

Documents: Boston Massacre

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Analyze the document. Answer the questions. Spelling and grammar are a part of the grade.



**Background.** On March 5, 1770, eight British soldiers and their commanding officer found themselves trapped by an angry mob in front of the Customs House building in Boston, Massachusetts. The crowd threw snowballs, chunks of ice, and dared the soldiers to fire their weapons. Captain Thomas Preston tried to maintain the peace while he looked for a way to get his men to safety. Then a colonist threw a cudgel that struck soldier Hugh Montgomery and knocked him down. In response, Montgomery fired his musket. The other soldiers began firing their weapons sporadically. Three Bostonians died instantly, two died later, and six others survived their wounds. Captain Preston, who had just been struck on the shoulder by a colonist with a club, dashed in front of his men and ordered them not to fire.

The soldiers and their commanding officer went on trial for murder. A colonial jury found Preston and six other soldiers not guilty; two other soldiers were found guilty of manslaughter, branded on the thumbs, and released.

**Observation.** Circle the descriptions below that can be found/verified true in the picture above.

1. People	2. Objects	3. Captions
British soldiers	sword	Boston mob attacks
colonists	muskets	The Bloody Massacre
sheriff	dog	Butcher's Hall
King George III	blood	Boston Massacre

**Central Ideas.** A central idea is the overall topic of the entire piece.

4. What is the message that Paul Revere is showing in the engraving?
- E. A mob of colonials is attacking British soldiers.
  - H. The Boston Massacre took place at night.
  - O. Boston is a dangerous place to live.
  - Y. British soldiers are intentionally firing on an unarmed crowd.

**Words in Context.** Define words based upon how they are used in the writing.

“Then a colonist threw a cudgel that struck soldier Hugh Montgomery and knocked him down.”

5. What does the word “cudgel” mean as it is used in the quote above?

- D. snowball
- I. a rock with sharp edges
- L. club
- Q. a small, wooden hammer

**Reading for Understanding.** Answer the questions about the article.

6. What happened to the British soldiers after they fired their guns at a Boston mob?

- E. Captain Thomas Preston was given a medal for bravery.
- H. Boston citizens attacked the soldiers and killed two of them.
- O. Most of the soldiers were found not guilty by colonial juries.
- Y. The colonies declared war on Great Britain.

**Textual Evidence.** Place the descriptions in the word bank into the proper categories.

Preston tried to avoid violence	Bostonians were shot	Bostonians threw objects
Bostonians were unarmed	Preston ordered the attack	Redcoats fired at same time

Picture	Picture/Text	Text
7. Found only in the Picture	8. Found in both picture and text	9. Found only in the Text