



NSDAR Educational Resources Committee
“Stepping Through History- A Mystery --- Boston
Massacre”
Lesson Plan

Contributor: Nancy Honea **Grade Level:** 5th

1. Identify the standards to be addressed:

5.7 Determine causes and events leading to the American Revolution, including the French and Indian War, the Stamp Act, the Intolerable Acts, the Boston Massacre, and the Boston Tea Party.

2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:

Students will investigate a mystery. They are given facts and devices and asked to solve mystery.

3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:

Please see individual lesson plan.

4. Introduction of the topic:

Please see attached lesson plan.

5. Procedure for instruction:

Please see attached lesson plan.

6. Lesson closure:

Please see attached lesson plan.

7. Assessment of student understanding:

Please see attached lesson plan.

Stepping Through History— An Interactive Mystery

Introduction Activity for The Boston Massacre

Lesson Plan

Set-up :

The instructor will need to enlarge and print one copy of Paul Revere's etching of Boston Massacre for every 4 students. Each copy will need to be cut into puzzle pieces and placed in an envelope.

The instructor will need to create 4 "Stepping Stones". Using 4 pieces Brown "Bulletin Board Paper" cut each into a large "Stepping Stone" shape. On each "Stepping Stone" glue or tape one clue.

Lay the "Stepping Stones" around the classroom to create a pathway that the students must follow. Place 1 puzzle envelope at each "group table".

Students will need their phone/laptop/ipad to do their research.

Lesson format:

Intro: As student arrive, they are greeted with a Mystery! Explain that an interactive mystery game will be today's assignment. Hand out the lesson's instruction sheet.

Activities: The Mystery- Figure out what historical event the class will be investigating. Students are asked to "step back through history" by stepping on the large paper "stepping stones". Each stone has a clue about an important historical event. As they "stepped" back into further into history they will gather more clues about this event.

Their final clue is in an envelope on their table. Students will work together with group members using their devices to solve the "Mystery". Have each group write their "clues and their answer" to this "mystery" by filling in the handout. Of course, our many history experts will soon realize that the Mystery Historical Event was— The Boston Massacre. The Boston Massacre occurred 250 years ago. It was one of many events leading up to the Revolutionary War.

Summary: Have groups share their answers and then have a class discussion about the clues and how they solved the "mystery". These discussions can then lead straight into an investigation of The Boston Massacre.

Materials for Lesson

- Next slide is the pic that can be used for the puzzle clue that is places in envelope on group table.
- If you have a better pic of the etching, please use it instead.



Clues for the 4 stepping stones

- **It occurred over 250 years ago on March 5, 1770.**

The event happened on King Street in Boston, Massachusetts.

- **A British officer, Captain Thomas Preston was in command of a British sentinel in the area.**

- **3 were killed on the spot (a black sailor named Crispus Attucks, ropemaker Samuel Gray, and a mariner named James Caldwell), and 8 others were wounded, two of whom died later (Samuel Maverick and Patrick Carr)**

- **There was a trial.**

John Adams and Josiah Quincy II defended the British soldiers.

Stepping Through History

An Interactive Mystery

- Follow each stepping stone.
- Each stone has a clue about the historical event.
- Fill in the clue box as you “Step Back Into History”.
- There is an additional clue in an envelope at your table.
- Using your clues and a research device work together to solve the mystery!

- Clue#1 _____

- Clue#2 _____

- Clue#3 _____

- Clue#4 _____

- Envelope Clue _____

Answer to the Mystery:
