

Document Analysis: The Bloody Massacre engraving

Created by Paul Revere 1770



Unhappy Boston! see thy Sons deplore,
 Thy hallow'd Walks besmear'd with guiltless Gore.
 While faithless P—n and his savage Bands,
 With murderous 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 wring,
 If speechless Sorrows 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 Murderer 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 Messrs SAM^l GRAY, SAM^l MAVERICK, JAM^s CALDWELL, CRISPUS ATTUCKS & PAT^r CARR
 Killed. Six wounded; two of them (CHRIST^s MONK & JOHN CLARK) Mortally*

Text from the engraving's caption

Top: "The BLOODY MASSACRE perpetrated in King Street BOSTON on March 5th, 1770
by a party of the 29th REGT"

Bottom: "Engrav'd Printed & Sold by Paul Revere, BOSTON

Unhappy BOSTON! see thy Sons deplore, Thy hallowe'd Walks besmear'd with guiltless
Gore: While faithless P---n and his savage Bands, With murd'rous Rancour stretch their
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Answer the following questions about the “Bloody Massacre” print and conflicting perspectives on the Massacre.

1. **Who was Paul Revere?** What do you know about his life?

2. **What did Paul Revere see?** According to Revere’s “Bloody Massacre” print, what caused the Boston Massacre? Consider both the image and the text of the print. Why would he choose to depict the event this way?

3. **What would a Loyalist see?** How would a pro-British artist have depicted the same scene? What would change in the image and the text? Hypothesize and describe your predicted similarities or changes below.

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4. ***What would a historian see?*** For centuries, Paul Revere’s “Bloody Massacre” has been the defining representation of the shooting on March 5, 1770. In the space below, create your own visual interpretation of the Boston Massacre and its causes. Use images and text to help your audience understand that the Boston Massacre was more than just an isolated tragedy on the night of March 5th.

