

Document Group 2A

Directions for Jury #2:

- Read your grievance. Decide as a group what it is accusing the King of and record that information on your Evidence Worksheet.
- Read each of your primary and secondary sources. Complete the Primary Source Analyzing Sheet that goes with it and then record which side it seems to support on your Evidence Worksheet. This will go quicker if your jury divides the sources and then shares the information gathered as a group.
- Share all collected information and discuss which side is MORE supported by the evidence given.
- On your evidence Worksheet, come up with your final verdict. Did the Colonists have a valid reason for including this grievance in the Declaration of Independence, or did the King have valid reasons for committing this “crime?” Is the grievance GUILTY or NOT GUILTY of falsely accusing the King? Be sure to use evidence from your sources to support your answer.

Excerpt from the Declaration of Independence

Grievance #2:

For protecting [the bodies of armed troops] by mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states.

Primary Sources:

- Administration of Justice (Document 2H)
- Accounts of the Boston Massacre (Documents 2I)

Secondary Sources:

- History of US “A Taxing King”
- Boston Massacre Facts

Document Group 2B

Administration of Justice Act

May 20, 1774

The Administration of Justice Act passed is one of the measures that were designed to secure Britain's jurisdiction over her American dominions.

To assure trials more to the liking of the Crown than the prejudices of local juries, the act granted a change of venue (trials could be moved out of the North American colonies) to another British colony or Great Britain in trials of officials charged with a crime growing out of their enforcement of the law or suppression of riots. Witnesses for both sides were also required to attend the trial and were to be compensated for their expenses.

(adapted from Wikipedia)

Document Group 2C

Captain Thomas Preston's Account of the Boston Massacre

It is a matter of too great notoriety to need any proofs that the arrival of his Majesty's troops in Boston was extremely obnoxious to its inhabitants. They have ever used all means in their power to weaken the regiments...by promoting and aiding desertions...and by grossly and falsely [spreading] untruths concerning them....

On Monday night about 8 o'clock two soldiers were attacked and beat. But the party of the townspeople in order to carry matters to the utmost length broke into two meeting houses and rang the alarm bells, which I supposed was for fire as usual, but was soon undeceived. About 9 some of the guard came to and informed me the town inhabitants were assembling to attack the troops, and that the bells were ringing as the signal for that purpose and not for fire, and the beacon intended to be fired to bring in the distant people of the country. This, as I was captain of the day, occasioned my repairing immediately to the main guard. In my way there I saw the people in great commotion, and heard them use the most cruel and horrid threats against the troops. In a few minutes after I reached the guard, about 100 people passed it and went towards the custom house where the king's money is lodged. They immediately surrounded the sentry posted there, and with clubs and other weapons threatened to execute their vengeance on him. I was soon informed by a townsman their intention was to carry off the soldier from his post and probably murder him. On which I desired him to return for further intelligence, and he soon came back and assured me he heard the mobb declare they would murder him. This I feared might be a prelude to their plundering the king's chest. I immediately sent a non-commissioned officer and 12 men to protect both the sentry and the king's money, and very soon followed myself to prevent, if possible, all disorder, fearing lest the officer and soldiers, by the insults and provocations of the rioters, should be thrown off their guard and commit some rash act.

Anonymous Account of the Boston Massacre

THE HORRID MASSACRE IN BOSTON, PERPETRATED IN THE EVENING OF THE FIFTH DAY OF MARCH, 1770, BY SOLDIERS OF THE TWENTY-NINTH REGIMENT WHICH WITH THE FOURTEENTH REGIMENT WERE THEN QUARTERED THERE; WITH SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE STATE OF THINGS PRIOR TO THAT CATASTROPHE.

It may be a proper introduction to this narrative, briefly to represent the state of things for some time previous to the said Massacre; and this seems necessary in order to the forming a just idea of the causes of it.

At the end of the late [French and Indian] war, in which this province bore so distinguished a part, a happy union subsisted between Great Britain and the colonies. This was unfortunately interrupted by the Stamp Act; but it was in some measure restored by the repeal of it. It was again interrupted by other acts of parliament for taxing America; and by the appointment of a Board of Commissioners...which was made for the relief and encouragement of commerce, but which in its operation...has had, a contrary effect. By the said act the said Commissioners were "to be resident in some convenient part of his Majesty's dominions in America."...Boston, being very far from the centre of the colonies, could not be the place most convenient for the whole [country].

The residence of the Commissioners here has been [bad]...[for] the commerce...but we can [also] trace from it the causes of the late horrid massacre. Soon after their arrival here in November, 1767, instead of confining themselves to the proper business of their office, they became [supporters] of Governor Bernard...; and had the weakness...to infringe upon one of the most essential rights of the house of commons of this province-that of giving their votes with freedom...One of the members of that house, Capt. Timothy Folger, having voted in some affair contrary to the mind of the said Commissioners, was for so doing dismissed from the office he held under them.

[They] have occasioned his Majesty's faithful subjects of this town and province to be treated as enemies and rebels, by an invasion of the town by sea and land...While the town was surrounded by a considerable number of his Majesty's ships of war, two regiments landed and took possession of it; and to support these, two other regiments arrived...

Thus were we, in aggravation of our other embarrassments, embarrassed with troops, forced upon us contrary to our inclination-contrary to the spirit of Magna Charta-contrary to the very letter of the Bill of Rights, in which it is declared, that the raising or keeping a standing army within the kingdom in time of peace, unless it be with the consent of parliament, is against law, and without the desire of the civil magistrates, to aid whom was the pretence for sending the troops hither; who were quartered in the town in direct violation of an act of parliament for quartering troops in America; and all this in consequence of the representations of the said Commissioners and the said Governor, as appears by their memorials and letters lately published.

As they were the procuring cause of troops being sent hither, they must therefore be the remote and a blameable cause of all the disturbances and bloodshed that have taken place in consequence of that measure.

Document Group 2D

Boston Massacre in Facts and Numbers

- The heavy military presence in Boston that led to the Massacre was the result of British enforcement of the Townshend Acts of 1767.
- 4,000 troops were dispatched to Boston in October of 1768—not a small number, considering that Boston’s population was only about 20,000 residents at the time.
- The Massacre occurred on the evening of March 5, 1770
- 5 civilians died as a result of the incident, 3 died on the scene and 2 died later. Some websites incorrectly add up the number of victims to be 7 in total.
- All victims of the Massacre, Crispus Attucks, Samuel Gray, James Caldwell, Samuel Maverick and Patrick Carr, were buried at Granary Burying Ground in Boston.
- The three years that followed the Massacre, from 1770 to 1772 passed rather quietly without any major confrontation between the British and the colonists.
- Before the “The Boston Massacre” name became common, the incident was also called The Bloody Massacre in King Street, from the title of the famous Paul Revere engraving. In the early 1800’s it was also called the State Street Massacre.
- There were two separate Boston Massacre trials. The trial of Captain Preston started almost 8 months after the incident and lasted for one week, from October 24, 1770 to October 30, 1770. The second trial was for the soldiers. It started almost one month after Preston’s acquittal, on November 27, 1770 and ended on Dec 14, 1770.
- 9 British regulars were charged during the Boston Massacre trials. Preston and six of his men were acquitted, two others were found guilty of manslaughter.