



(54) The Boston Massacre

Health Message: Peer pressure

Podcast length: 15:28

LESSON PLAN

SYNOPSIS

Today's Walking Classroom podcast focuses on the Boston Massacre in 1770, when five American colonists were killed after an angry interaction with British soldiers. The massacre further united American colonists against the British and built support for the American Revolution.

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

SL.4.1.c Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.

RI.4.2 Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize a text.

RL.4.5 Describe the overall structure of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Discuss events leading up to the Boston Massacre, including the French and Indian War and the passage of the Stamp Act
- Understand sources of unrest that created tension between the British and the American colonists
- Explain the impact the Boston Massacre had on uniting the American colonists in their fight for independence

PROCEDURE

If you want to compare student comprehension before and after listening, administer the Comprehension Quiz before doing anything related to the podcast. Retest after walking.

1. Review key vocabulary (included definitions are limited to the context of today's podcast)

- **repeal** (verb): to get rid of
*The Stamp Act was so unpopular that it was **repealed** after one year.*
- **customs official** (noun): someone who inspects goods brought in on ships
*The **customs official** searched the ship for illegal goods.*
- **acquit** (verb): to find not guilty
*After their trial, two of the criminals were **acquitted** and released.*

2. Build background by asking students, “What is a massacre? Why would people choose to become violent when fighting for their rights?” (*allow time for discussion*)
3. Podcast preview: “How many of you have ever felt that a rule imposed on you was unfair? What did you do to change your situation? Today we’re going to learn more about an historical conflict between the British and the American colonists called the Boston Massacre. Ready? Let’s go!”
4. Walk!
5. Upon return to the classroom, discuss the main ideas and highlights of the podcast. Main ideas and highlights might include the following:
 - The Boston Massacre is an example of a historical event that can be seen in very different ways, depending on your perspective.
 - The Boston Massacre was the end result of a long series of acts by the British Parliament that the American colonies saw as extremely unfair.
 - The Boston Massacre helped unify American colonists against the British and build support for the American Revolution.
6. Administer comprehension quiz.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Enthusiastically ask students how they feel post-walk. Foster a healthy attitude toward exercise by reminding students that physical activity improves brain function.
2. What did you learn about the Boston Massacre? What significant events leading up to the massacre created such a strong feeling of unrest?
3. How did Paul Revere’s depiction of the Boston Massacre shape American colonists’ attitudes toward the British? Was his depiction fair?
4. Many people argue that acceptance helps people find happiness. Do you think that the American colonists would have been happy if they had just accepted the conditions of British rule? How do you know when you should accept what someone tells you and when you should question it?

COMPREHENSION QUIZ ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|------|----------|
| 1. b | 6. a |
| 2. a | 7. 3,1,2 |
| 3. a | 8. b |
| 4. b | 9. b |
| 5. c | 10. a |

For additional information on related websites and activities, visit our website:

www.thewalkingclassroom.org

Name _____

Date _____

- The Boston Massacre was...
 - a massive battle where hundreds of British and Americans died.
 - an angry interaction between British soldiers and American colonists where five colonists died.
 - the final battle of the French and Indian War.
- The Stamp Act required that...
 - anything printed in the American colonies had to be printed on specially stamped British paper.
 - everything sold in the American colonies be first stamped with the British seal.
 - American soldiers fight in the French and Indian War.
- The Boston Massacre was significant because...
 - it became a symbol of how the British were mistreating the colonists.
 - it was the first battle of the Revolutionary War.
 - it cost the British government a lot of money and forced them to tax the colonists.
- Acquit means...
 - to stop doing something
 - to find not guilty
 - to give up
- According to the podcast, what word would best describe the way the British made the colonists feel?
 - independent
 - proud
 - mistreated
- Which of the following is a fact about the Boston Massacre?
 - The colonists were angry that they did not have representation in Parliament.
 - If the British had not taxed the colonists, the colonists never would have rebelled.
 - The British soldiers were entirely to blame for the unfortunate outcome.
- Number the events in the order in which they happened (1,2,3)
 - _____ British soldiers fired at the angry colonists, instantly killing three people.
 - _____ A customs official accidentally shot and killed an eleven-year-old child.
 - _____ The colonists began throwing things at Captain Thomas Preston.
- Why did Paul Revere's drawing of the Boston Massacre make Americans so angry?
 - It did not show events as they had actually occurred.
 - The drawing made it seem like the British soldiers had shot and killed defenseless colonists.
 - His illustration was poorly drawn.
- Saying "no" to your friends is a sign of weakness.
 - true
 - false
- One way to avoid peer pressure is to stop hanging out with the people who are pressuring you to do things you know are wrong.
 - true
 - false