



# Boston Massacre

The Boston Massacre was one of the key events leading up to the American Revolution. It took place on March 5, 1770 when British soldiers in Boston killed five American colonists when trying to subdue an unruly mob.

The incident started as a simple argument between British Private Hugh White and a few colonists outside the Custom House on King Street. A crowd began to gather around the two men, and some of the colonists started to jeer at Private White and throw sticks and snowballs at him. There are over fifty colonists at the scene when the British officer on watch, Captain Thomas Preston, sent some British soldiers to the Custom House to disperse the crowd. Unfortunately, the sight of the armed British soldiers had just the opposite effect. The crowd began shouting and throwing things at the soldiers, daring them to shoot.

Captain Preston himself came to the scene to try to calm the situation down. At about that time, something thrown by one of the colonists hit one of the British soldiers. He fell, and fired into the crowd. A few seconds later, some of the other British soldiers started shooting at the crowd. Three colonists were shot dead, and two later died from injuries related to being shot.

What caused the Boston Massacre?

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