

THE BOSTON MASSACRE

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In 1770 the first real battle between the colonists and the British took place. The British soldiers got angry at a crowd of colonists in Boston who were throwing snowballs at them. The soldiers fired. Five colonists were killed and many more were wounded. Later this event was called the Boston Massacre.

From the British point of view, violent demonstrations from angry colonists are unjustified, but the soldiers should not have fired on the crowds and must be tried for murder.

The colonists saw the killings as an example of the brutal treatment of British soldiers. Portrayals of the Boston Massacre by colonists depicted British soldiers firing on defenseless colonists.

Two of the British soldiers were found guilty of a crime in this event. They were punished by having their thumbs burned with a hot branding iron and released.



Consider: How do these 3 depictions of the Boston Massacre portray the same event differently?

Which one is most likely in favor of the colonists? Why?

Which one is most likely in favor of the British? Why?