**Name**  **Date**

Social Studies 7, Period , 2nd Quarter Mr. Piraino



**“The Boston Massacre”**

By Jay-P

The colonists were threatening the tax collectors

So the English troops were sent to be their protectors

But the English troops the colonists would resent

Because they hated who the troops would represent

They’d make fun of their uniforms ‘cause they were whack

Since their uniforms were red, they screamed “Lobsterbacks!”

The troops and the colonists would always fight

But it all came to a climax on one terrible night

It was March 5th, 1-7-7-0

A fight took place but there would be no hero

Loud bells rang and a large mob grew

Around one British soldier who very well knew

That he was outnumbered so he called for help

The soldiers came to his aid when they heard his yelp

The mob got crazy, started throwing stuff

Like ice, sticks, and oyster shells, man, it was rough

And the soldiers were surrounded, there was nowhere to run

The bullets started flying from each gun

Crispus Attucks, a black sailor, he was shot

Other poor men would share his lot

And the end result was what the colonists feared

Five colonists were dead when the smoke cleared

It was a massacre on King Street in Boston

Look at all the hate and lives it was costin’

8 soldiers were arrested for this tragedy

“It was self-defense, we’re not guilty!”

They needed a lawyer, said the law

They hired John Adams, a colonist who saw

That every man should have a fair trial

When others thought that it was out of style

The colonists thought that he was a traitor

“They have a right to a lawyer, so don’t be a hater”

Not guilty was the verdict for six of the men

The other two were guilty of manslaughter but then

John Adams said “They get Benefit of Clergy”

They read from the Bible to prove they were worthy

Of only having to get a brand on their thumb

No death penalty for them, that angered some

And the memory of March 5th would last for years

The colonists vowed revenge for all of their tears

It was a massacre on King Street in Boston

Look at all the hate and lives it was costin’

1. Describe the relationship between the British soldiers and the colonists before the Boston Massacre.

2. What name did the colonists call the soldiers?

3. What was the date of the Boston Massacre?

4. Which street did the Boston Massacre happen on?

5. What caused the Boston Massacre?

6. How many colonists were dead at the end of the Boston Massacre?

7. How many soldiers were arrested for the Boston Massacre?

8. Under “Benefit of Clergy”, what did the two soldiers have to do to avoid the death penalty?