Boston Massacre

Although the Patriots and the Loyalists were both involved in the Boston Massacre, they have different written accounts based on their point of view. For example, the Patriots and the Loyalists have different names for the event. The Patriots call it the Boston Massacre, but the Loyalists call it the Boston Riot.

According to the Loyalists and the Patriots, they have different stories of the Boston Massacre. The Patriots say that the British soldiers came to Boston, and other towns, and protect the Bostonians. The Bostonians, and the colonists, never really liked the British because they would always tax them and find ways to make them pay more for things, so, they had all this anger built up in them already. Now, the Bostonians really didn’t like that the soldiers came to Boston and kept telling them what to do. So, they started throwing snowballs at the sentry and all the guards. The sentry then called Captain Preston to come out and help. When he came out, he yelled ‘Fire!’ and the soldiers started firing their bayonets and muskets at the people! They killed three men and wounded eight others and two died later on. Eight soldiers, including Captain Preston, were sent to jail for this crime and all the Patriots agreed that they should have gone to jail because they were the ones that started shooting. According to “From the Diary of Sam Adams”, “Massacre was an appropriate term for the violence of the night.”

The Boston Massacre, also known as the Boston Riot for the Loyalists, was a very different story compared to the Patriots’. The story starts the same way the Patriots did with the soldiers coming to Boston to do their job and protect the people. The people became angry and the soldiers didn’t think they should have because they didn’t do anything wrong. All of a sudden, the people started throwing snowballs, ice balls, rocks, and sticks at the british guards. According to “The Boston Riot”, “Someone yelled ‘Fire!’ which the soldiers took as an order, and they started firing on the crowd.” The soldiers said that the shout came from the crowd and not their captain because they said their captain was trying to keep the matter calm. The Loyalists also say that their captain and the others did go to jail, but they think they shouldn’t have.

The Loyalists and the Patriots do agree on some events that took place on that night. For example, they both agree that the Bostonians started throwing snowballs at the guards, but the Patriots did it because they were angry at the British and the Loyalists didn’t know why the Bostonians started throwing snowballs. In both stories, some men died and some were wounded, but the Patriots said that five men died and the Loyalists said that five also died but not as many
were wounded. Also, they agree that the guards started shooting, but the person who said it was different. They also agree that someone yelled 'Fire!', but the Loyalists say the crowd yelled it and the Patriots say that the captain yelled it. The Loyalists and the Patriots may agree on some things, but why they agree about it is different.

Obviously, the Patriots and the Loyalists had different points of view and their stories about the Boston Massacre are very different, but they have some things they can agree on. For example, they agree that someone did yell 'Fire!'. Which side do you agree with?