



# Crispus Attucks: Part 2

## Rediscovered and Reimagined by Later Generations

### Overview:

This lesson is the second part of a two-part series. While Part 1 of the series focused primarily on the historical aspects of the life of Crispus Attucks, this second lesson explores different ways in which the Attucks story has been told, understood, and contextualized by various generations of Americans and historians.

### Lesson Prompt:

Have you ever observed something from the past take on new meaning, or find new appreciation, as times change? Can you think of any examples of this? In this lesson, we're going to look at how Crispus Attucks's story found new importance as the American story unfolded and continues to unfold.

Share the prepared PowerPoint slide deck with students.

Select from the list of critical thinking and discussion questions to stimulate classroom discussion. There are accompanying recommended short videos for classroom viewing, and original primary source letters from soldiers for students to read and analyze. There are also some suggested activities, along with some multiple-choice questions to test understanding and retention of key concepts.

### Vocabulary:

Artifacts, Plausible, Motives, Resurrecting, Hypocrisy, Abolitionism, Alliance, Invoke, Debunk, Embellish, Emancipation, Attribute, Martyr, Reconcile, Ravages

### Recommended Resources:

Essay on the life of Crispus Attucks: <https://allthingsliberty.com/2014/03/the-hidden-life-of-crispus-attucks/>

Eric Hinderaker article on History and Memory of the Boston Massacre: <https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/165341>

Interview with historian Serena Zabin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9Kh3mQ3Bw>

Mitch Kachun on *First Martyr of Liberty*: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?469822-1/crispus-attucks-american-memory>

Demanding Freedom: Attucks and the Abolition Movement: <https://youtu.be/JVwsOT1hrYg>

Ben Franklin's World (Podcast on Early American History):

Episode 296: Serena Zabin, [The Boston Massacre: A Family History](#)

Episode 230: Mitch Kachun, [First Martyr of Liberty](#)

Episode 228: Eric Hinderaker, [Boston's Massacre](#)

Kachun, Mitch (2017). *First Martyr of Liberty: Crispus Attucks in American Memory*. Oxford University Press.

Hinderaker, Eric (2017). *Boston's Massacre*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

Zabin, Serena, (2020). *The Boston Massacre: A Family History*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.