



Opportunity Education and the Woodson Center: an ongoing partnership



Located in Washington, DC, the Woodson Center has a long history of empowering community-based leaders, revitalizing underserved communities and creating economic opportunities. We value their approach, especially their strong focus on highlighting achievements by Black Americans, and believe that

students across the US and worldwide will find these individuals inspiring. Recently, we decided to take a piece of their existing curriculum and design it as an active learning project for students to work on their own, with peers or in their schools.

ACTIVE LEARNING: THE OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION APPROACH

At Opportunity Education, we believe students should take an active and leading role in shaping their own learning. All of our projects are built on interactive and open-ended activities that empower students to choose their own directions while engaging with materials. This approach frees teachers to take on a mentoring role, framing materials and walking alongside students throughout the learning process.

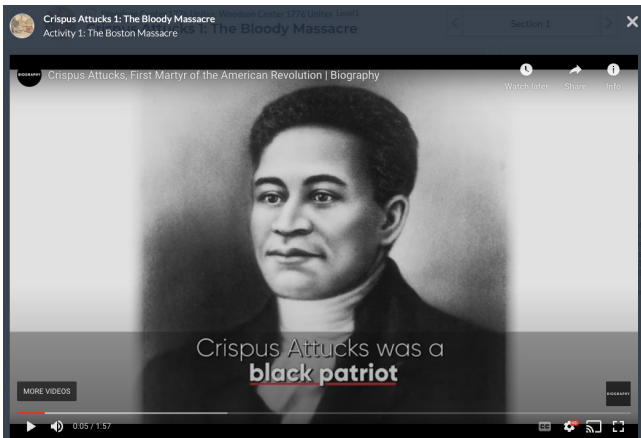
The screenshot shows a digital learning interface for a lesson titled "Crispus Attucks I: The Bloody Massacre". The interface includes a navigation bar at the top with a back arrow, a search icon, and a "Section 1" dropdown menu. Below the navigation bar, there are three numbered tabs (1, 2, 3) and a question mark icon. The main content area is titled "What role did Crispus Attucks play in the Boston Massacre?" and contains three sections: "Description", "Quest Goal", and "Mentor Guidance". The "Description" section provides background information on Crispus Attucks. The "Quest Goal" section asks students to examine how limited and confused facts can be used for different political purposes. The "Mentor Guidance" section states that they will work through activities 1 and 2 in class today, and that complete essays are due on Friday. On the right side of the interface, there is a sidebar with "Learning Skills" and "Artifact" sections. The "Learning Skills" section lists three skills: "Analyze: Interpret", "Explore: Ask Questions", and "Reason: Assess Arguments". The "Artifact" section contains a prompt for a short essay examining one of the readings or comparing both of them.

Quest Overview

ACTIVE LEARNING IN PRACTICE: CRISPUS ATTUCKS AND THE BOSTON MASSACRE

For this project, we built on a piece of Woodson Center curriculum that focuses on Crispus Attucks, the first man to die in the Boston Massacre. We designed our curriculum in the form of a quest, where students learn about Attucks, his role in the Boston Massacre and the larger American Revolution, and the different ways that historical events are portrayed, both at the time they occurred and afterward.



The focus throughout this project is on practicing analysis, creativity and exploration skills. Students begin this project by examining information about Attucks, including a slide show, an overview of the Boston Massacre and a short biographical film about Attucks' life. Teachers will draw from a host of supporting materials, including a general lesson plan and learning objectives, to guide students through a series of critical reflection questions.



A still from the biographical film

Students will engage with primary source materials, including letters from soldiers, poems and engravings, to explore how communications can be manipulated to serve various purposes. They'll question what it means to be a patriot, how

Learn some of the facts and context of the Boston Massacre and Crispus Attucks's role in it


 Explore: Ask Questions Last Saved: 1 hour ago 

Think about what you would need to know to understand better how the massacre happened and why it had the effects it did.

Have you ever heard the expression "the fog of war"? This confusion about what actually happened in tense and volatile situations is just one of the reasons there are so many questions about the events surrounding the Boston Massacre and the first American to die in it - a Black man named Crispus Attucks.


Review the presentation and some of the other resources to learn what we know about Attucks and the massacre, along with other parts of the story that have proven difficult to settle.

+ Add Mentor Guidance




Crispus Attucks Part 1 - Presentation

Review the presentation, keeping track of the facts that are relatively certain, on the one hand, and the points that have been disputed or are unknown.



Crispus Attucks and The Boston Massacre: American Revolutionary War-One Minute History (1m)

Brief overview of the Boston Massacre



Crispus Attucks, First Martyr of the American Revolution (1m 56s)

First Activity - Learning about the Boston Massacre

propaganda is created, the ways that arguments can deviate from facts and the many ways communications can become muddled during the "fog of war." Students will work individually and in groups while teachers provide mentorship, guidance and integrate learning skills and objectives.

ACCESS THESE AND OTHER RESOURCES

To learn more about the Opportunity Education approach — including this project and others built upon the Woodson Center's existing curriculum — visit our website at www.opportunityeducation.org/resources/.