and told me to be an Officer. The firing was a little time after. I saw some persons fall. Before the firing I saw a stick thrown at the Soldiers. The word fire I took to be a word of Command. I had in my hand a broadsword which I brought from home. Upon my coming out I was told it was a wrangle between the People and the officers, and upon that I went and got my Sword. I never used to go out with a weapon. I had not my sword drawn till after the soldier pushed his Bayonet at me. I should have cut his head off if he had stepped out of his rank to attack me again. At the first firing the People were chiefly in Royal Exchange lane, there being about 50 in the Street. After the firing I went up to the Soldiers and told them I wanted to see some faces that I might swear to them another day. The Centinel is a melancholy tone said perhaps Sir you may.

Benjamin Boudick

Hearing the Bells, for fire I supposed I went out and came down by the Main Guard. Saw some Soldiers firing their Bayonets on. Passed on. Went down to the Centinel. Perceived something pass me behind. Turned round and saw the Soldiers coming down. They bid me stand out of the way and do me no harm. I told them I should not if any man. The party drew up round the Centinel, faced about and charged their Bayonets. I saw an Officer and said if there was any disturbance between the Soldiers and the People there was the Officer present who could settle it soon. I heard no Orders given to load, but in about two minutes after the Captain step’d across the Guard. Spoke to two Men—I don’t know who—then went back behind his men. Between the 4th and 5th man on the right. I then heard the word fire and the first Gun went off. In about two minutes the second and third several others. (The Captain had a Sword in his hand.) Was dressed in his Equipment. Had his Surtout on. I saw nothing throw nor any blows given at all. The first man on the right who fired after attempting to push the People stepped down and dropped his Gun out of his hand. The Person who step’d in between the 4th and 5th Man I ask upon it gave the orders sword raised / no Surtout / cast into many.
1) Who is your character?

2) Translate the testimony IYOW (in your own words)

3) Prosecution or Defense? Why?

4) What is the single best quote that either helps or hurts Preston?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Character Assignment</th>
<th>Translate</th>
<th>C/C to Preston</th>
<th>Which Side? Why?</th>
<th>Image Choice</th>
<th>LETTER GRADE</th>
<th>Comments about image &amp; quote</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adam</td>
<td>Theodore Bliss</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>defense</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>Peter Cunningham</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>prosecution</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>Jane Whitehouse</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>C</td>
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“The Visual Presentation”

Shared on Google Drive
The Boston "Massacre"
An Inquiry into the Sources
Your assignment:

Find an **image** (>100k) that you believe represents your witness *or* their testimony in some way. You can and should be creative here as long as you can explain **why** you think it is appropriate. Fill the slide!

(Cite your image with a [hyperlink](#) -- we'll show you how)

Choose ONE quote that either *helps* or *hurts* the Captain Preston, depending on whether your witness is on the side of the Prosecution or the Defense. You need to defend **why** is it the best quote.

(Don't forget to leave your name in the lower right-hand part of the slide)
The Trial of Captain Thomas Preston
The mob still increased and were outrageous, striking their clubs... and calling out...you lobster scoundrels, fire if you dare.
The mob still increased and were outrageous, striking their clubs... and calling out... you lobster scoundrels, fire if you dare.

This is WAY TOO LITERAL and is not a very good choice, either.

Can you figure out why that is the case?
Witnesses for the Prosecution
My witness Matthew Murray did not hear any order given by the captain. Matthew was within 2 yards of the captain and was looking at him when the shots occurred. I chose this picture to represent Matthews because last August in Boston’s Fenway Park, “A-Rod” was hit by a pitch and was therefore not allowed to strike the ball. Was this Deliberate? The umpire was within a couple of yards and looking at pitcher Ryan Dempster and heard no order given.
“There were not a dozen people when the sentinel called the guard”

Source: Edward Gerrish (Garrick)
"The Captain, after seemed shocked and looked upon the Soldiers. I am very certain he did not give the word fire."

James Woodall

Lanaya L.
The Verdict

Vote on whether Captain Preston should be found “guilty” or “not guilty”.

Now compare/contrast to the actual result.
“The END”

Stay in Touch!

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twadella@nths.net