



# CRISPUS ATTUCKS: AMERICAN LEADER

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Crispus Attucks was born into slavery in 1723 in Framingham, MA. He escaped bondage in 1750 and probably spent much of his time aboard whaling ships to avoid capture. Eventually, he was able to return to Boston. On March 5, 1770, a small crowd of colonists gathered and began taunting a small group of British soldiers. Tension mounted rapidly, and, when one of the soldiers was struck, the others fired their muskets, killing three of the Americans instantly and mortally wounding two others. Attucks was the first to fall, thus becoming one of the first men to lose his life in the cause of American independence. His body was carried to Faneuil Hall, where it lay in state until March 8, when all five victims were buried in a common grave. Attucks was the only victim of the Boston Massacre whose name was widely remembered. In 1888, the Crispus Attucks monument was unveiled on Boston Common.

Attucks worked to protect our country, equality, and freedom. He is credited for being a leader and instigator of the American Revolution, and he fought for his country even though it was not entirely on his side.

**Did You Know?** Martin Luther King, Jr., referred to Crispus Attucks as an example of a man whose contribution to history, though much-overlooked by standard histories, provided a potent message of moral courage.

