



Crispus Attucks: Part 1 - Activities & Assignments

Activities:

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

You can find accompanying movie discussion questions [here](#).

The famous 1770 image of the BLOODY MASSACRE, mass-produced by Paul Revere, has been re-worked many times over the past 200+ years. It might be interesting to look at a series of those images as one potential exercise or discussion topic for students.

Read and try to interpret [this poem](#) written below Paul Revere's famous "BLOODY MASSACRE" image.

Transcript of poem from Paul Revere's print *The Bloody Massacre*

Unhappy Boston! see thy Sons deplore
Thy hallow'd walks besmear'd with guiltless gore
While faithless P____n and his savage bands
With murd'rous rancour stretch their bloody hands
Like fierce barbarians grinning o'er their prey
Approve the carnage and enjoy the day.

If scalding drops from rage, from anguish wrung
If speechless sorrow, lab'ring for a tongue
Or if a weeping world can ought appease
The plaintive ghosts of victims such as these
The patriot's copious tears for each are shed
A glorious tribute which embalms the dead.

But know, Fate summons to that awful goal
Where Justice strips the murd'rer of his soul,
Should venal C____ts, the scandal of the land,
Snatch the relentless villain from her Hand
Keen execrations on this plate inscrib'd
Shall reach a Judge who never can be brib'd.

The unhappy sufferers were Mesr's Sam'l Gray, Sam'l Maverick, James Caldwell
Crispus Attucks, & Patr. Carr Killed
Six wounded; two of them (Christ'r Monk & John Clark) mortally.



Assignments:

Assign students one or both of the two **supplementary** readings attached to this lesson: John Adams's summation at the "**Boston Massacre**" **soldiers' trial**, featuring his often-quoted remarks about Crispus Attucks; and the passage from **William Cooper Nell's *The Colored Patriot*** about Crispus Attucks. Ask them to summarize the readings, discuss the context from which the texts emerged, and/or use them as part of a longer paper on the life and story of Crispus Attucks.

Have students visit the website of the [Boston Massacre Historical Society](#) to research more about the life and legacy of Crispus Attucks, the other victims of the massacre, and the varying perspectives of witnesses who testified during the trials of the accused British soldiers.