



Offline Learning Activity for AP United States History

Day: 18

Topic: The Boston Massacre and Propaganda

Standard: 3.5

Time: 20 minutes



Overview

This learning activity is for students to use when they do not have access to the course.



Objectives

After completing this activity, students will be able to . . .

- Analyze historical images and their role in influencing the opinions of colonists in early America.



Assignment Instructions

Read the annotation below. Examine the engraving that follows and then respond to the question that follows.

Annotation: Paul Revere's engraving of the Boston Massacre was probably the single most effective piece of propaganda of the pre-Revolutionary war period.

Samuel Adams, a friend of Revere's, was among the middle and upper-class Patriots who orchestrated the large-scale anti-British actions, and who wrote many of the more than 400 pamphlets that circulated prior to the war. Up to this point, these Patriot propagandists had often decried the fighting and destruction of property by mob action. But the outrage generated by the event that Adams



Offline Learning Activity for AP United States History

dubbed the "Boston Massacre" provided them with an unparalleled opportunity to unite the colonists in common cause. Where before they had attempted to distance themselves from the behavior of the laboring classes, they now attempted to shape it.

At Adams' request, Revere prepared an engraving of the scene before the Custom House. The image appeared in the March 12, 1770 issue of the Boston Gazette, along with Revere's "An account of a late Military Massacre at Boston..." and was later reprinted and widely distributed as a broadside.





Offline Learning Activity for AP United States History

Question: Describe how this engraving can be (and is) considered propaganda. Would this engraving influence your decision to support the American Revolution or remain a British Loyalist?

Sources

Annoniation: Arkansas PBS

Engraving: Public Domain

Question: Virtual Arkansas



Grading Info

Students will be graded on their overall response to the question and use of visuals presented in the engraving.