**Subject area/course**: Reading

**Grade level/band**: 5

**Task source**: New Hampshire Task Bank; Original author: Emerging America, the Collaborative for Educational Services, and the U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History Program.

**The Boston Massacre**

**STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Task context**:

You will examine three versions of the same historical event, the Boston Massacre, and note important similarities and differences in the points of view. You will analyze and write about these similarities and differences using textual evidence to support your answers. You will synthesize information to write your opinion on why we use more than one source of historical evidence when learning about history.

1. **Final product**:

Directions: You will analyze and write about a picture and two documents on an important

event leading up to the American Revolution. When you write, include other information that you know about the American Revolution.

**Step 1:**

First study the picture below. Then answer the questions that follow.

PICTURE A: “The Bloody Massacre perpetrated in King Street BOSTON on March 5th

1770.” Library of Congress



“Engraving Printed and Sold by Paul Revere,” March 28 1770.

This picture shows an important event in the American Revolution. Using your knowledge as an historian, answer the following questions:

1. What event does the picture show? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. When did this event happen? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Who made the picture? When did they make it? Fill out the following chart.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 3. | Who made the picture? | What date? |
| Picture A |  |  |

**Next study DOCUMENT B below. Then fill out the chart that follows it.**

|  |
| --- |
| DOCUMENT B:  Taken from a published statement by British Captain Thomas Preston, June 25, 1770.  I was between the soldiers and the mob, asking them to leave peaceably. While I was speaking, one of the soldiers was hit with a stick, then stepped a little on one side and fired. Turning to ask him why he fired without orders, I was struck with a club on my arm. On this, a general attack was made on the men by a great number of heavy clubs and snowballs. Our lives were in danger. Someone called out, “Damn your bloods. Why don't you fire”. Instantly three or four of the soldiers fired, one after another, and then three more in the same confusion and hurry. The mob then ran away, except three unhappy men who died. When I asked the soldiers why they fired without orders, they said they heard the word fire and thought it came from me. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 4. | Who made this statement? | What date did they make it? |
| Document B |  |  |

**Now study DOCUMENT C below. Then fill out the chart that follows it.**

|  |
| --- |
| DOCUMENT C:  Taken from “A Short Narrative of the Horrid Massacre in Boston. Printed by Order of the Town of Boston.” Written by Sam Adams and his fellow Patriots, in July, 1770.  Captain Preston and seven or eight soldiers, with firearms and bayonets, came from the guardhouse, and stood in front of the Custom House. In passing, the soldiers pushed several persons with their bayonets. This caused some snowballs to be thrown at them. The soldiers formed a half circle; and within a short time began to fire upon the people. Captain Preston is said to have ordered them to fire, and to have repeated that order. One gun was fired first; then others till ten or a dozen guns were fired. By which eleven persons were killed or wounded. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5. | Who wrote this statement? | What date did they write it? |
| Document C |  |  |

**Step 2**

**6. What *important* things are the same in all three sources: the picture and both documents?**

**In the following chart, list as many important similarities as you can.**

**(List at least three. Five is better.)**

|  |
| --- |
| **What important things are the *same* in all three sources?** |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

7**. The documents come from different points of view, a British Royal Captain and a group of Colonial Patriots, including Sam Adams. Complete the chart below.**

**Different Points of View between written Documents B and C**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| https://encrypted-tbn3.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTp14NDqmxsyIuOx-21AYJv-bXjXDou3Vu1r5_-pFCLBllekmVy    Based on your reading of these documents, what do you think the British Captain was thinking during this event? Write your answer  in the thought balloon above. | https://encrypted-tbn3.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTp14NDqmxsyIuOx-21AYJv-bXjXDou3Vu1r5_-pFCLBllekmVy    Based on your reading of these documents, what do you think the Patriots were thinking during this event? Write your answer in the  thought balloon above. |
| What evidence from Document B supports your thinking about Captain Preston?  (Write at least two to three things.) | What evidence in Document C supports your thinking about the Patriots?  (Write at least two to three things.) |

**Step 3**

**8. You just read and compared two documents and a picture that present two points of view on why soldiers fired on Boston Colonists on March 5, 1770. Based on your experience as an historian, why do you think it is important to compare more than one source of historical evidence on the same event? Write at least two or three sentences.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**That’s the end of the test!**

**Check over your work!!!!!!**

**Additional Information**

1. **Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

Knowledge

* The events of the Boston Massacre
* The history of British colonies prior to this event
* Opinions differ regarding historical events
* Primary sources
* Secondary sources
* Propaganda
* Interpret events in variousmedia

Skills

* Compare and contrast
* Write about different points of view
* Synthesize given information to express an opinion
* Use a graphic organizer to plan their writing
* Determine important details vs. minor details

1. **Materials needed:**

Project color image of “The Bloody Massacre Perpetrated in King Street BOSTON on March 5th 1770.”

1. **Time requirements:**

Three 35-minute sessions.

1. **Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the Boston Massacre Performance Assessment Rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.