

The BLOODY MASSACRE perpetrated in King-Street BOSTON on March 5<sup>th</sup> 1770 by a party of the 29<sup>th</sup> REG



Engrav'd Printed & Sold by PAUL REVERE BOSTON

Unhappy BOSTON! see thy Sons deplore,  
Thy hallow'd Walks beset with guiltless Gore  
While faithless P—n and his savage Bands  
With murderous Rancour stretch their bloody Bands  
Like fierce Barbarians grinning o'er their prey  
Approve the Carnage, and enjoy the Day

If scalding drops from Rage from Anguish spring  
Speechless Sorrows lab'ring for a Tongue  
Where Justice strips the Murderer of his Soul  
Should venal C—ts the scandal of the Land  
Snatch the relentless Villain from her Hand  
Keen Execrations on this Plate inscrib'd  
Shall reach a JUDGE who never can be brib'd

*The unhappy Sufferers were: HOSP<sup>r</sup> SAM<sup>l</sup> GRAY SAM<sup>l</sup> MAVERICK, JAM<sup>s</sup> CALDWELL, CRISPUS ATTUCKS & PAT<sup>r</sup> CARR  
Killed 5 Six wounded, two of them (CHRIST<sup>m</sup> MONK & JOHN CLARK) Mortally*

"The Bloody Massacre Perpetrated in King-Street, Boston," engraving by Paul Revere, 1770  
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC01868)



## Analyzing the Image

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author / Artist \_\_\_\_\_

What do you see? Be very specific. Identify people, objects, buildings, location.

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What appears to be happening? Provide evidence from the image.

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Describe your reaction to this image. Explain how the image makes you feel.  
Be as specific as possible.

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# A Guide to Paul Revere's "The Bloody Massacre," 1770

Here are a few of the visual cues and techniques Paul Revere used in his engraving to shape public opinion:

1. The British are lined up and an officer is giving an order to fire, implying that the British soldiers are the aggressors.
2. The colonists are shown reacting to the British assault when in fact they had attacked the soldiers.
3. British faces are sharp and angular in contrast to the Americans' softer, more innocent features. This makes the British look more menacing.
4. The British soldiers look like they are enjoying the violence.
5. The colonists were mostly laborers. However, they are dressed as gentlemen in this print, elevating their status in the public eye.
6. The only two signs in the image that you can read are "Butcher's Hall" and "Custom House" (below "Butcher's Hall"), both hanging directly over the British soldiers.
7. There is a distraught woman in the rear of the crowd, a "damsel in distress" to evoke pity and chivalrous feelings
8. There appears to be a sniper in the window beneath the "Butcher's Hall" sign.
9. Dogs tend to symbolize loyalty and fidelity. The dog in the print is not bothered by the mayhem behind him and is staring out at the viewer.
10. The sky seems to cast light on the British "atrocities."
11. Crispus Attucks is visible in the lower left corner. In many other existing copies of this print, none of the figures are portrayed as African American. Here, his presence highlights the participation and martyrdom of an African American in what many consider to be the first battle of the American Revolution.
12. The clear weather conditions depicted do not match the testimony presented at the soldiers' trial, which affirms that there had been snow.



## The Origins of “Yankee Doodle”

No one is sure where the song “Yankee Doodle” came from. Some claim the melody is English, Irish, Dutch, or even from New England, but the American verses are credited to a British military doctor, Richard Shuckburgh (or Schackburg). According to the story, Dr. Shuckburgh wrote the first verses in 1755 during the French and Indian War, when King George II sent British soldiers to protect the American colonies from the French.

The song grew in popularity and was sung by British soldiers poking fun at the American colonists. By the 1770s a “Yankee” was another name for an American colonist while a “doodle” was based on the Dutch or German word for a fool or simpleton. Many of the British serving in the colonies believed the colonists were trying to be as cultured as Europeans but were failing miserably. For example, in the last line of the song’s first verse—“stuck a feather in his hat and called it macaroni”—the term “macaroni” described a man who went to extremes to appear sophisticated and stylish.

Although British soldiers initially used the song to mock the colonists, it was reported after the British defeat in the Battle of Lexington and Concord that the Americans had sung “Yankee Doodle” to taunt the retreating redcoats.

By 1777 "Yankee Doodle" had become the unofficial national anthem of America. Its tune was easy for soldiers to march to, and during the American Revolution dozens of different verses were written. It has been documented that the second verse of the song was written at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Other verses praise General George Washington, describe life in the army, or poke fun at King George III. "Yankee Doodle" was played after the Americans defeated the British at the Battle of Saratoga and again when General Cornwallis's army surrendered to the Americans after the Battle of Yorktown, the last major battle of the American Revolution.

## **The Origins of “Yankee Doodle”**

### **Critical Thinking Questions**

Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

Write your answers in complete sentences.

1. Why was the doctor who is credited with writing “Yankee Doodle” in America?

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2. Why was singing this song popular with many British soldiers during the Revolutionary era?

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3. Why did patriotic Americans begin singing “Yankee Doodle”? By 1777, what meaning did the song have for them?

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4. On what occasions during the American Revolution was “Yankee Doodle” played? What did those events have in common?

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## Selected Verses from “Yankee Doodle

Yankee Doodle went to town  
A-riding on a pony,  
He stuck a feather in his cap  
And called it macaroni.

### CHORUS

Yankee Doodle keep it up,  
Yankee Doodle dandy;  
Mind the music and the step,  
And with the girls be handy.

Father and I went down to camp,  
Along with Captain Gooding  
And there we saw the men and boys,  
As thick as hasty pudding.

### CHORUS

And there was Cap’n Washington,  
And gentle folks about him;  
They say he’s grown so ‘tarnal proud,  
He will not ride without ‘em.

### CHORUS

And Cap’n Davis has a gun,  
He kind of clapt his hand on’t,  
And stuck a crooked stabbing iron  
Upon the little end on’t.

### CHORUS

## **“Yankee Doodle” in Your Own Words**

Restate each of the verses in your own words.

1. Yankee Doodle went to town

A-riding on a pony,

He stuck a feather in his cap

And called it macaroni.

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2. Father and I went down to camp,

Along with Captain Gooding

And there we saw the men and boys,

As thick as hasty pudding.

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3. And there was Cap'n Washington,  
And gentle folks about him;  
They say he's grown so 'tarnal proud,  
He will not ride without 'em.

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4. And Cap'n Davis has a gun,  
He kind of clapt his hand on't,  
And stuck a crooked stabbing iron  
Upon the little end on't.

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## The Preamble to the Declaration of Independence

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security.

## Summarizing the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,

What fact does Jefferson say is obvious?

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that they are endowed by their Creator with Certain unalienable Rights,

Who had given people rights that cannot be taken away?

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that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—

What are those guaranteed rights?

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That to secure these Rights,

How do we make sure we keep those rights?

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deriving their just Powers  
from the Consent of the  
Governed,

Who gives the government its power?

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that whenever any Form  
of Government becomes  
destructive of those Ends,  
it is the Right of the People  
to alter or to abolish it, and  
institute a new Government,

When a government does not protect the  
people's rights what can the people do?

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laying its Foundation  
on such Principles, and  
organizing its powers in such  
Form, as to them shall seem  
most likely to effect their  
Safety and Happiness.

What should be the purpose of this new  
government?

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Summary:

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