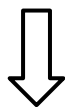


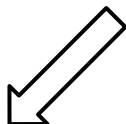
Essential Question

What happens when two witnesses disagree about an event that ends in death?



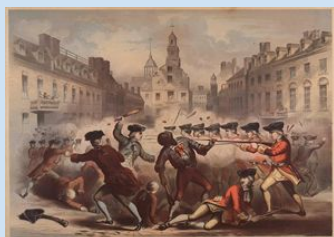
Background Knowledge

The Boston Massacre often appears as a fundamental milestone on the road to American revolution. If students dig into competing accounts of what actually happened on that fateful date, the details are not in fact all that clear.



Source 1

[Boston Massacre Drawing from 1855](#)



Strategy Instructions:

*Thought Bubbles
&
Multiple Perspectives*

Sources 2, 3 & 4

[1770 Deposition of Captain Thomas Preston \(British Perspective\)](#)

[Newspaper Account from March 12, 1770](#)

[Anonymous Account of the Boston Massacre \(American Colonists Perspective\)](#)



Discussion

Who started the fight? Who should be blamed for the deaths of colonists? How unjustly did the British soldiers behave? Why might colonists like Paul Revere choose to represent the events of that date in such anti-British terms? These are just some of the important questions that students can begin to investigate with these sources.



Assessment

1. Create a T-Chart to compare the different versions of what happened on March 5, 1770. In the left column, note the key details according to Preston or the British perspective. Then in the right column, write down the key details according to the images and the American colonist perspective.
2. Write a paragraph in your own words that describe what happened on March 5, 1770 between the Boston colonists and the British soldiers. Be sure to support your ideas with evidence from the primary sources.