

## Answer Key

**Juror task #1 – Read the information contained in packet #1 (“A Background Briefing – What we know about what happened?”) and complete the following activities**

- 1. Read through the background briefing and provide a brief summary – no more than 35 words – of what happened in Boston on March 5, 1770.**

Possible pieces of information to be included in summary

The British soldiers had been serving as a police force to enforce tax laws  
Soldiers were not welcome by townspeople and hostility had been growing  
a confrontation occurred between a crowd of colonists and 8 soldiers  
the colonists threw things at the soldiers and screamed at them, a soldier was struck  
someone (not identified) yelled Fire! The soldiers fired and five Bostonians would die from gun shot wounds

- 2. What was the immediate result of this event?**

soldiers and Captain Preston were to be put on trial for murder  
Colonists called this incident the “Boston Massacre”

- 3. Reread the 1<sup>st</sup> four paragraphs and complete the activity on the next page. In the empty box, use this limited amount of information to draw a picture of what happened that night in Boston.**

**Questions to consider when drawing the picture.**

1. How many colonists were there?
2. What were the colonists doing?
3. How many soldiers were there?
4. What were the soldiers doing?
5. Where was the Captain Preston located? Place him in the illustration and identify which person is Preston?
6. Who were the dead and injured? Place and name them in the illustration.
7. After you have completed your illustration give it a title that tells what is going on in the drawing.

Drawings may vary, but students titles should reflect their understanding of what happened.

## Answer Key

**Title:**

Use this space for your illustration










# Answer Key

## Juror task #3 – Examine the illustrations contained in packet #3 and complete the following activities

1. In envelope three you will find two different illustrations of the incident. For each of the illustrations answer the following questions.

Questions	Illustration #1 – by John Bufford	Illustration #2 – by Paul Revere
 How long after the incident was the illustration completed?	Not clear – but soon, in 1770	Three weeks later
 How many colonists are in the drawing?	3 are prominently drawn, but it appears to show 20-30.	13- 15
3. What are the colonists doing?	Using clubs against the soldiers; being shot	Being shot; standing still; not attacking
 How many soldiers are in the drawing?	6 (approx.)	8 (approx.)
5. What are the soldiers doing?	Pointing their guns and bayonets at the colonists; in formation	Shooting their guns (smoke is included) at the colonists.
6. Where is Captain Preston located? Identify which soldier you think is Preston?	Not clear	Behind the line of soldiers, possibly giving an order
 How many of the colonists appear to be either killed or injured? Can you identify any of them?	3-4	4-5
 Given what you learned in the briefing papers and the accounts, do you think the illustration is a reliable (believable) piece of evidence about what happened in Boston on March 5, 1770? Explain.	Answers will vary.	Answers will vary.

2. How does the illustration you drew for envelope 1 compare to the illustrations in this envelope? How are they the same? How are they different? Which of the illustrations do you think is most accurate? Why? **Answers will vary.**

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# Answer Key

## An Investigation Timeout – What do you think so far?

1. Given the information provided in packets 1 (background briefing), 2 (accounts), and 3 (illustrations), do you think the British soldiers were guilty of murdering colonists in Boston on the night of March 5, 1770, or was this a case of self-defense?

Support your answer by identifying what information and evidence you have found, up to this point, most convincing and why? And what information and evidence you found least convincing and why? *Answers will vary.*

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2. What other information would be most useful to you if you were to make a more informed judgment on the guilt of the soldiers? What else do you want to know?

*Answers will vary.*

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3. What questions do you have about the case? What is not clear? *Answers will vary.*

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# Answer Key

## Juror task #4 – Read the information contained in packet #4 and complete the following activities

In this packet you will find witness statements from the trial of the British soldiers. Three statements were used by the prosecution to try and prove the soldiers guilty. Three statements were used by the defense to try and prove the soldiers innocent.

Read over the statements and follow the directions to fill in the charts below.

1. Read the three witness statements for the prosecution. These people were asked to testify because the colonial government (representing the King) believed they had information to prove the guilt of the soldiers – that they committed murder.

As a juror – what specific piece of information from each witness might persuade you that the soldiers were guilty?

<b>Witness:</b>	<b>Specific piece of information that might persuade you that the soldiers were guilty? Answers will vary, but below are some possible responses.</b>
1. John Cole	“the Captain said...” “I was within four feet of him.” “I saw the People’s arms moving but no sticks.”
2. Benjamin Burdick	Certain the word “fire” came from the soldiers.
3. Robert Goddard	Captain behind soldiers and told them to fire and to fire again.

2. Read the three witness statements for the defense. These people were asked to testify because the lawyers defending the soldiers believed they had information that would prove the soldiers acted in self defense – that they were innocent.

As a juror – what specific piece of information from each witness might persuade you that the soldiers were innocent; that they acted in self-defense?

<b>Witness:</b>	<b>Specific piece of information that might persuade you that the soldiers were innocent?</b>
1. Ebenezer Bridgham	The soldiers were surrounded and attacked; the colonists dared them to fire
2. Jane Whitehouse	The person who gave the order to fire was not the Captain; the soldiers were attacked
3. James Woodall	The soldiers were attacked and knocked down before firing.

# Answer Key

## And finally... Juror task #5

**Part 1 - Write a a brief summary (35 words or less) of each argument contained in packet #5.**

### **Argument # 1 – John Adams on why the soldiers were innocent**

#### **Possible response**

The soldiers were innocent because they were attacked before the shooting and only shot in self-defense. The attackers created a riot. Witnesses have testified that the soldiers were attacked. The witnesses included colonists not friendly to the soldiers.

### **Argument #2 – Patrick Henry on why the soldiers were guilty**

#### **Possible response**

The British troops had been sent to the colonies to enforce obedience to British laws that they had no power to make. To enforce the laws that troops probably had to be cruel toward the colonists. On the night of March 5, 1770 the British soldiers killed “our guiltless sons!” It is a shameful story that needs to be retold from generation to generation.





