

Sacco and Vanzetti are executed

1927 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Teacher note: this topic includes loss, violence, discrimination, or criminal allegations. Preview and choose a suitable reading together. No reenactment of harm is needed.

Words to know

court — a place or group that decides legal cases

protest — show disagreement in public

justice — fair treatment and the protection of rights

Look closely



Modern topic illustration created for Massachusetts History Explorers. It is not a historical artifact.

Read the story

Sacco and Vanzetti were executed after their controversial convictions. People in many countries protested. The case continued to raise questions about prejudice, evidence, and fairness in courts.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. What happened in this reading? Tell one fact.
2. Who or what is this reading mostly about?
3. Choose a word from the word bank. Explain it in your own words.
4. Look at the picture and its caption. What does it help you notice? Is it from the time of the event?

Follow-up reading: Boston Garden opens

1928

Boston Garden opened as a place for large public events. It became famous for sports and performances. A different building, now called TD Garden, opened in 1995. The two arenas are not the same building.

How are the two readings alike or different? Tell a partner one connection. Which event came first?

Teacher guide & source trail

Original classroom adaptation. Suggested reading levels are instructional choices, not standardized readability certifications. Use professional judgment and learner feedback.

ELA practice: RI.2.1: ask and answer questions; RI.2.2: identify a main topic; RI.2.7: use images and words; W.2.2 and SL.2.1: explain and discuss.

These tasks support selected skills in the [Massachusetts 2017 ELA framework](#); they do not establish mastery of an entire standard.

Answer guidance

Factual anchor: Sacco and Vanzetti were executed after their controversial convictions. People in many countries protested. The case continued to raise questions about prejudice, evidence, and fairness in courts. Their execution occurred seven years after arrest. Separate the stages of a case: arrest, trial, appeals, and punishment. Later judgments about fairness cannot undo the loss of life.

Accept accurate main ideas and explanations supported by the text. Vocabulary meanings are in the opening word bank. For picture questions, use the caption and credit below; distinguish what is visible from what is inferred. For comparison, accept a specific connection supported by both readings. Do not require personal accounts of trauma.

Continue the inquiry

[Research source for this event ↗](#)

[Research source for follow-up ↗](#)

[Event page, accessible HTML reading, and vocabulary game ↗](#)

Image: Original site illustration.

[Image source and rights record ↗](#)

The PDF contains selectable English text and embedded fonts. For adjustable text and browser reading tools, use the event's [HTML page](#). External sources may need adult guidance.