

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# ANALYZING THE BOSTON MASSACRE

**Directions:** *Complete the questions below as you analyze the 4 images of the Boston Massacre.*

## IMAGE 1

1. What do you see? (Be sure to describe any images, symbols, colors and words you think might be important)
2. What significant events were happening between the colonists and British at this time?
3. What point of view do you think this artist has? Why?

## IMAGE 3

1. What do you see? (Be sure to describe any images, symbols, colors and words you think might be important)
2. Who is Crispus Attacks and why is he called a “martyr”?
3. What point of view do you think this artist has? Why?

## IMAGE 2

1. What do you see? (Be sure to describe any images, symbols, colors and words you think might be important)
2. Why do you think the artist chose this title for this image (it’s at the top)?
3. Who was the intended audience for this engraving?

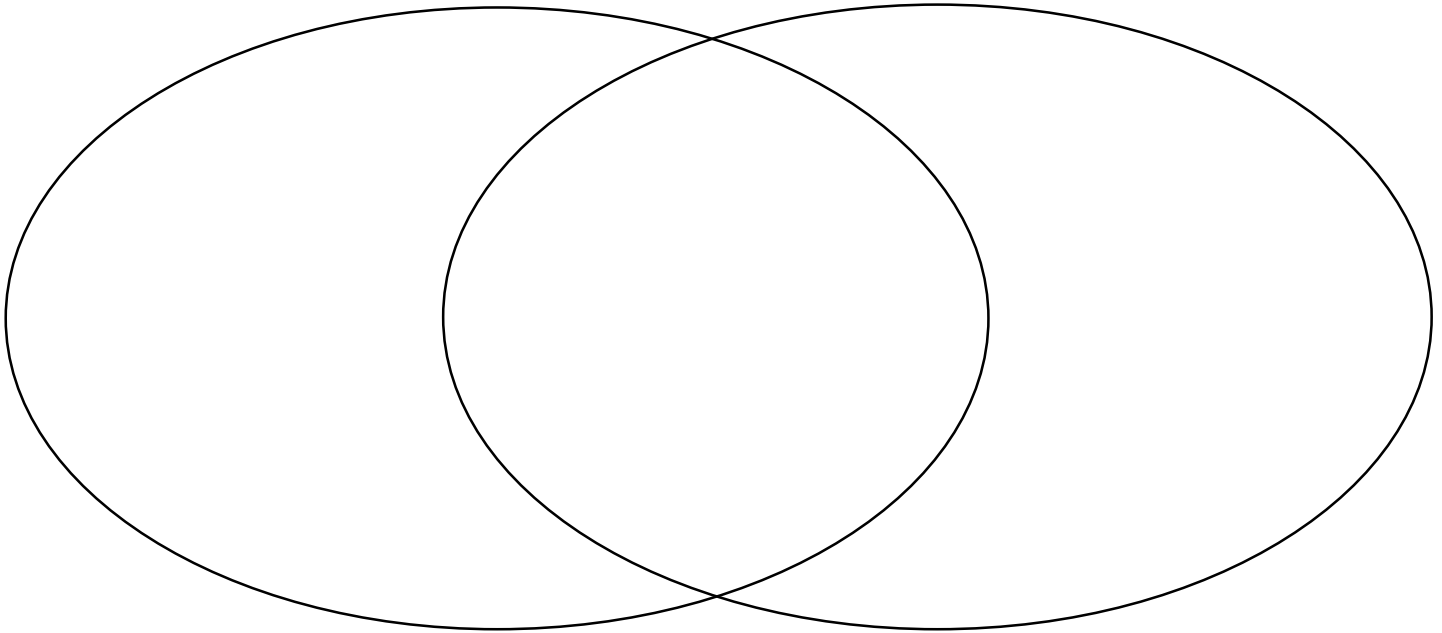
## IMAGE 4

1. What do you see? (Be sure to describe any images, symbols, colors and words you think might be important)
2. This engraving was made in 1868 – does that affect its accuracy? How or why?
3. According to this artist, who is responsible for this event?

**Directions:** Review the two newspaper accounts of the Boston Massacre and complete this Venn Diagram comparing them. Think about the tone, how they describe the soldiers and the colonists, how the event began, etc. Try to get a few items for each section of the graphic organizer.

# THE BOSTON GAZETTE

# THE LONDON CHRONICLE



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

After analyzing the Boston Massacre from both sides, draw your own cartoon and write a letter to the editor of your newspaper on who you feel is to blame for what happened.

[illegible]



IMAGE #1



The BLOODY MASSACRE perpetrated in King-Street Boston on March 5<sup>th</sup> 1770 by a party of the 29<sup>th</sup> REG<sup>t</sup>



Engraved Printed & Sold by PAUL REVERE BOSTON

Unhappy Boston! see thy Sons deplore,  
Thy hallow'd Walks beset with guiltless Gore:  
While faithless P—n and his savage Bands,  
With murderous Rancour stretch their bloody hands;  
Like fierce Barbarians grinning o'er their Prey,  
Approve the Carnage and enjoy the Day.

If falling drops from Rage from Anguish Mingle  
If speechless Sorrows lab'ring for a Tongue  
Or if a weeping World can ought appease  
The plaintive Ghosts of Victims such as these:  
The Patriot's copious Tears for each are shed,  
A glorious Tribute which embalms the Dead

But know Fate summons to that awful Goal,  
Where Justice strips the Mind'r'er of his Soul:  
Should venal C—ts the scandal of the Land,  
Snatch the relentless Villain from her Hand,  
Keen Execrations on this Plate inscrib'd,  
Shall reach a Judge who never can be brib'd.

The unhappy Sufferers were Mess<sup>rs</sup> SAM<sup>l</sup> GRAY SAM<sup>l</sup> MAVERICK, JAM<sup>s</sup> CALDWELL, CRISPUS ATTUCKS & PAT<sup>h</sup> CARR  
Killed. Six wounded; two of them (CHRIST<sup>h</sup> MONK & JOHN CLARK) Mortally  
Published in 1770 by Paul Revere

**IMAGE #2**



**IMAGE #3**



Crispus Attucks, the First Martyr of the American Revolution, King (now State) Street, Boston,  
March 5th, 1770. Page 16.



**IMAGE #4**



**BOSTON MASSACRES.**

*From an original painting by Henry Chapman in possession of the Publisher.*

London: By A. W. Phillips, New York.



# ACCOUNT OF THE BOSTON MASSACRE FROM THE BOSTON GAZETTE

On the evening of Monday, being the fifth current, several soldiers of the 29th Regiment were seen parading the streets with their drawn cutlasses and bayonets, abusing and wounding numbers of the inhabitants.

A few minutes after nine o'clock four youths, named Edward Archbald, William Merchant, Francis Archbald, and John Leech, jun., came down Cornhill together, and separating at Doctor Loring's corner, the two former were passing the narrow alley leading to Murray's barrack in which was a soldier brandishing a broad sword of an uncommon size against the walls, out of which he struck fire plentifully. A person of mean countenance armed with a large cudgel bore him company. Edward Archbald admonished Mr. Merchant to take care of the sword, on which the soldier turned round and struck Archbald on the arm, then pushed at Merchant and pierced through his clothes inside the arm close to the armpit and grazed the skin. Merchant then struck the soldier with a short stick he had; and the other person ran to the barrack and brought with him two soldiers, one armed with a pair of tongs, the other with a shovel. He with the tongs pursued Archbald back through the alley, collared and laid him over the head with the tongs.

The noise brought people together; and John Hicks, a young lad, coming up, knocked the soldier down but let him get up again; and more lads gathering, drove them back to the barrack where the boys stood some time as it were to keep them in. In less than a minute ten or twelve of them came out with drawn cutlasses, clubs, and bayonets and set upon the unarmed boys and young folk who stood them a little while but, finding the inequality of their equipment, dispersed.

On hearing the noise, one Samuel Atwood came up to see what was the matter; and entering the alley from dock square, heard the latter part of the combat; and when the boys had dispersed he met the ten or twelve soldiers aforesaid rushing down the alley towards the square and asked them if they intended to murder people? They answered yes, by God, root and branch! With that one of them struck Mr. Atwood with a club which was repeated by another; and being unarmed, he turned to go off and received a wound on the left shoulder which reached the bone and gave him much pain. Retreating a few steps, Mr. Atwood met two officers and said, gentlemen, what is the matter? They answered, you'll see by and by.

Immediately after, those heroes appeared in the square, asking, where were the boogers? Where were the cowards? But notwithstanding their fierceness to naked men, one of them advanced towards a youth who had a split of a raw stave in his hand and said, damn them, here is one of them. But the young man seeing a person near him with a drawn sword and good cane ready to support him, held up his stave in defiance; and they quietly passed by him up the little alley by Mr. Silsby's to King Street where they attacked single and unarmed persons till they raised much clamour, and then turned down Cornhill Street, insulting all they met in like manner and pursuing some to their very doors.

Thirty or forty persons, mostly lads, being by this means gathered in King Street, Capt. Preston with a party of men with charged bayonets, came from the main guard to the commissioner's house, the soldiers pushing their bayonets, crying, make way! They took place by the custom house and, continuing to push to drive the people off, pricked some in several places, on which they were clamorous and, it is said, threw snow balls. On this, the Captain commanded them to fire; and more snow balls coming, he again said, damn you, fire, be the consequence what it will! One soldier then fired, and a townsman with a cudgel struck him over the hands with such force that he dropped his firelock; and, rushing forward, aimed a blow at the Captain's head which grazed his hat and fell pretty heavy upon his arm. However, the soldiers continued the fire successively till seven or eight or, as some say, eleven guns were discharged.



# ACCOUNT OF THE BOSTON MASSACRE FROM THE LONDON CHRONICLE



Excerpt of Article from The London Chronicle  
April 26–28, 1770

The following is a substance of a letter from Boston, dated the 12th of March, relative to the unhappy affair between the Townsmen and the Soldiers on the 5th of that month:

For some time past frequent affrays have happened in the streets of this town between the inhabitants and the soldiers quartered there, and particularly on the 2nd and 3rd of March in which affrays one or two of the soldiers were much hurt. On the 5th of March, in the evening, a number of the townspeople, after insulting in the barracks, attacked a sentry upon duty at the Customhouse, and forced him from his post. Upon his requiring aid, Captain Preston (who was Captain of the day) sent a non-commissioned officer and 12 men to his assistance, and soon after followed himself. This party was also attacked, and insulted by the mob, and one of them, receiving a blow, fired his piece, after which six or seven others fired, by which three of the townspeople were killed upon the spot and several others wounded; one of which is since dead of his wounds. During this transaction there was a great tumult in the town. The people prepared to arm;

expresses had been sent to the neighboring towns for assistance; and a resolution taken to give a general alarm, by firing the beacon; but by the persuasion of the Lieutenant Governor, the people were prevailed upon, after some time, to disperse; A barrel of tar, which was carrying to the beacon, was brought back, and the troops, which were under arms, retired to their barracks.

On the next morning the Council assembled to deliberate on the measures it might be advisable to pursue. It having been declared, by several of the members, that it was the determination of the people to have the troops removed from the town at all events, that this was the sense of the whole province, that the inhabitants of the other towns stood ready to come in, in order to affect this, and that they had formed their plan, of which this was not only a part. And the inhabitants, assembled in town meeting, having by their selectmen, and by messages repeatedly represented, that nothing would satisfy the people, but a total and immediate removal of the troops. The Lieutenant-Governor thought fit to request the commanding officer, to cause both the regiments to remove to the barracks at the castle, which was accordingly done without further disturbance.

Upon examinations before two Justices of the Peace, Captain Preston being charged with ordering the troops to fire, was committed to prison: as were also seven or eight private men, charged with having fired in consequence of those orders.



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**Directions:** Complete the questions below as you analyze the 4 images of the Boston Massacre.

## IMAGE 1

1. What do you see? (Be sure to describe any images, symbols, colors and words you think might be important)

**Open to many possible student responses.**

2. What significant events were happening between the colonists and British at this time? **The colonists were protesting recent acts of taxation including the Townshend Acts. The British stationed troops in Boston in response which was unpopular as well.**

3. What point of view do you think this artist has? Why?  
**This image seems to be from a British perspective as colonists are attacking the British with clubs and charging at them while the British are shooting at them.**

## IMAGE 2

1. What do you see? (Be sure to describe any images, symbols, colors and words you think might be important)

**Open to many possible student responses.**

2. Why do you think the artist chose this title for this image (it's at the top)?  
**This was done by Paul Revere to encourage colonists to support the Revolution. The Bloody Massacre highlights the British killing colonists.**
3. Who was the intended audience for this engraving?  
**Revere wanted to influence those colonists who were neutral or Loyalists and get them to join the Revolutionary cause.**

## IMAGE 3

1. What do you see? (Be sure to describe any images, symbols, colors and words you think might be important)

**Open to many possible student responses.**

2. Who is Crispus Attacks and why is he called a "martyr"?  
**Crispus Attacks was an African-American who was killed in the Boston Massacre. He is called a martyr because he died for the American cause.**

3. What point of view do you think this artist has? Why?  
**This is likely from an abolitionist or African-American view because it is highlighting Crispus Attacks as a martyr and was drawn in 1855 just before the Civil War.**

## IMAGE 4

1. What do you see? (Be sure to describe any images, symbols, colors and words you think might be important)

**Open to many possible student responses.**

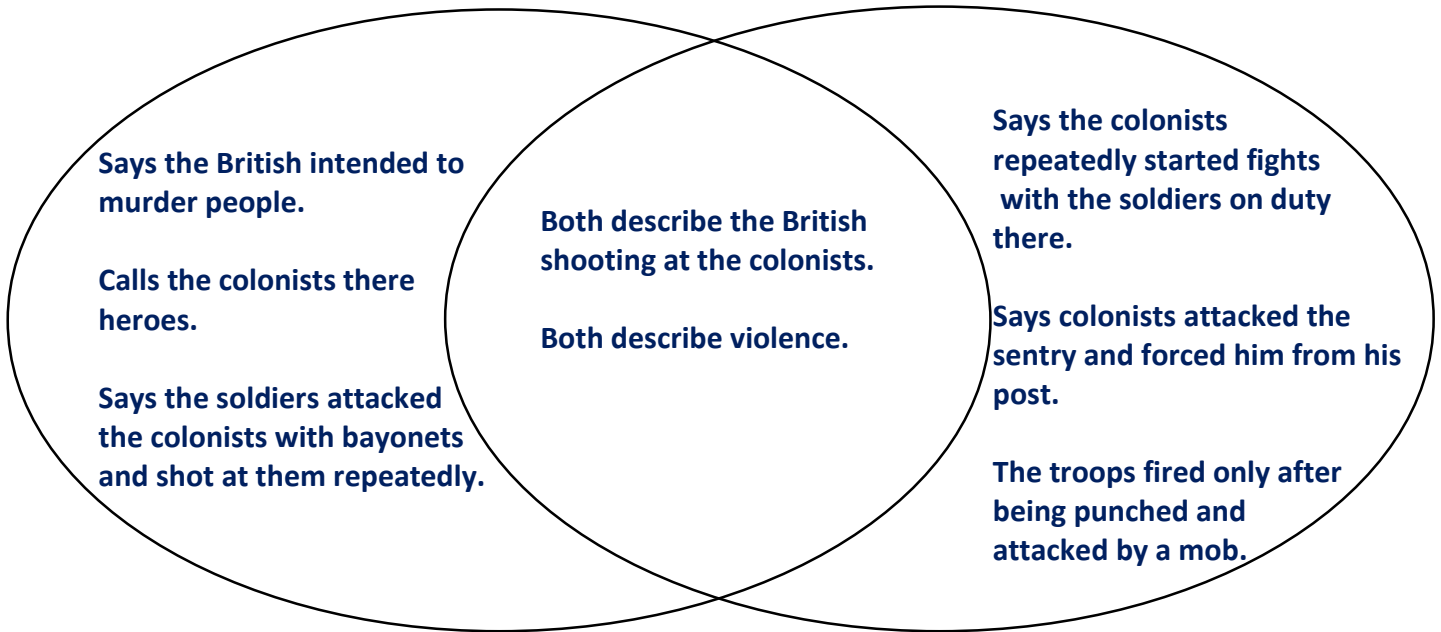
2. This engraving was made in 1868 – does that affect its accuracy? How or why?  
**Open to different opinions because the artist was not there first hand to see but also might not be as biased as Paul Revere.**
3. According to this artist, who is responsible for this event?  
**This image makes it look like the colonists are more responsible as they are attacking the British troops.**



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# THE BOSTON GAZETTE

# THE LONDON CHRONICLE



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

After analyzing the Boston Massacre from both sides, draw your own cartoon and write a letter to the editor of your newspaper on who you feel is to blame for what happened.

**Student cartoon  
should go here  
while their editorial  
goes in the space  
on the right.**

[illegible]

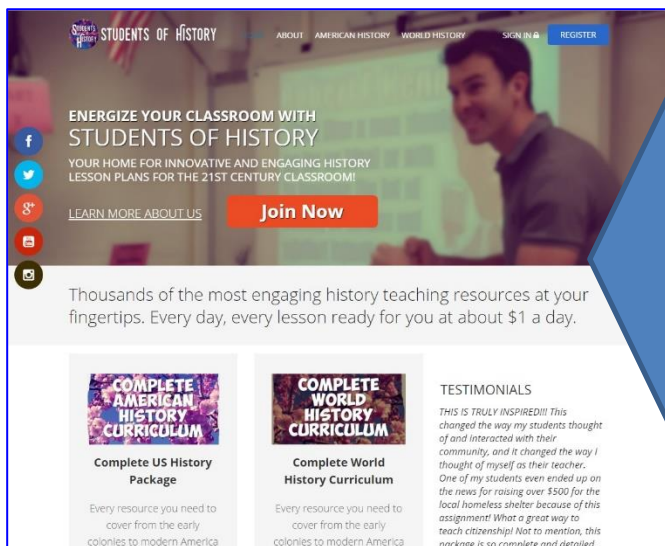
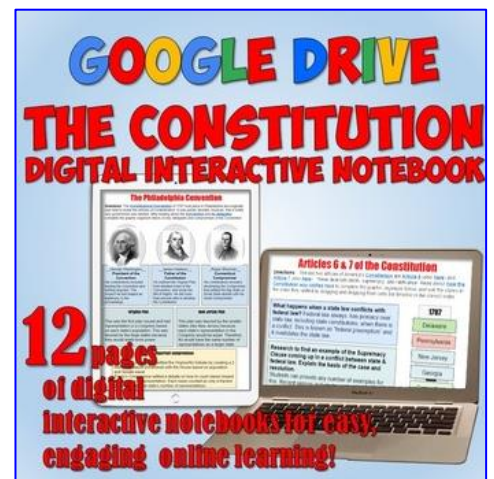
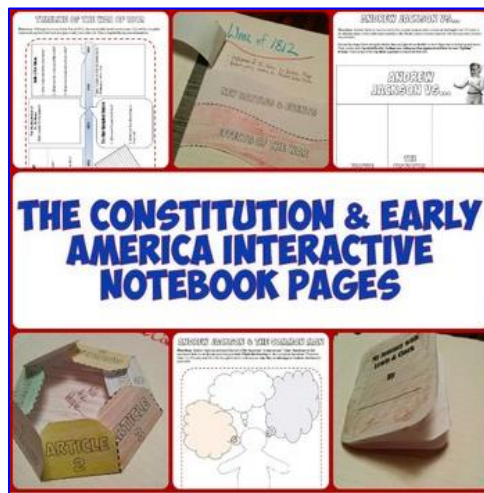
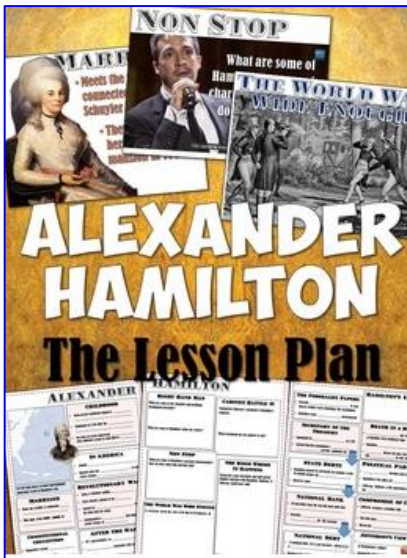


# GOOGLE DRIVE

Are you in a paperless classroom? You can access the [Google Docs version of this resource here!](#) This link will have you make your own copy, so you will need to be signed in to your Google account. This version includes links to online images and other resources your students can use to learn about the Boston Massacre.

If you are interested in more Google Digital Resources, check out my [Digital Interactive Notebooks here.](#)

Here are some additional resources that you might enjoy as well:



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