

THE BOSTON MASSACRE AS PROPAGANDA

Study the Cartoon & read the summary then fill out the Cartoon Analysis Worksheet.

Summary: A sensationalized portrayal of the skirmish between British soldiers and citizens of Boston on March 5, 1770. On the right a group of seven uniformed soldiers, on the signal of an officer, fire into a crowd of civilians at left. Three of the latter lie bleeding on the ground. Two other casualties have been lifted by the crowd. In the foreground is a dog; in the background are a row of houses, the First Church, and the Town House. Behind the British troops is another row of buildings including the Royal Custom House, which bears the sign (perhaps a sardonic comment) "Butcher's Hall." Beneath the print are 18 lines of verse, which begin: "Unhappy Boston! see thy Sons deplore, Thy hallowed Walks besmeared with guiltless Gore." Also listed are the "unhappy Sufferers" Saml Gray, Saml Maverick, James Caldwell, Crispus Attucks, and Patrick Carr (killed) and it is noted that there were "Six wounded; two of them (Chrstr Monk & John Clark) Mortally."

- ⇒ Notice how the British Soldiers are shown standing in a straight line shooting their rifles in a regular volley, but when the fight actually happened both sides were angry and riotous.
- ⇒ Notice also that Revere's engraving shows a blue sky. Only a wisp of a moon suggests that the riot occurred after nine o'clock on a cold winter night.
- ⇒ Notice too the absence of snow and ice on the street
- ⇒ Also, Crispus Attacks-- a black man lying on the ground closest to the British soldiers-- is shown to be white.



Title: The bloody massacre perpetrated in King Street Boston on March 5th 1770 by a party of the 29th Regt.—Revere, Paul, 1770

Cartoon Analysis Worksheet

Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

Level 1

Visuals	Words (not all cartoons include words)
1. List the objects or people you see in the cartoon.	1. Identify the cartoon caption and/or title. 2. Locate three words or phrases used by the cartoonist to identify objects or people within the cartoon. 3. Record any important dates or numbers that appear in the cartoon.

Level 2

Visuals	Words
2. Which of the objects on your list are symbols? 3. What do you think each symbol means?	4. Which words or phrases in the cartoon appear to be the most significant? Why do you think so? 5. List adjectives that describe the emotions portrayed in the cartoon.

Level 3

A. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon. B. Explain how the words in the cartoon clarify the symbols. C. Explain the message of the cartoon. D. What special interest groups would agree/disagree with the cartoon's message? Why?
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