

Day 1: March 5, 1770

Crispus Attucks is shot by a British soldier, beginning the Boston Massacre and, ultimately, the Revolutionary War.

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Adapted by Fishtank Staff

- 1 Crispus Attucks
 was a man, self-made
 Crispus Attucks
 was a man, unafraid.
- 5 When the redcoats turned
 on the colonists with guns,
 Crispus Attucks stood tall
 and challenged each one.
- One shot,
10 two shots
 straight to the chest,
 Crispus Attucks went down,
 his heart put to rest.
- A slave,
15 a sailor,
 a patriot was he,
 Crispus Attucks struck
 the first blow for liberty.
- First to defy,
20 first to die,
 Crispus Attucks sacrificed
 for the flag we hold high.

Crispus Attucks was born a slave in 1723 in Framingham, Massachusetts. He was the property of William Brown but the son of an African father and a Native American mother. In 1750, he ran away to work on whaling ships, but also worked on the docks and as a rope maker. The British troops ("redcoats") competed with the colonists for jobs, usually offering to work for less money. This led to friction and arguments between the troops and colonists. Crispus and four other men were shot that day and their deaths became a spark for the Revolutionary War.