



Crispus Attucks: Part 2 - Activities & Assignments

Activities:

Class Activity: Play the “Telephone Game” with your class, in order to demonstrate how the transmission of a story can change very swiftly, as it is repeated by different people.

Before the game begins, you need to establish a brief statement to use. To do so, you might ask everyone in the class to write down a statement of 2-3 sentences and then select one. It can be about anything, but it should be long enough that it can't be immediately memorized.

Or, try this statement: *Crispus Attucks escaped slavery when he was 27 years old and was 6 feet 2 inches tall. For twenty years he worked as a whaler, a rope maker and a sea merchant. He used the alias Michael Johnson.*

To play, you begin at one end of the classroom and give the brief written statement to the first person. The first person whispers the statement into the next person's ear, and this continues down the line until the last person is asked to repeat what s/he heard out loud. Often, it will not make much sense by that point, and then the first person reads aloud the initial statement verbatim. This is a rough approximation of how historical narratives can change and legends can grow or evolve with time.

Watch the History Channel movie [Sons of Liberty](#). (PG) (fee charged)

You can acquire accompanying movie discussion questions [here](#). (fee charged)

Assignments:

Visit the website of *The Journal of the American Revolution* to research more about the life and legacy of Crispus Attucks and the experiences of other African Americans in the revolutionary era:

<https://allthingsliberty.com/>

Ask at home about what kinds of artifacts remain of your family's ancestors. Report to your class on what you were able to find. How far back can you go?

Frances Ellen Watkins wrote the anthem “Freedom's Battle,” which the Attucks Glee Club performed at an abolitionist rally. See if you can find the lyrics to this song. Here are some more poems by Watkins to read and analyze: <https://poets.org/poem/songs-people>. What do her poems have in common?



Look up more information about Doris “Dorie” Miller, the black hero of Pearl Harbor, and write a 1-2 page biography about him.

Look up more information about American historian Carter G. Woodson and write a 1-2 page biography about him.

Here are some quotes by Carter G. Woodson to read and consider. Choose your favorite one(s) and write a paragraph explaining what it means to you:

When you control a man’s thinking you do not have to worry about his actions.

Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.

The mere imparting of information is not education.

In our so-called democracy we are accustomed to give the majority what they want rather than educate them to understand what is best for them.