

BOSTON MASSACRE

Reading Comprehension


BOSTON MASSACRE

Townshend Acts
The British instituted a number of new taxes, known as the Townshend Acts, on tea, glass, paper, lead, and paint prior to the Boston Massacre. Colonists did not like these laws because they felt their rights were violated. When Britain imposed the Stamp Act, the colonists began to protest. The British sent soldiers to the colonies to keep order.

Angry Crowds
On March 5, 1770 British Private Hugh White and a few colonists got into an argument outside the Custom House in Boston on King Street. It escalated as more colonists gathered and started harassing and throwing sticks and snowballs at Private White. Before long, over fifty more colonists gathered at the scene. Captain Thomas Preston, the local British officer, sent soldiers over to the Custom House to maintain order. When British soldiers armed with bayonets, they became more angry, shouting and daring them to fire. Captain Preston arrived and ordered the soldiers to knock him down. He fired his weapon into the crowd, causing panic and chaos among the crowd as well.

Results
When it was all over, three colonists had died immediately and two more died of wounds later. Crispus Attucks, a runaway slave who had become a sailor, was the first man killed. The other victims were Samuel Gray, James Caldwell, Samuel Mather, and Patrick Carr. Eventually, the crowd was dispersed by the acting governor of Boston, Thomas Hutchinson.

Trial
Eight British soldiers, one of them, and four civilians were arrested and charged with murder. They were placed in jail while awaiting their trial. British troops were removed from the city of Boston. On November 27, 1770, the trial of the eight soldiers started. The government wanted them



Name _____

BOSTON MASSACRE

Identify: Use the word bank to label each description.

John Adams	Crispus Attucks	Custom House
Argument with White	Townshend Acts	Thomas Hutchinson
Sons of Liberty	Manslaughter	



1. The British referred to the event as this _____

2. Taxes on tea, glass, paper, lead, and _____ paint _____

3. _____ a patriot who represented the British soldiers in court

4. Two of the British soldiers were charged with this _____

5. Private who got in an argument with colonists _____


6. Patriot group who used the Boston Massacre as propaganda _____

Name _____


BOSTON MASSACRE

POINT OF VIEW: Write a summary of what happened on March 5, 1770 from each perspective.

British Soldier



American Colonist



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Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer.

10. Which of the following is an accurate statement about the Boston Massacre?

- Over one hundred people were killed in the Boston Massacre.
- Eight British soldiers were charged with manslaughter for their roles in the Boston Massacre.
- The Revolutionary War started soon after the Boston Massacre.
- The Boston Massacre forced colonists to look at British rule differently.

11. "The British instituted a number of new taxes, known as the Townshend Acts, on tea, glass, paper, lead, and paint prior to the Boston Massacre." What is the best meaning of "instituted" in the quote?

- Established
- Repealed
- Prohibited
- Written

12. What caused the situation outside the Custom House in Boston to escalate?

- A colonist shot into the crowd.
- The government began yelling at the colonists.
- Snowballs and sticks were thrown at British soldiers.
- Colonists started chanting, "No Taxation Without Representation!"

13. Why did John Adams mainly agree to represent the British soldiers, even though he was a Patriot?

- He felt sorry for them.
- No one else would represent them.
- He sympathized with the Loyalists.
- He felt they deserved a fair trial.


14. What is the most likely reason Patriots used the word "massacre" to describe the incident?

- Hundreds of colonists were killed.
- Massacre made the scene sound worse and would spark colonists' anger.
- They thought the word would get the king's attention.
- They wanted people to think more had died.

15. Which event best completes the timeline?

Colonists began arguing with Private Hugh White	→	More soldiers were sent over to the scene	→	_____	→	Other British soldiers fired
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_____ British soldiers were arrested
_____ Colonists were arrested
C. A colonist fired into the scene
D. A British soldier fired into the scene



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Townshend Acts

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Angry Crowds

On March 5, 1770 British Private Hugh White and a few colonists got into an argument outside the Custom House in Boston on King Street. It began to escalate as more colonists gathered and started harassing and throwing sticks and snowballs at Private White. Before long, over fifty colonists gathered at the scene. Captain Thomas Preston, the local British officer on watch, sent soldiers over to the Custom House to maintain order. When the crowd saw the British soldiers armed with bayonets, they became more aggravated and started shouting and daring them to fire. Captain Preston arrived and tried to disperse the crowd. An object thrown from the crowd struck a soldier, Private Montgomery, and knocked him down. He fired his weapon into the crowd, causing other soldiers to fire into the crowd as well.

Results

When it was all over, three colonists had died immediately and two more died from wounds later. Crispus Attucks, a runaway slave who had become a sailor, was one of the men killed. The other victims were Samuel Gray, James Caldwell, Samuel Maverick, and Patrick Carr. Eventually, the crowd was dispersed by the acting governor of Boston, Thomas Hutchinson.



Trial

Eight British soldiers, one officer, and four civilians were arrested and charged with murder. They were placed in jail while awaiting their trial. British troops were removed from the city of Boston. On November 27, 1770, the trial of the eight soldiers started. The government wanted them to have a fair trial, but had difficulty finding a lawyer to represent them. John Adams finally agreed to do the job, despite being a Patriot. He still believed they deserved a fair trial. Six of the soldiers were found not-guilty, while the other two were found guilty of manslaughter.

Effects

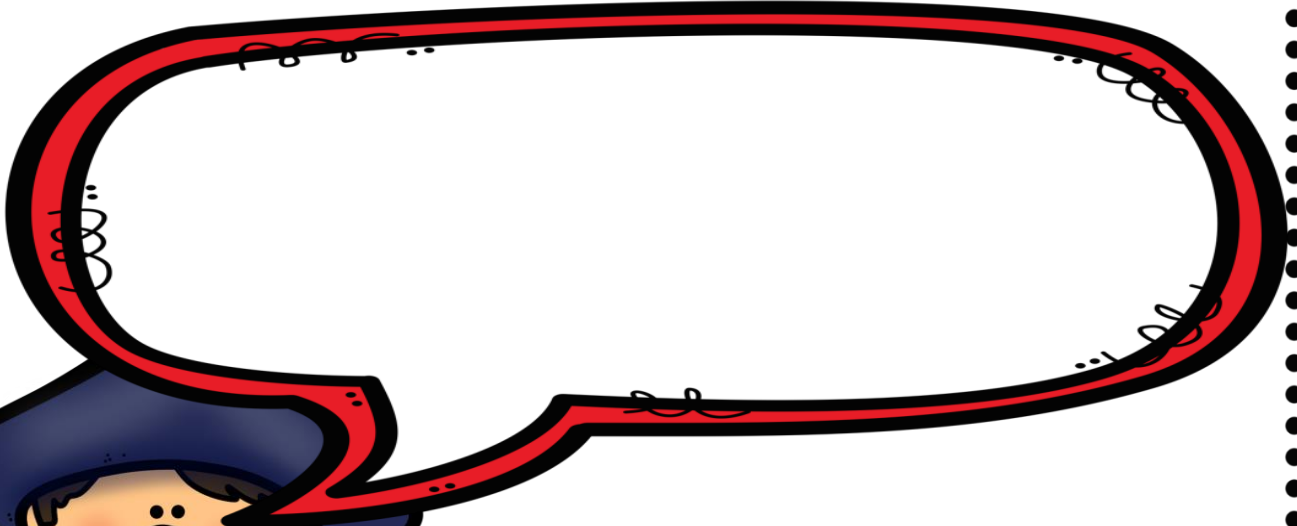
Parliament repealed the Townshend Acts and removed all taxes except for the one on tea after the Boston Massacre. The colonists used the Boston Massacre as a rallying cry for patriotism. The Sons of Liberty and other groups used it as an example of the evils of British rule. The word "massacre" is usually used to describe the killing of hundreds, but the colonists chose to call the event the "Boston Massacre" to emphasize the cruelty of the British, who called the event "The Incident on King Street." The American Revolution did not start for another five years, but the Boston Massacre forced colonists to look at British rule in a new way.

Name _____

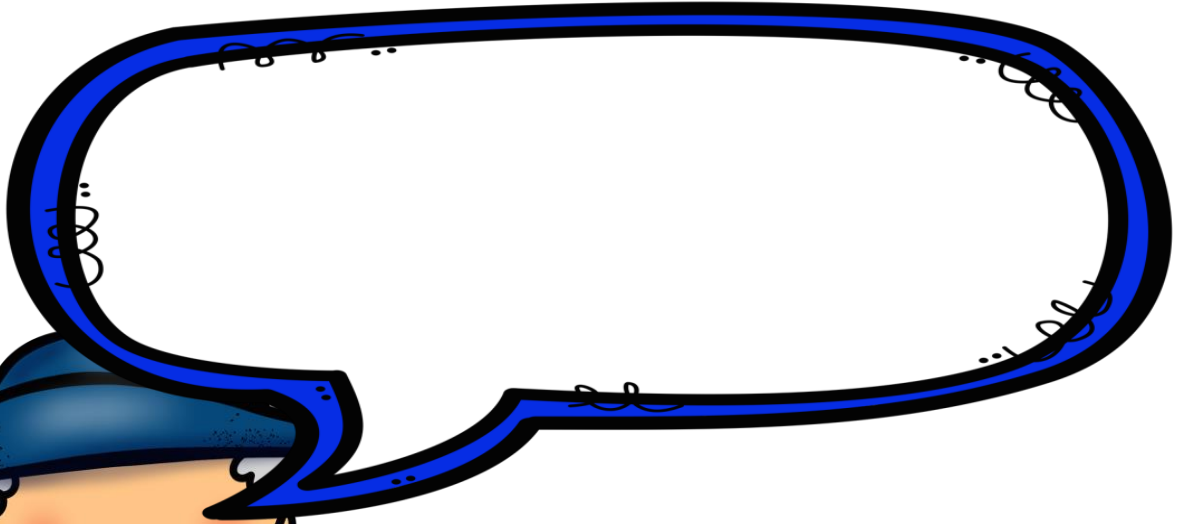
BOSTON MASSACRE

POINT OF VIEW:

Write a summary of what happened on March 5, 1770 from each perspective.



British Soldier



American Colonist

Name _____

BOSTON MASSACRE

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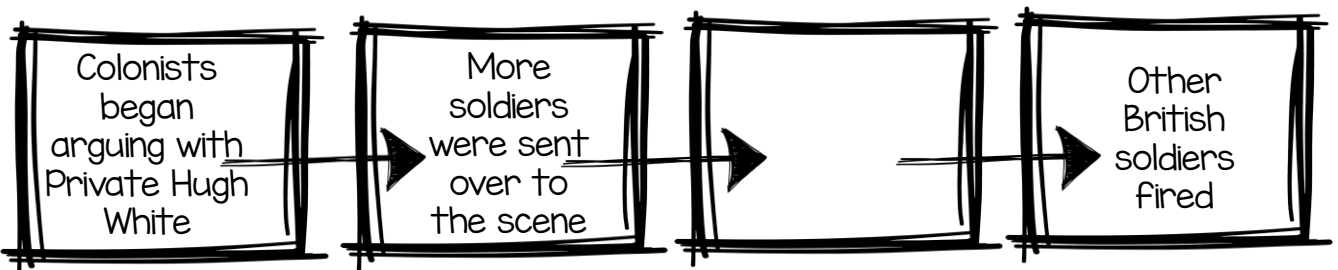
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Incident on King Street	Townshend Acts	Thomas Hutchinson
Hugh White	Sons of Liberty	Manslaughter



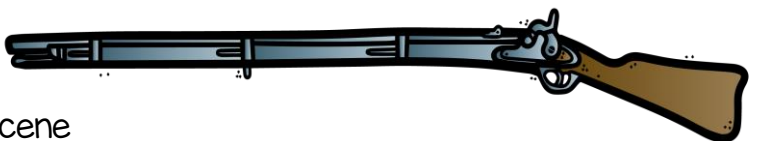
1.	The British referred to the event as this
2.	Taxes on tea, glass, paper, lead, and paint
3.	Patriot who represented the British soldiers in court
4.	Two of the British soldiers were charged with this
5.	Private who got in an argument with colonists
6.	Patriot group who used the Boston Massacre as propaganda
7.	The Boston Massacre occurred outside this building
8.	Boston governor who broke up the crowd
9.	An escaped slave who was killed in the Boston Massacre

Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer.

10. Which of the following is an accurate statement about the Boston Massacre?
- A. Over one hundred people were killed in the Boston Massacre.
 - B. Eight British soldiers were charged with manslaughter for their roles in the Boston Massacre.
 - C. The Revolutionary War started soon after the Boston Massacre.
 - D. The Boston Massacre forced colonists to look at British rule differently.
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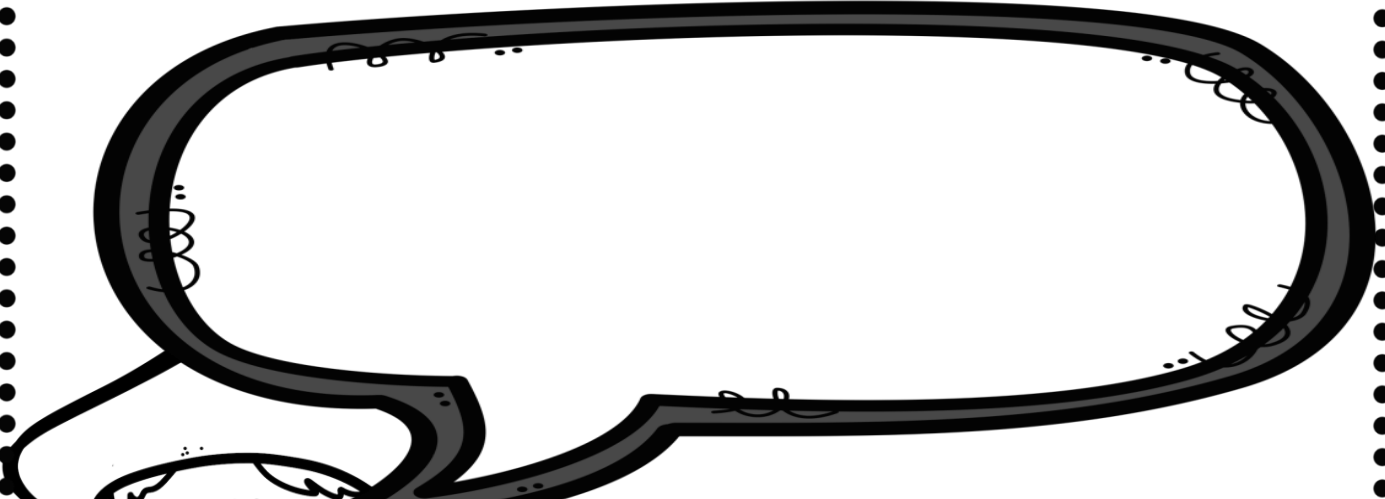
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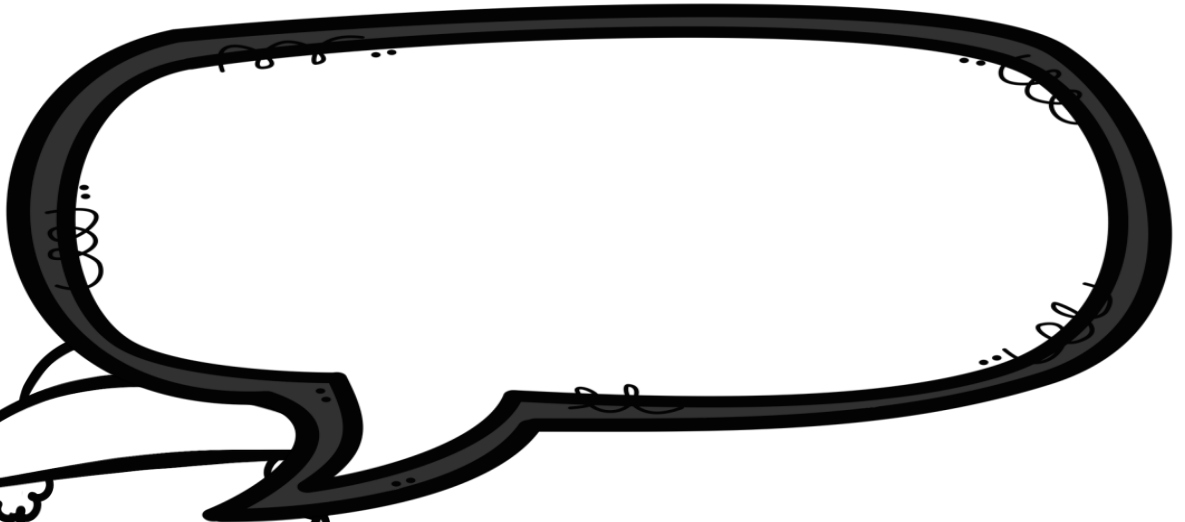
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American Colonist

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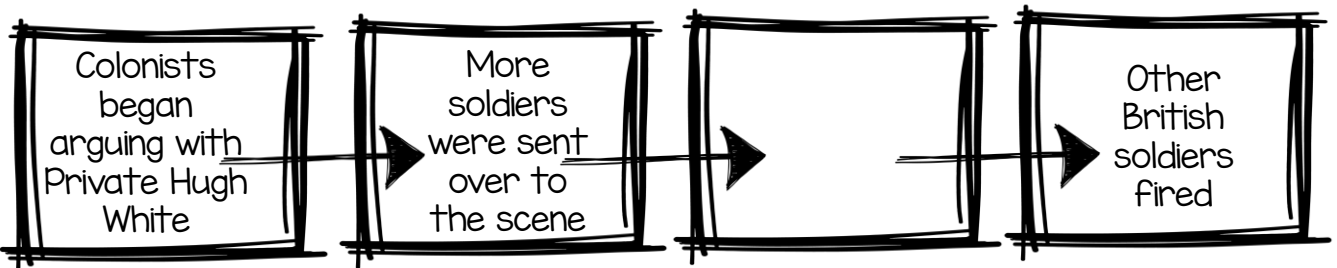
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Name _____

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Write a summary of what happened on March 5, 1770 from each perspective.

Answers will vary



British Soldier

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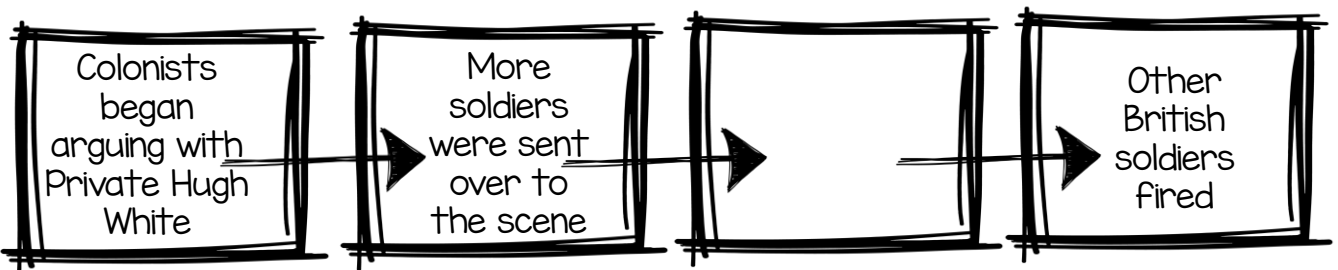
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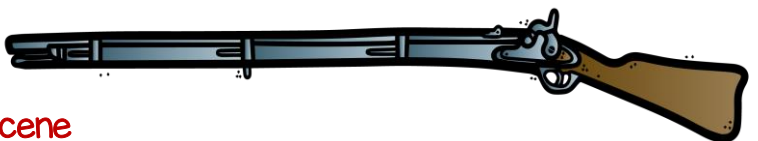
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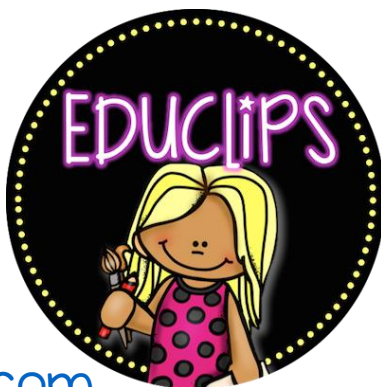
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- B. Colonists were arrested
- C. A colonist fired into the scene
- D. **A British soldier fired into the scene**



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