

US History I

Historical Literacy Skills Pre-Assessment Benchmark

SOURCING

1. Is Document 2 a primary or secondary source?

- a. Primary
- b. Secondary

2. Is Document 4 a primary or secondary source?

- a. Primary
- b. Secondary

3. When was Document 3 created?

- a. 29 May 1790
- b. 4 July 1776
- c. 19 March 1770
- d. 5 March 1770

4. When did the events in Document 2 occur?

- a. October 24-30, 1770
- b. March 19-21, 1770
- c. March 6-10, 1770
- d. October 1-4, 1770

5. Who is the author of Document 4?

- a. Captain Tom Preston
- b. Hugh White
- c. Paul Revere
- d. Sean Lawler

6. Who is the primary audience of Document 1?

- a. Farmers
- b. Soldiers
- c. Redcoats
- d. Patriots

CLOSE READING

7. What is the main idea of Document 3?

- a. The British soldiers were justified in killing Patrick Carr.
- b. People in the area were mocking the British soldiers.
- c. Patrick Carr is another victim of British violence.
- d. The soldiers outnumbered the colonists in the area.

8. Which of the below statements supports that Document 1 was created by a patriot?

- a. The patriots are injured and dying.
- b. The patriots are the ones attacking.
- c. The British soldiers are defending themselves.
- d. The two sides are evenly matched.

9. Which Document supports this claim: *The Boston Massacre happened after some conflict had already occurred between colonists and British soldiers.*

- a. Document 1
- b. Document 2
- c. Document 3
- d. Document 4

10. Which Document supports this claim: *The British soldiers were defending themselves against the angry colonists.*

- a. Document 1
- b. Document 2
- c. Document 3
- d. Document 4

CORROBORATION

11. Which of the below statements is supported by all of the Documents?

- a. There was an incident on King Street in March 1770
- b. The patriots had no wrongdoing in the incident
- c. There was an incident in Boston in 1770
- d. The soldiers were the aggressors

12. Which source is more reliable if you wanted to understand the soldier's perspective?

- a. Document 1
- b. Document 2
- c. Document 3
- d. Document 4

13. Why is Document 3 a reliable source to understand the patriots' point of view?

- a. The author was a known patriot.
- b. This was used as evidence in the trial of the redcoats.
- c. It was written by a British person.
- d. The author witnessed the Constitutional Convention.

14. Compare and contrast Document 1 & 2. How do they differ from each other?

- a. Document 1 shows the patriots were the aggressors, while Document 2 shows the redcoats were the aggressors.
- b. Document 2 shows the patriots were the aggressors, while Document 1 shows the redcoats were the aggressors.
- c. Document 1 states the event happened in Boston, while Document 2 states the event happened in Philadelphia.
- d. Document 2 states that event happened in 1776, but Document 1 states the event happened in 1770

US History I Pre-Assessment Sources

Historical Background of the Boston Massacre

The Boston Massacre was a deadly riot that occurred on March 5, 1770, on King Street in Boston. It began as a street brawl between American colonists and a lone British soldier, but quickly escalated to a bloody conflict. This energized anti-British sentiment (opinion) and paved the way for the American Revolution.

Key Vocabulary:

Patriot: Colonists in the Thirteen Colonies who opposed the Kingdom of Great Britain's control over the colonies during the American Revolution

Redcoats: British Soldiers

Document 1 - The Bloody Massacre - Engraving

Source Information: An engraving made by Paul Revere in 1770. Paul Revere was an American engraver, folk hero, early industrialist, Sons of Liberty member, and Patriot. This image was created to express outrage at the actions of the British troops and to solicit (gain) support for the Patriot cause. Paul Revere was not present at the Boston Massacre.



Document 2 - Matthew Adams Testimony

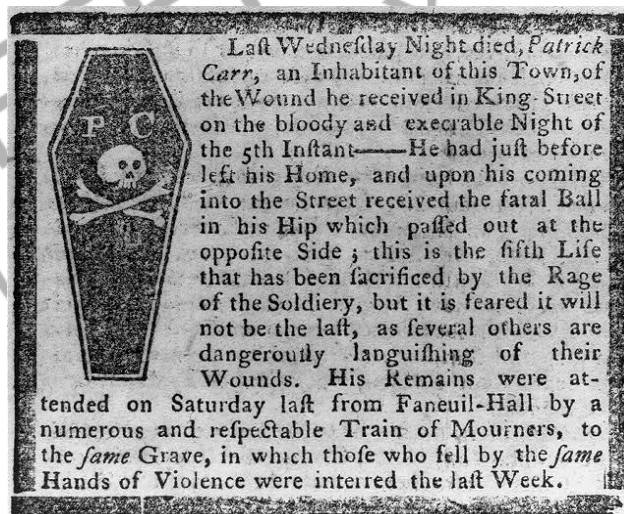
Source Information: From the "Soldiers' Trial." October 24th - 30th 1770. Testimony of Matthew Adams, a non-partisan (a person who doesn't pick a side in political issues) witness in Boston who testified in court for the trial of the British soldiers.

"They stood with their pieces before them, to defend themselves; and as soon as they had placed themselves, a party, about twelve in number, with sticks in their hands, who stood in the middle of the street, gave three cheers, and immediately surrounded the soldiers, and struck upon their guns with their sticks, and passed along the front of the soldiers, toward Royal-Exchange-lane, striking the soldiers' guns as they passed...I saw the people near me on the left, strike the soldiers' guns, daring them to fire, and called them cowardly rascals"

Document 3 - Obituary

Source Information: Excerpt from Obituary of Patrick Carr, Boston Massacre victim. *Boston Gazette*, 19 March 1770. Created by Paul Revere.

"Last Wednesday night died, Patrick Carr, an inhabitant of this town, of the wound he received in King Street on the bloody and execrable (to make a situation worse) night of the 5th instant....this is the fifth life that has been sacrificed by the rage of the soldiery, but it is feared it will not be the last."



Document 4 - Boston Massacre and the Trial

Source Information: Written By Sean Lawler, 2023, published by the *Boston Tea Party Revolutionary Experience Museum*

"From the moment they set foot in Boston, the redcoats were constantly at odds with the town's inhabitants. By the beginning of March, 1770, tensions seemed to reach a boiling point. On the evening of March 5, Private Hugh White was under assault by a crowd of boys throwing snowballs, oysters in their shells, stones and clubs. Moments later, Captain Thomas Preston arrived on the scene along with grenadiers from the 29th Regiment. The soldiers formed a half circle around White, with Captain Preston standing in front of his men to keep the peace. According to witnesses, a club flew through the air striking one soldier in the head, which caused him to lose his balance, and discharge his musket. Thinking they had been given the order to fire, the other soldiers also discharged their weapons into the crowd, leaving five civilians on the ground, mortally wounded".