



Teacher's Lesson Plan



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Dear Teacher,

First, a sincere thank you for your undying commitment to the Commonwealth's best natural resource - our youngest citizens. The seeds you are planting today will flower into our future leaders of tomorrow.

As you know, Massachusetts is an exciting state with a wealth of history, culture, and tradition. Students here are fortunate to have the opportunity to experience this wealth first hand.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth hopes to motivate students to learn about their state and to take advantage of what it has to offer by providing a lesson plan to accompany the coloring booklet, *Color Massachusetts*. The plan, which has been prepared by our Citizen Information Service, includes additional text, discussion questions, and suggestions for activities and field trips.

In addition, it is prepared in simple language, easily understood by third graders. The material may be readily reproduced to fit your classroom needs.

The lesson plan can be a helpful, positive, and creative tool to encourage your students to think about our Commonwealth. We hope you find it useful. Enjoy your studies and have a great school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Francis Galvin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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Massachusetts

Massachusetts, which is the sixth smallest state in size, became the sixth state to join the United States of America on February 6, 1788. Massachusetts may be small, but it has quite a bit to offer. Massachusetts is famous for its historic landmarks, educational institutions, high technology industries, and the magnificent beauty of its rolling hills and seacoast. The name “Massachusetts” comes from the Massachusett Indian tribe, a tribe of the Algonquins, and means “near the great hill” or “the place of the great hill”.

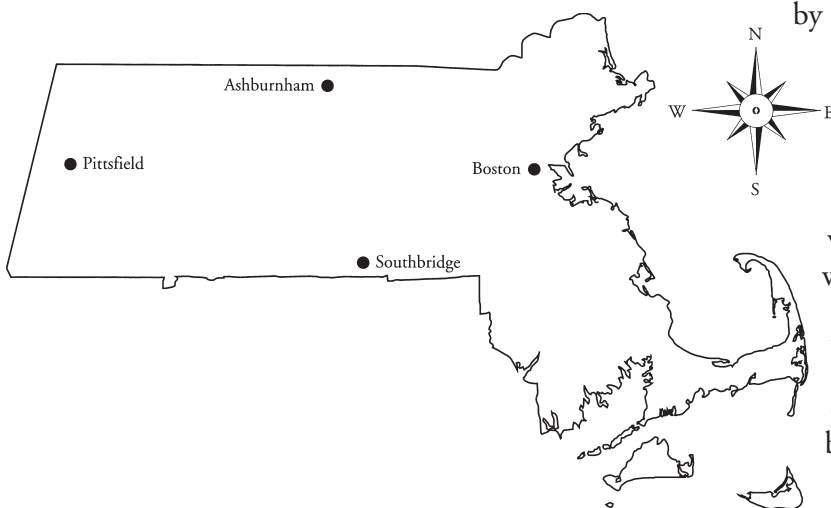
Massachusetts has 351 cities and towns, both large and small. Compared to Boston which is the largest city, the tiny town of Gosnold has only 86 people. Gosnold is a little island across from the popular vacation spot Martha’s Vineyard.

Massachusetts has many picturesque hills and valleys. The cool winters and warm summers in Massachusetts have created small but fertile farming areas mainly in the western part of the state. Some of the best farmland lies in the river valleys where oats, dairy products, hay, vegetables, maple syrup, and fruits are grown and produced. The Commonwealth has 4,230 miles of rivers. The Connecticut River, which is one of its most important rivers, provides irrigation for a large portion of western Massachusetts. Scenic waterways such as the Charles and Merrimack Rivers are enjoyed by many for their recreational value.

The hilly terrain makes Massachusetts a great state for bicycling and hiking. Of course, that is in the nice weather. Massachusetts benefits from the change of seasons. The summer weather provides a comfortable climate for boating, swimming, camping, and other outdoor activities. As the leaves on the trees turn in autumn, Massachusetts comes alive with magnificent color. Many people enjoy the fall foliage

by driving or biking through country roads. In the winter many people enjoy cross-country and downhill skiing, skating, and even ice fishing. Although spring doesn’t seem to last long in Massachusetts, it is a welcome end to the seemingly long winters.

Each year thousands of tourists visit the state of Massachusetts. Its residents are quite fortunate to have its beauty, history and seasonal contrasts to enjoy all year long.



Massachusetts: Questions for Discussion

1. Massachusetts was the (a) first (b) third (c) sixth state to join the United States.
(c) sixth.

2. From where does the name Massachusetts come?
The Massachusett Indian Tribe.

What does that name mean?
“Near the great hill” or “the place of the great hill”.

4. What are some outdoor activities that you enjoy? In what seasons do you participate in the activities?
Answers will vary.

5. Name the four seasons.
Winter, spring, summer, and fall or autumn.

6. What products are grown on the farms in Massachusetts?
Oats, vegetables, hay, fruit...

7. Can you name some of the rivers in Massachusetts?
Connecticut, Merrimack, Charles, Mystic, Nashua, Concord, Taunton, Hoosic, Housatonic, Deerfield, Ware, Millers, Westfield, Ipswich...

The State Flag

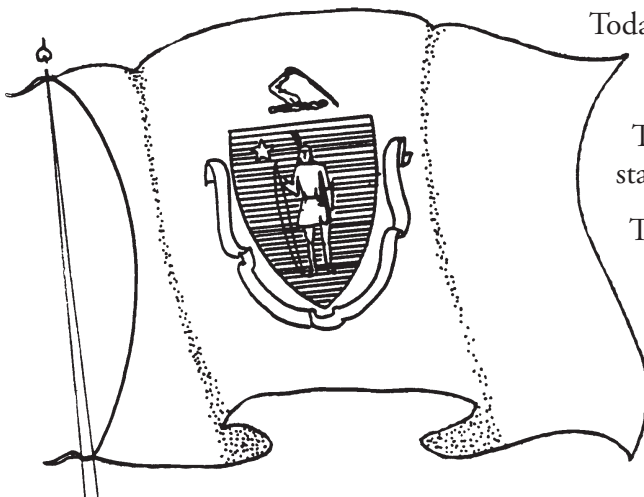
Massachusetts has many state emblems, a state flower, a state bird, even a state muffin, but one of the most important of these emblems is the state flag. The first state flag was officially adopted in 1915. It was white with gold fringe. At that time, it had two designs, one on the front and one on the back. Today the flag has a design only on the front while the back is blank.

On the front of the flag is the state coat of arms, which has several parts. Each represents a part of Massachusetts history. In the center of the coat of arms is a blue shield. The shield's blue color stands for the Blue Hills, which are in Canton and Milton. In fact, Massachusetts gets its name from these hills, because Massachusetts means "near the great hill" or "the place of the great hill" in the Algonquin Indian language.

An Indian stands in the middle of the shield. When the first settlers came to Massachusetts, they found many Indian tribes living here. The Indian on the shield is carrying a bow in his right hand and an arrow in his left. The arrow's tip points downward to show that the Indian is friendly. A white star is next to the Indian's head. This star has a meaning also. It shows that Massachusetts was one of the thirteen original colonies in America.

The coat of arms has two more parts, one above the shield and one below. An arm, bent at the elbow and wearing a ruffled sleeve, is on top of the shield while the hand is gripping a sword. Both the arm and the hand rest on top of a blue and gold wreath. A blue ribbon, with the state motto written on it, lies under the shield. The motto is written in Latin and it says, "Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem". In English this means, "By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty".

The back of the first flag also had a blue shield. On that shield was a green pine tree, which symbolized how important wood was to the early settlers. Trees provided wood for houses, buildings, and ships.



Today the state flag does not have a design on the back.

In November of 1971 a law was passed to make a flag with only a front design the official state flag.

The new state flag is the same as the front of the first state flag.

The flag must be treated with respect. When it is displayed, it should be hung freely from a pole, or hung flat. If it is flown with an American flag, the Massachusetts flag should be flown lower. But if it is flown with a flag from an organization or group, the Massachusetts flag should be higher.

The State Flag:

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the difference between the first Massachusetts flag and the flag we have now?

The first flag had two designs, one on the front, one on the back. The current flag has only a front design.

2. What type of Indian is on the flag?

An Algonquin Indian.

3. Why would it have been important to the early settlers for the Indians to be friendly?

Answers will vary.

4. Name three parts of the state coat of arms.

Answers can be any combination of motto, arm and sword, star, Indian, ribbon, arrow, and shield.

5. Why must the flag be treated with respect?

Answers will vary.

Boston, Capital of Massachusetts

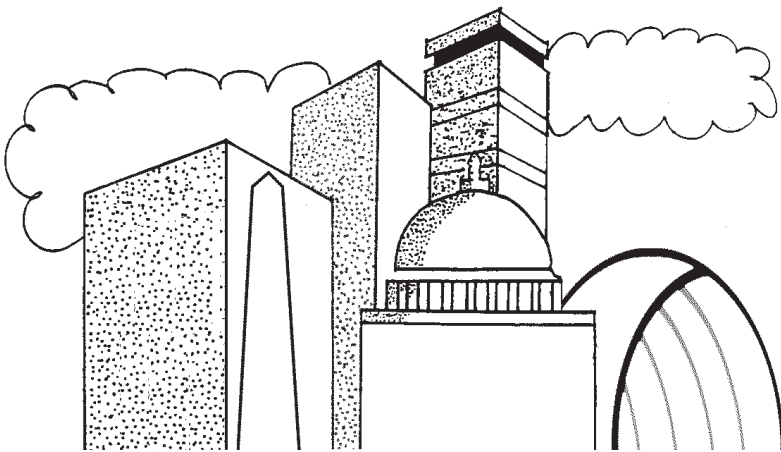
Boston, the capital of Massachusetts, is the largest city in all of New England. Boston is known as the “cradle of liberty” because of its leadership in the struggle of the American colonies for independence. It is home to the State House which is the center of legislative and political activity for Massachusetts. Boston is also known as Beantown for its famous baked beans. The town of Boston was founded in 1630 and incorporated as a city by the state legislature in 1822. The first mayor, John Phillips, was sworn in on May 1, 1822. One of the most colorful politicians in the history of all of America was James Michael Curley, who was elected mayor of Boston for four terms.

Boston is a very large city. At nighttime its population is about 600,000, but during the day it swells to about 2.2 million people. Many of these people come to Boston to work – some of whom arrived by rapid transit. As a matter of fact, the first subway in America opened in Boston in 1897. People flock in droves to Boston not only to work, but also to take advantage of all the exciting and interesting sites and activities it has to offer.

Many of Boston’s activities are cultural. These include the theater, arts, music, sports, history, ethnic traditions, and much more. People come to Boston to visit its museums, listen to the Boston Pops, ride the Swan Boats, visit its historical sites, and enjoy picnics along the Charles. Boston even has what is called the “Emerald Necklace”. This is a ring of parks with green grass (in the spring and summer, that is) which starts at the Boston Common and ends at the Franklin Park Zoo. If you look at a map of Boston, the ring of parks looks like a green or emerald necklace.

Boston has many interesting neighborhoods just like your city or town.

Many of these neighborhoods are made up of people from different ethnic backgrounds. When people moved to this land from other countries, they often moved into neighborhoods where people from their own country lived so that they could feel more at home. Visitors to Boston often discover wonderful traditions by visiting the different neighborhoods of Boston.



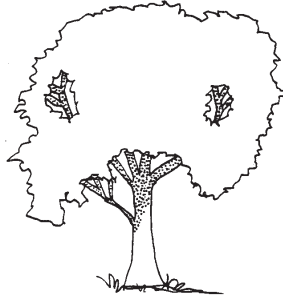
Boston:

Questions for Discussion

1. How do you think people get to their jobs in Boston?
Cars, trains, trolleys, trackless trolleys, subway cars, bicycles, van pools, and also by walking.
2. What kinds of work do you think they do?
Answers will vary.
3. Have you ever visited Boston?
Answers will vary.
4. Have you ever ridden on a subway car, trolley, or trackless trolley?
Answers will vary.
5. What are some of the special sites and activities in Boston? Swan Boats, Charles River, Fenway Park, Faneuil Hall, the Emerald Necklace, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Common, Paul Revere's House, the State House...
6. Why is a certain group of parks in Boston known as the "Emerald Necklace"?
It is called that because the parks are arranged in a circle and during spring and summer their grass is very green. If you look at the parks on a map of Boston, they resemble a green or emerald necklace.

The State Emblems

The state tree is the American elm. It was made the official state tree on March 21, 1941 by our state legislature. It is a large tree with a gray bark or skin. The leaves are dark green; they turn a bright yellow in the fall.



The elm was chosen because the Liberty Tree was an elm tree. Before the American Revolution, which gave the New England settlers freedom from England, a group of Boston colonists called the “Sons of Liberty” met under the Liberty Tree. They talked about ways that they could get rid of the taxes that the British were forcing them to pay. When the British stopped making the colonists pay such high taxes, lanterns were hung on the branches of the Liberty Tree. The Liberty Tree was cut down by the British in anger in 1775.

The state flower is the mayflower. The mayflower is usually pink or white and has five petals. It grows in the woods and other shady places, often near pine trees and in sandy or rocky soil. It was made our official flower on May 1, 1918.

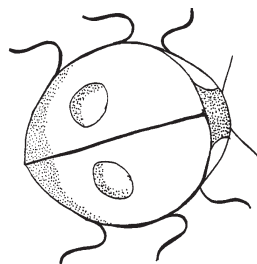


Cranberry juice became the state beverage on May 4, 1970 in honor of the state's cranberry industry. Cranberries grow on bushes in these bogs. Berries of the cranberry bush have been a source of the rich red juice for many years.



The state muffin is the corn muffin. It was made our official muffin on May 27, 1986. Corn or maize has been a very important food in the history of Massachusetts. It was one of the first foods the Pilgrims learned to grow and keep for their long cold winters in America, or “New England” as they called their new home. Sweet corn is grown mainly in the western part of Massachusetts today, in an area known as the Connecticut Valley.

The state cookie is the chocolate chip cookie. The chocolate chip cookie was designated the official cookie of the Commonwealth on July 9, 1997. A third grade class from Somerset proposed the bill to honor the cookie invented in 1930 at the Toll House Restaurant in Whitman.



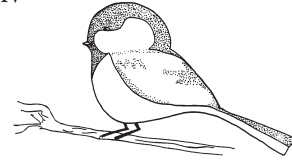
The state insect is the ladybug. The most common type of ladybug has a black head, yellow earmuffs, and a red body with two black spots on the back. This insect became the official state bug on April 17, 1974 following the efforts of a second grade class in Franklin, Massachusetts.

The state horse is the Morgan. Morgans can be traced back to a little bay stallion named Figure born in West Springfield, MA in 1789. Figure's owner, school teacher and

singing master Justin Morgan later named Figure after himself, "Justin Morgan." Morgans are sturdy and versatile and thought to be the first documented horse breed in the United States. The Morgan breed was adopted as the state horse on May 14, 1970.

The wild turkey is the state game bird. It was eaten at the first Thanksgiving, and designated the state game bird on December 23, 1991.

The state bird is the chickadee. It was adopted as the official state bird on March 21, 1941. Other names for the chickadee are "dickybird", "titmouse", and "tomtit". The body of the chickadee is typically gray and brown with white cheeks. The little bird likes to make its nest or home in a stump, tree, or fence post close to the ground.



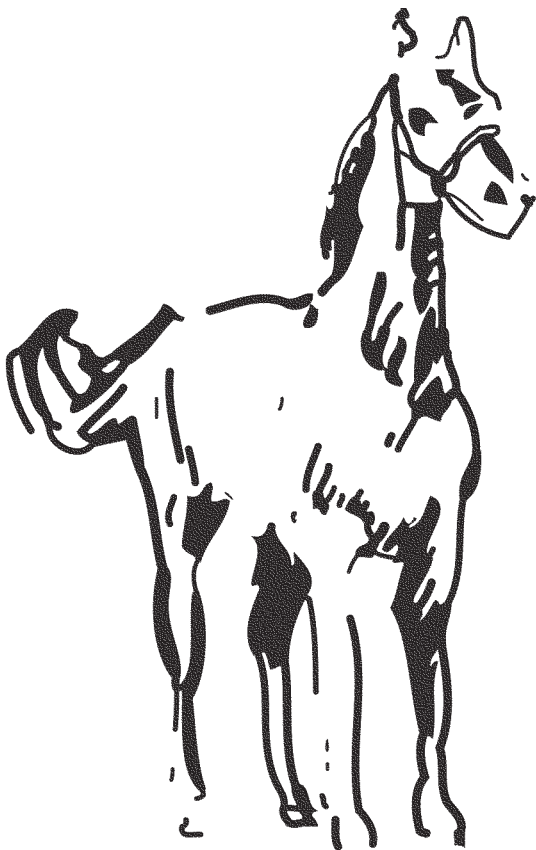
The state cat is the tabby cat. Tabby cats are often mistaken as a breed of cats. The term tabby refers to the stripes, dots, and swirling patterns of the cats coat. The tabby pattern is believed to be the original cat pattern and the closest to their distant ancestors.



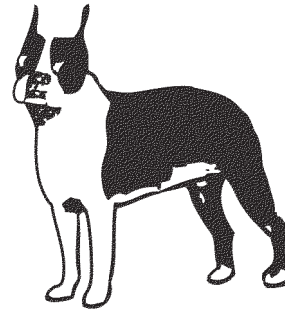
The state dog is the Boston Terrier. This breed, a cross between an English Bulldog and an English White Terrier, originated in 1869 in Boston. In 1893, the American Kennel Club admitted the Boston Terrier, making it the first American breed to be recognized by the AKC. It was recognized by the state on May 14, 1979.

The State Emblem: Questions for Discussion

1. By what other name is the American elm tree known?
Liberty Tree
2. What is another name for the season of fall, when the leaves of the American elm tree turn yellow?
Autumn.
3. Can you think of another kind of Mayflower? Draw a picture of it.
The ship that brought the Pilgrims to the new land.
4. Name four flowers that have pink or white petals.
Geraniums, roses, carnations, daisies, magnolias...
5. During what holiday are cranberries eaten the most?
Thanksgiving.
6. Why do we celebrate it?
Answers will vary: To honor the Pilgrims who gave thanks for having survived their first harsh winter in New England; to be thankful for all that we are so fortunate to have...
7. What is another name for corn?
Maize.
8. What did the Pilgrims call their new home in America?
New England.
9. What other fruits and vegetables grow in New England?
Pumpkins, apples, cucumbers, tomatoes, blueberries, squash...
10. What is your favorite cookie?
Answers will vary.



11. What is the name of the first Morgan horse?
Figure
12. Have you ever seen a ladybug? Describe it.
Answers will vary.
13. What kind of sound, or chirp do you think the chickadee makes?
Chickadee-dee-dee.
14. What is another name for a bird's home?
Nest.
15. What are some of the places where birds build their nests?
Eaves, trees, bushes.
16. Describe the tabby pattern.
Stripes, dots, and a swirling pattern.



How Laws are Made

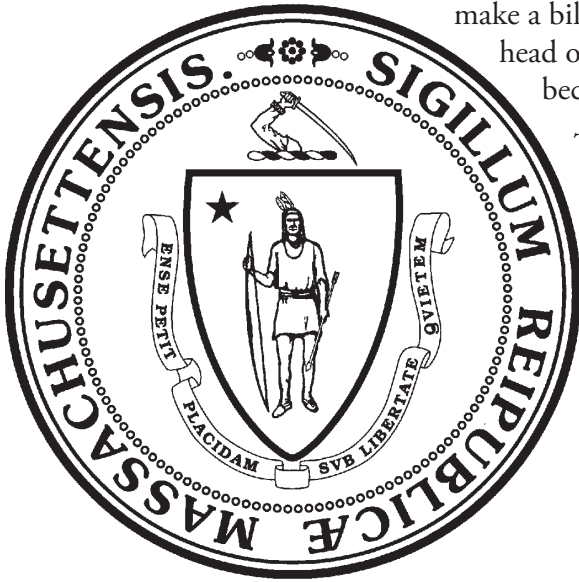
Many people wonder how our state emblems became official. Laws were passed to make the symbols official. “Lawmakers” or “legislators” pass laws. In Massachusetts there are two types of lawmakers, senators and representatives. These lawmakers serve in the General Court. A senator belongs to a group of legislators called the Senate and a representative belongs to another group called the House of Representatives. Everyone in Massachusetts is represented by a senator and a representative.

Anyone can give his or her legislator ideas for new laws. These ideas are written on “petition” forms. The petition is signed by a legislator and then sent to the clerk of the House of Representatives. The clerk gives the petition a number and it becomes a “bill”. Copies are made of the bill and given to the senators and representatives who are on “committees”.

The committee members have a meeting called a “hearing”. Anyone can go to this hearing and say why a bill should or should not become a law. The committee members discuss the bill and recommend to the other legislators whether or not a bill should become a law.

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate must each vote to make a bill a law before it can be sent to the governor, who is the head of our state. If the governor agrees that the bill should become a law, he puts his signature on it.

This is how our state emblems became official. People in Massachusetts can work with their legislators to make laws.



How Laws are Made: Questions for Discussion

1. What is another word for symbol?
Emblem
2. What is another name for lawmaker?
Legislator
3. What are the two types of lawmakers in the State House?
Senators and representatives
4. To what groups do they belong?
The Senate and the House of Representatives
5. What do we call the decision that every legislator makes on a bill?
Vote
6. Who is the person who must sign a bill before it can become a law?
The governor
7. What is an opinion?
A belief or judgment
8. Do you have an opinion about what the state color should be?
Answers will vary.

The Sacred Cod

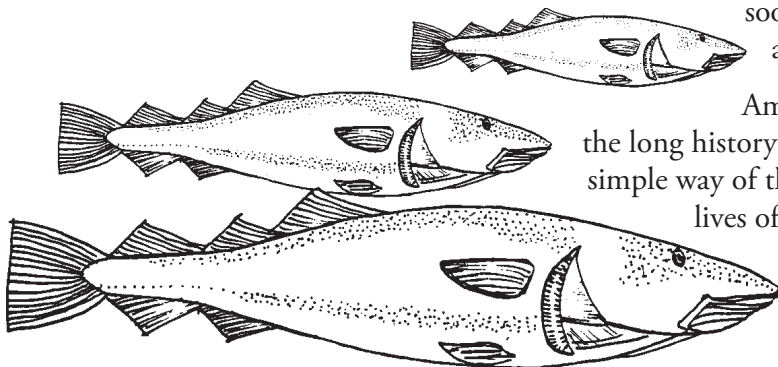
When you visit the State House in Boston, you may be surprised to see a large wooden fish hanging in the back of the Chamber of the House of Representatives. Did you ever wonder what the fish is doing there, in the beautiful old hall where the representatives meet?

The fish is a carving of a codfish and it is called the “Sacred Cod”. It represents the importance of the fishing industry in the early history of the state. Fishing is the oldest industry in the United States. Settlers and Indians were fishing long before the Pilgrims came to the New World in 1620. The Indians of Massachusetts used cod and other fish as a staple or basic part of their meals. When the Pilgrims celebrated the first Thanksgiving with the Wampanoag Indians, they ate cod along with the famous turkey. It was in the 1600s that the part of Massachusetts that curves into the ocean like an arm was named Cape Cod, after this delicious fish.

As Massachusetts grew, the fishing industry grew along with it. In the 1800s, many cities and towns became important ports for fishing boats. Gloucester, Boston, Provincetown, and New Bedford are some of the most famous places for fishing in Massachusetts. All of these cities and towns still have fishing fleets. The Boston and Gloucester fishermen catch a lot of cod. The codfish became a symbol of the state more than two hundred years ago. Therefore, it was not a surprise when the state legislature decided to choose the cod as the official state fish in 1974.

The Sacred Cod, which hangs above the heads of the representatives in the State House, is carved out of pine and is five feet long. The cod that is there now is the third carving under which Massachusetts lawmakers have sat. The first was destroyed in a fire at the Old State House in 1747, and the next was destroyed during the Revolutionary War. The third cod dates from 1784, but no one is sure who carved it. It has faithfully followed the House of Representatives wherever it went, from the Old State House to the new House Chamber in 1895. The cod has been there ever since, except for the time in 1933 when it was “cod-napped” by members of the

Harvard Lampoon magazine. The practical jokers soon returned the cod and it now hangs once again over the House.



Among the grand paintings and statues of the long history of Massachusetts, the cod reminds us in a simple way of the importance of our first industry in the lives of the people of Massachusetts.

The Sacred Cod: Questions for Discussion

1. The Sacred Cod hangs in the (a) Senate (b) House of Representatives (c) Governor's Office. Circle the correct answer.
(b) House of Representatives.
2. How long is the Sacred Cod?
Five feet.
3. Did the Pilgrims eat cod or turkey at the first Thanksgiving?
Both.
4. Have you ever been fishing? Do any of your friends or relatives fish?
What do you do when you fish?
Answers will vary.
5. Which city is important to the fishing industry? (a) Worcester (b) Springfield (c) Gloucester Circle the correct answer.
(c) Gloucester.
6. Staple foods are an important part of a person's diet. What is a person's diet?
A person's usual food and drink.
7. Can you think of any staples that you eat?
Answers will vary: milk, bread, cheese, eggs, etc.
8. What kind of fish do you like to eat?
Answers will vary.
9. Can you name places where people eat a lot of fish?
Answers will vary: Japan, Alaska, Hawaii, Pacific Islands, Gloucester, Baltimore, Norway...

The State House

On Beacon Hill rests the State House which is the Capitol Building of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Constructed in 1795, the red brick structure has white pillars and an impressive golden dome. It was designed by Charles Bulfinch, a fine Boston architect who designed many famous buildings. Several additions to the State House have been built, the last one of which was completed in 1917. Today workmen are busy renovating the State House once again.

When the dome was first built it was not covered with gold, but with wooden shingles. Some years later the dome was topped with copper by the company of Paul Revere. Finally, in 1872, the dome was gilded with gold leaf and it remains that way today.

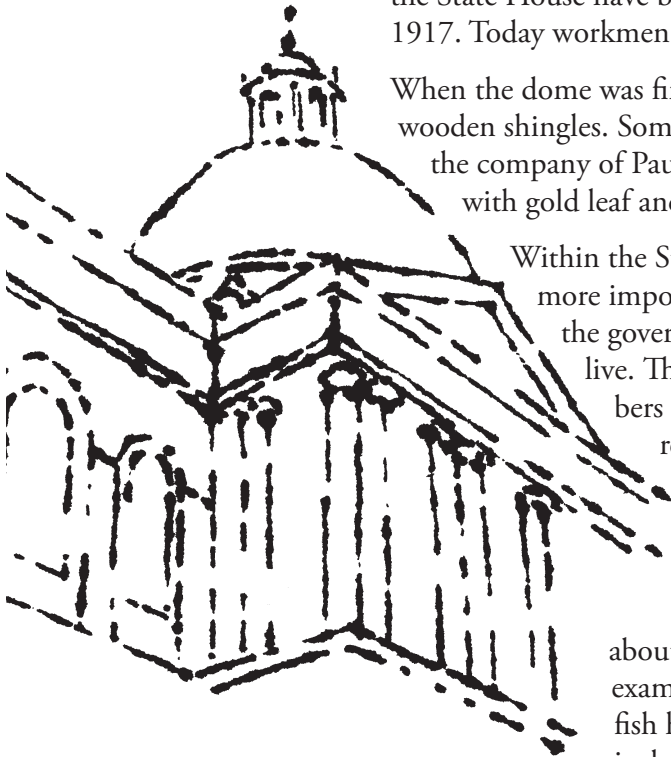
Within the State House there are many rooms. Some of the more important of these include the Governor's Office where the governor runs the state and signs the laws by which we live. The House of Representatives and the Senate Chambers are where the men and women legislators who represent all the citizens of the Commonwealth meet to make laws.

Also in the State House there are lots of paintings and sculptures showing important events in Massachusetts history. These can be found just about anywhere you look in the Capitol building. For example, both the House and the Senate have carved fish hanging in their chambers. The "Holy Mackerel" is the fish of the Senate and the "Sacred Cod" is that

of the House. If you visit the State House, ask your tour guide to point them out to you. In every room something unique can be found. Doric Hall, for example, has a statue of our first president George Washington, a painting of our sixteenth president Abraham Lincoln, historic cannons, and copies of gravestones. In Nurses' Hall there are marble columns and a lifelike statue of a nurse and a wounded soldier carved to honor nurses that had served in the Civil War.

A very special room in the State House is the Hall of Flags. This room was built to protect and display the flags brought back from wars by Massachusetts soldiers. In the ceiling of this room is a stained glass window of the Massachusetts State Seal surrounded by the seals of the twelve other original colonies.

The State House on Beacon Hill is the very heart of state government. Its rooms are alive with political activity as well as years and years of Massachusetts history. Anyone can visit the State House to learn more about the Commonwealth. The State House belongs to everyone who lives in this state.



The State House:

Questions for Discussion

1. The original dome was built with wooden shingles, but soon after it was fitted with a copper top. Can you figure out why?

The copper protected the dome and the rest of the State House from the leaks caused by rain and snow.

2. The dome is covered with gold leaf. Do you know how those leaves are made?

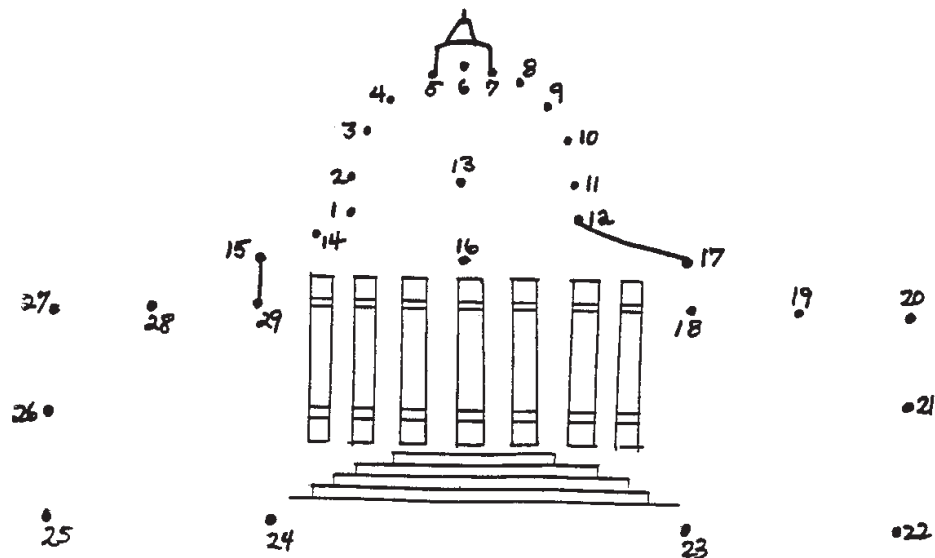
The leaves are made of gold that has been hammered into very thin sheets.

3. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have fish symbols in their chambers. What are they?

The "Holy Mackerel" in the Senate Chamber and the "Sacred Cod" in the House Chamber.

4. The Hall of Flags is home to a stained glass window with a design of the state seal surrounded by seals of the 12 other original colonies. Many of the original colonies are neighbors to Massachusetts. Can you name any?

Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island.



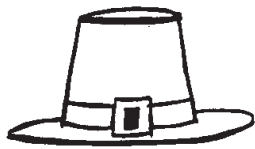
Thanksgiving

In September 6, 1620, the Mayflower set sail from Plymouth, England. The 102 passengers set off to seek religious freedom and fortune in the New World. The voyage took most of September and all of October, 66 days in all.

Storms threw them off their course and instead of reaching the Virginia Colony, which was their original destination, they landed in Provincetown Harbor in November, 1620. While on board the Mayflower in Provincetown Harbor, the Pilgrims drew up the Mayflower Compact and all the men aboard the ship signed it on November 11, 1620. This document created the way for the Pilgrims to govern themselves. After exploring the area, the Pilgrims decided to settle in Plymouth.



Massasoit was the chief of a local Indian tribe called the Wampanoags. The Wampanoags lived on Cape Cod, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, and inland. In early spring of 1621, the Pilgrims met with Massasoit and agreed to live peaceably with the Wampanoags and to help each other. "Massasoit" in the Wampanoag language means "great leader" and "Wampanoag" means "People of the Dawn".



The first winter was filled with hardship. In the spring, however, with help from the Indians, the Pilgrims planted corn (maize), peas, and barley. They also hunted fowl and deer, searched for wild berries and fruits, and fished. In late fall after the corn harvest, the Pilgrims gave thanks by celebrating the first Thanksgiving feast with the Indians. When they ate, the Pilgrims did not use forks. They used a knife, spoon, a large napkin, and fingers. They also shared plates and drinking vessels. The Pilgrims did not eat cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie at the first Thanksgiving. They ate roasted wild fowl such as duck, goose, and turkey, cornmeal, cod, sea bass, and venison brought by the Indians.



The first harvest was very important to the Pilgrims. It gave them enough food to store for the long, cold winter so that they would not have to leave America. The first national Thanksgiving was proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1777. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder to be thankful for the courage of our forefathers and foremothers, which enabled them to build this nation into what it is today.



Thanksgiving: Questions for Discussion

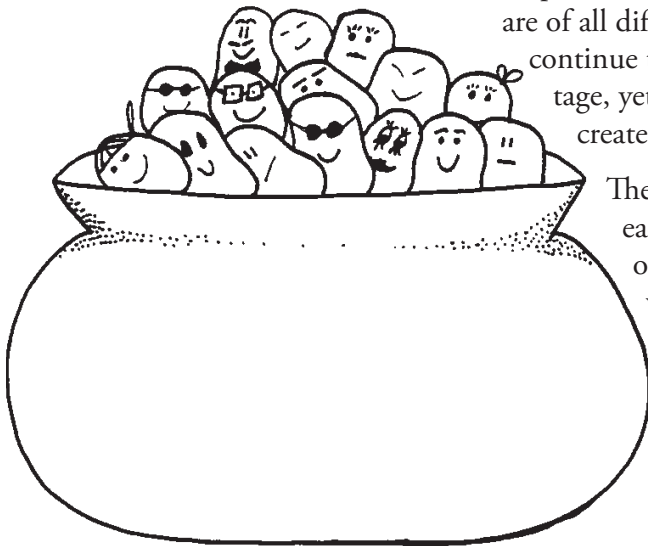
1. What is the name of the ship on which the Pilgrims sailed to the New World?
The Mayflower, which is also the name of the state flower.
2. When did the Pilgrims land in Provincetown Harbor?
November, 1620.
3. What is the name of the document which created the way for the Pilgrims to govern themselves?
The Mayflower Compact.
4. What is the name of the Indian tribe that befriended the Pilgrims?
Wampanoag
5. What does that name mean?
“People of the Dawn”.
6. Can you name any streets or places in your area which are named after Indians?
Answers will vary.
7. Who helped the Pilgrims plant corn (maize), peas, and barley? Wampanoag Indians.
8. What did the Pilgrims eat at the first Thanksgiving feast?
Roasted wild fowl such as duck, goose, and turkey, cornmeal, cod, sea bass, and venison.
9. Do we still eat those foods today?
Answers will vary.
10. What do you eat at your Thanksgiving dinner?
Answers will vary.
11. Squirrels gather nuts and acorns to store for food for long winters. Why did the Pilgrims store food in the fall of 1621?
For nourishment during the long, cold winter so that they would not have to leave America.
12. What do you think it would have been like to have been a Pilgrim?
Answers will vary.

The Beanpot

Over 200 years ago, in 1775, only 300,000 people lived in Massachusetts and most of those people were of English descent. Throughout the 1800's and until 1920 many people from many countries and continents came to America and to Massachusetts. There are many reasons people came to America from other countries and the result is a nation filled with a mixture of people with different backgrounds.

In 1975, two out of three people in Massachusetts were at least third generation Americans which means that their parents and their grandparents were born in the United States.

Massachusetts is like the baked beanpot. The beanpot, which pictures different individual beans, creates a flavorful whole. Massachusetts is filled with many people who have come from everywhere including Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, Russia, Canada, and Australia and who are of all different colors, backgrounds, and religions. The people continue to carry on the traditions and beliefs of their heritage, yet live together, play together, and work together to create an exciting and interesting Massachusetts.



There are several ethnic celebrations in Massachusetts each year which show us that we can all be proud of our own backgrounds and that we can share them with others.

The Beanpot:

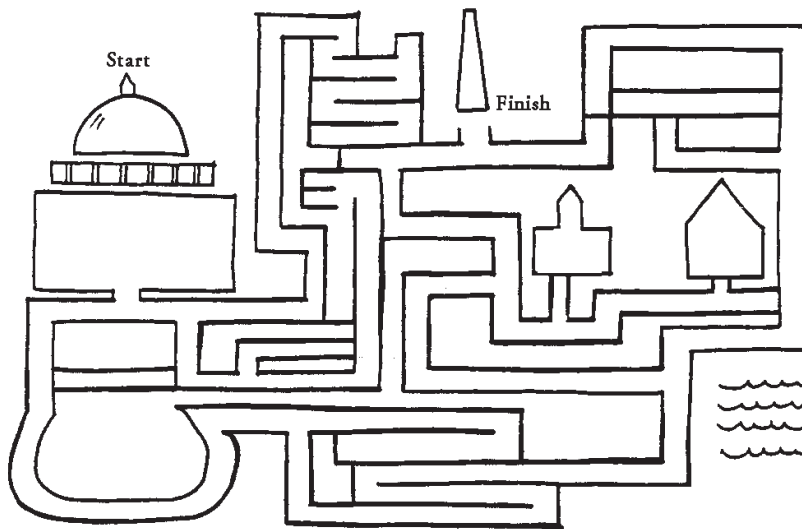
Questions for Discussion

1. What are some of the reasons people came to the United States? Answers will vary.
2. What are some of backgrounds of the people in Massachusetts? Answers will vary.
3. How is Massachusetts similar to the baked beanpot?
Massachusetts has many different people of different backgrounds, colors, and religions living together just like the different beans pictured in the beanpot.
4. Have you ever been to an ethnic celebration? What was it like?
Answers will vary.
5. What is your background?
Answers will vary.
6. What are some of your family's traditions?
Answers will vary.
7. What ethnic foods do you like to eat?
Answers will vary.
8. Have you ever visited any of the neighborhoods of Boston?
Answers will vary.

The Freedom Trail

When many of us hear the word “trail” we think of a path through the wilderness, but in Boston, we have a very unusual trail. It is called the Freedom Trail. It is a red brick path that includes many of the historic sites where Americans began their fight for independence. One stop along the trail is the State House, which is where the governor and the state legislature work. This historical building, which Oliver Wendell Holmes called “the Hub”, was built and designed by Charles Bulfinch in 1795. It was built on land that had originally belonged to the Revolutionary patriot and first governor of Massachusetts, John Hancock. The State House is easily recognized by its gold dome. Originally, Paul Revere and Sons coppered the dome in 1802 to prevent water leakage. Some seventy years later, the dome was gilded with 23 carat gold leaf at a cost of \$2,862.50. Located across from the State House is the Boston Common, the oldest public park in the United States. This land was purchased in 1634 and used as a cow pasture, a militia training field, and a public punishment site. It was there on the Common that the British troops assembled before their famous Battle of Bunker Hill.

Another site along the trail is the Old North Church. Built in 1723, it is Boston’s oldest existing church. It was in its steeple that Robert Newman hung two lanterns (“One, if by land, two, if by sea”, as written in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s poem, “The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere”) to warn the patriots in Charlestown that the British were crossing the harbor on their way to Concord. Nearby is the oldest surviving home in Boston, the Paul Revere House. It was from there, on that same night of April 18, 1775, that Paul Revere departed on his world-famous horseback ride to warn the residents of Lexington and Concord that the British were coming.



Finally, the Freedom Trail ends at the Bunker Hill Monument located in Charlestown. This monument honors those brave patriots who fought against the British, withdrawing only after their ammunition was gone. It was at this battle where General Putnam, the patriot leader, exclaimed, “Don’t fire until you see the whites of their eyes!”. The battle itself was actually fought on nearby Breed’s Hill on June 17, 1775. Construction of the obelisk-shaped monument on Bunker Hill began June 7, 1825, 50 years after the battle.

The Freedom Trail:

Questions for Discussion

1. What state building in Boston has a gold dome on it?
The State House.
2. On whose land was the State House built?
John Hancock's land.

Who designed the State House?
Charles Bulfinch.
4. What is the oldest public park in the United States?
The Boston Common, established in 1634.
5. For what was the Boston Common originally used?
A cow pasture, a militia training field, and a public punishment site.
6. What is Boston's oldest church?
The Old North Church.
7. Why did Robert Newman hang two lanterns in the Old North Church's steeple?
To warn the Patriots in Charlestown that the British were crossing the harbor on their way to Concord.
8. What is the oldest surviving house in Boston?
The Paul Revere House.
9. Where is the Bunker Hill Monument located?
Charlestown.
10. Why was it built?
To honor the brave men who fought against the British there in 1775.
11. Where was the Battle of Bunker Hill actually fought?
Breed's Hill.
12. What famous command did General Putnam give to his troops just before the British arrived at Bunker Hill?
"Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes!"
13. What famous poem contains the words, "One if by land, and two if by sea"?
Paul Revere's Ride.
14. Who wrote this poem?
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Suggested Field Trips

State House Tours
State House, Doric Hall
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 727-3676

John Fitzgerald Kennedy
Library
Columbia Point
Dorchester, MA 02125
(617) 929-4523

Commonwealth Museum
at Columbia Point
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125
(617) 727-9268

National Historic Sites

National Park Service/
North Atlantic Region
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 565-8888

Includes:

Adams National Historic Site
Quincy, MA
(617) 773-1177

Boston Black African American
National Historic Site
(617) 742-5415

Boston National Historic
Park and the Freedom Trail
(617) 242-5642

Cape Cod National Seashore
(508) 349-3785

JFK National Historic Site
Brookline, MA
(617) 566-7937

Henry W. Longfellow
National Historic Site
Cambridge, MA
(617) 876-4991

Lowell National Historic Park
Lowell, MA
(508) 459-1000

Minute Man National
Historic Park
Concord and Lexington, MA
(508) 369-6993

Salem Maritime National
Historic Site
Salem, MA
(508) 742-4323

Saugus Iron Works
Saugus, MA
(617) 233-0050

Frederick Law Olmsted
National Historic Site
Brookline, MA
(617) 566-1689

Massachusetts Audubon Sanctuaries

South Great Road
Lincoln, MA 01773
(617) 259-9500

Includes:

Wellfleet Bay
Wellfleet, MA
(508) 349-2615

Broadmoor
Natick, MA
(508) 655-2296

South Shore
Marshfield, MA
(617) 837-9400

Stony Brook
Norfolk, MA
(508) 528-3140

Endicott Regional
Wenham, MA
(508) 927-1122

Wachusett Meadow
Princeton, MA
(508) 464-2712

Felix Neck Wildlife
Vineyard Haven, MA
(508) 627-4850

Ashumet Holly
East Falmouth, MA
(508) 563-6390

Pleasant Valley
Lenox, MA
(413) 637-0320

Canoe Meadows
Pittsfield, MA
(413) 637-0320

Laughing Brook
Hampden, MA
(413) 566-8034

Ipswich River
Topsfield, MA
(508) 887-9264

Moose Hill
Sharon, MA
(617) 784-5691

Other Massachusetts Sites

Cranberry World Visitors
Center
Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.
Water Street
Plymouth, MA 02360
(508) 747-1000

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 742-8870

Museum of Science and
Hayden Planetarium
Science Park
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 723-2500

Museum of Afro-American
History
Dudley Station
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 742-1854

USS Constitution Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard
Boston, MA 02129
(617) 426-1812

Dartmouth Children's Museum
276 Gulf Road
S. Dartmouth, MA 02748
(508) 993-3361

The Children's Museum
444 Dwight Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-KIDS

The Children's Museum
Museum Wharf
Boston, MA 02210
(617) 426-6500

Essex Institute Museum
Neighborhood
132 Essex Street
Salem, MA 01970
(508) 744 3390

Museum of American Textile
History
800 Massachusetts Ave.
N. Andover, MA 01845
(508) 686-0191

Museum of Our National
Heritage
33 Marret Road
Lexington, MA 02173
(617) 861-6559

Hancock Shaker Village
Rt. 20
Hancock, MA 01237
(413) 443-0188

Historic Deerfield
Main Street
Deerfield, MA 01342
(413) 774-5581

Plimoth Plantation
Plymouth, MA 02360
(508) 746-1622

Old Sturbridge Village
One Old Sturbridge Village Rd.
Sturbridge, MA 01566
(508) 347-3362

Suggested Activities

1. Ask children to design a flag for their school or town.
2. Create your own class art gallery. Ask children to draw their favorite Massachusetts site or famous person.
3. Conduct an ethnic food day. Ask children (with parental assistance) to bring in and share different foods specific to their culture.
4. Hold an ethnic celebration day. Children can discuss and share traditions of their origins. Mention cultures which may be prominent in your area.
5. Allow children to plant a class garden to give them an understanding of how the Pilgrims had to plant crops for food.
6. Conduct a mock legislative hearing on a choice for a state emblem, for example, a state color.
7. Have your class make corn muffins in honor of the state muffin.
Ingredients:
1/4 cup oil or butter (melted)
1 cup cornmeal
1 cup flour
2-4 tablespoons sugar (optional)
4 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup milk
1 egg (beaten)
Combine dry ingredients. Add oil or butter, milk, and egg and mix until just blended. Place in a greased muffin tin. Bake at 400 degrees for 1-20 minutes or until golden brown on top.
8. Ask your students to choose a class symbol and discuss the reasons for their choice. Allow students to collectively make or construct (paper, papier-mache, cardboard, clay, etc.) the class symbol.
9. Assist students in plotting a trail through your city or town which would include points of interest. As a field trip, you may wish to hike the trail.
10. Instruct students to write letters to pen pals in other states (you may wish to limit this exercise to one of the 12 other original colonies) telling the pal about Massachusetts history, sites, and why they like their state. (The teacher may wish to contact a school in another state to generate pen pals.)

