



Justice for ALL

In 1770, tensions between Boston colonists and British soldiers exploded in the Boston Massacre, leaving five civilians dead. Outraged citizens demanded revenge, and the soldiers involved were put on trial for murder. Few dared to defend them — except John Adams, a well-known Patriot leader who believed that every person, even an enemy, deserved a fair trial. Despite risking his reputation and safety, Adams argued that the soldiers had acted in confusion and fear, not malice. Most were found not guilty. Years later, Adams reflected on the decision, saying, *“It was one of the best pieces of service I ever rendered my country.”* He believed that upholding justice, even when unpopular, was essential to the kind of nation America should become.

Writing Prompt:

John Adams risked his popularity to defend people most of his neighbors hated. Would you have done the same? Why or why not? Then, connect this theme to your own life or a story you know:

- When has someone stood up for fairness, even when others disagreed?
- Why is it important to protect justice — not just for friends, but for everyone?
