

Sacco and Vanzetti are executed

1927 | Grade 4 · Explain with evidence

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.

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.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. State the main idea. Support it with two details from the reading.
2. Explain a change or challenge described in the text. Which words support your answer?
3. Use one vocabulary word in a new sentence about this event.
4. What can the image and caption help explain? What can they not tell you?

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.

Memories may combine different venues or decades. Check dates and photographs. A building's history includes workers, access, ticket prices, and surrounding streets as well as famous athletes.

Compare the two readings. Explain one similarity or difference using a detail from each. Their order does not prove that one caused the other.

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.4.1: refer to details; RI.4.2: main idea and summary; RI.4.3: explain events; RI.4.7: interpret visual information; W.4.2 and SL.4.1: 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.