

Grade 5 ELA

Activity 4

- **Imagine Language & Literacy or Lexia – 20-30 minutes three times a week.**
 - Log in through Clever
- **Reading- Read for 20 minutes each day**

Title _____

Author _____

Throughout the week we will be exploring different states in the U.S.A. Before you read think about what you already know about that specific state as well as anything you want to learn.

Reading Comprehension

Read about Massachusetts.

Writing

- Explain the most interesting thing you learned from the reading about Massachusetts and why it stood out for you. Be specific & reference the text.

Vocabulary

- The text talks about “wildlife.” Describe some of the wildlife that lives in Massachusetts and why the climate there works for those animals.

Further your thinking

- After reading this selection, complete the 3-2-1 Summary graphic organizer.

Massachusetts

Get facts and photos about the 6th state.

BY JAMIE KIFFEL-ALCHEH

FAST FACTS

- NICKNAME: The Bay State
- STATEHOOD: 1788; 6th state
- POPULATION (AS OF JULY 2016): 6,811,779
- CAPITAL: Boston
- BIGGEST CITY: Boston
- ABBREVIATION: MA
- STATE BIRD: black-capped chickadee
- STATE FLOWER: mayflower

HISTORY

People started living in what's now called Massachusetts about 12,000 years ago, when retreating glaciers uncovered the land. Some artifacts have even been discovered in lakes and rivers created by melting glaciers. Thousands of years later [Native American tribes](#) including the [Wampanoag](#), Mohegan, and Mohican lived on the land.

In 1620 a ship called the Mayflower arrived at Cape Cod carrying settlers called Pilgrims. These people were escaping religious persecution in [England](#) and created the first permanent European settlement in New England, called Plymouth. (New England is a region in the northeastern United States that was settled by people from England.) Soon after the Pilgrims celebrated [the first Thanksgiving](#) with members of the [Wampanoag](#) tribe, which still exists in Massachusetts today.

Massachusetts has been the scene of many historical events. In 1639 America's first post office opened in Boston. In 1692 and 1693, untrue rumors led to [witch hunts in Salem](#), Massachusetts. And in 1876 Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated the first telephone.

But Massachusetts may be most historically significant for the role its people played in the Revolutionary War. Anger erupted in 1770 after five colonists were killed by British soldiers in what's known as the Boston

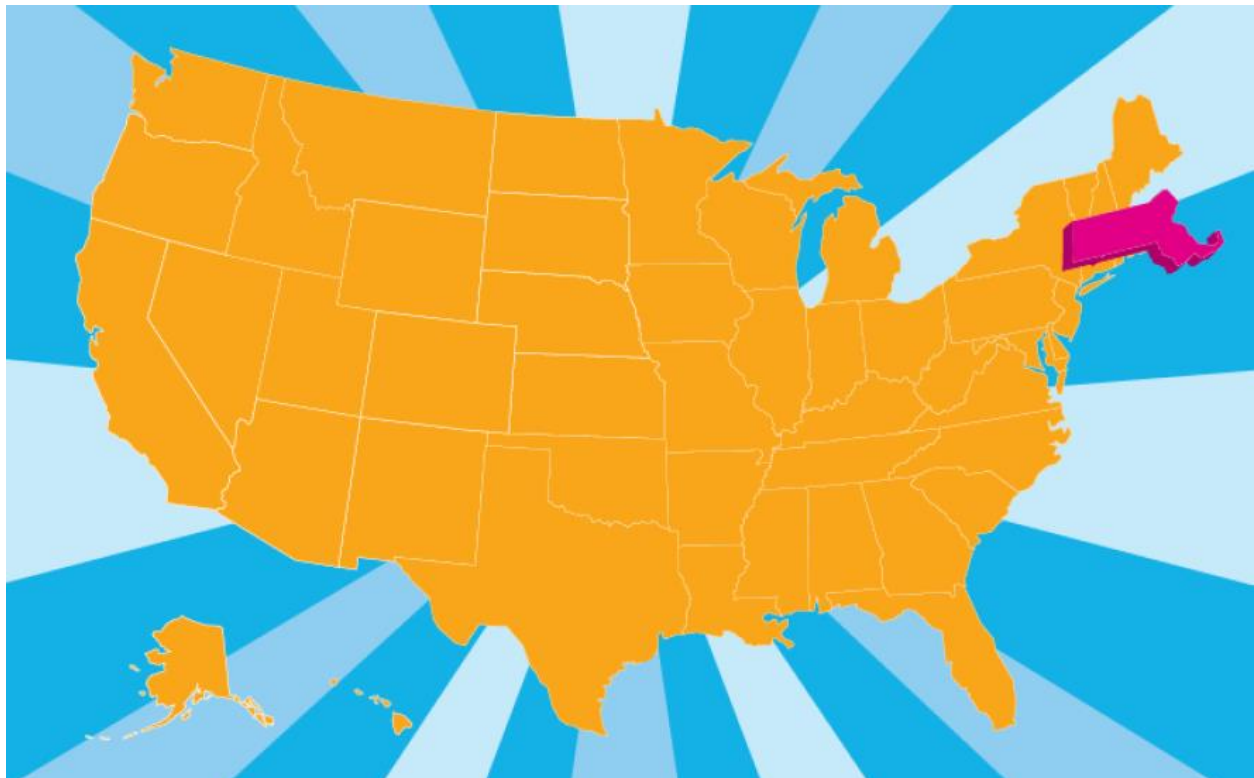
Massacre. Three years later, colonists threw cases of tea into Boston Harbor to protest high taxes from England. The event is now known as the Boston Tea Party. In 1775 the Battles of Lexington and Concord became the first fight of the Revolutionary War. The movement of the British troops prompted silversmith Paul Revere to make his famous midnight ride to warn the colonists. Five years after the war ended, Massachusetts became the sixth U.S. state in 1788.

WHY'S IT CALLED THAT?

Massachusetts' name might come from the Massachusett tribe, whose name can be translated to "near the great hill" or "near the range of hills." It refers to the Blue Hills, southwest of Boston.

The state's nickname the Bay State may originate from its many bays, or it might refer to the Massachusetts Bay Company, which was given a royal charter to colonize the land.

GEOGRAPHY AND LANDFORMS



Massachusetts is a New England state bordered by [New Hampshire](#) and [Vermont](#) in the north, the Atlantic Ocean in the east, [Rhode Island](#) and [Connecticut](#) in the south, and [New York](#) in the west.

What looks like a big hook in Massachusetts' eastern coastline is actually land created by glaciers that exposed many rocky bays. Called the Coastal Lowland, this hilly, wet area includes Cape Cod Bay, Martha's Vineyard, and the Nantucket Islands, all great for fishing, boating, and vacationing.

The center of the state has streams and plains with gentle hills. Toward the west, the land rises into mountains. It includes a popular spot for fall-leaf watching called the Berkshires, as well as Massachusetts' highest point, Mount Greylock. In the far west are the Taconic Mountains.

WILDLIFE



[Mammals](#) such as black bears, [bobcats](#), eastern [coyotes](#), moose, and white-tailed deer roam around Massachusetts. [Bald eagles](#), wild turkeys, northern cardinals, blue jays, mourning doves, and American robins fly through the state, and snapping turtles, eastern ribbonsnakes, and five-lined skinks are among Massachusetts' [reptiles](#). Eastern newts, [American](#)

[bullfrogs](#), and American toads are a few of the Bay State's best-known [amphibians](#).

Sugar maples, eastern white pines, sycamores, and American elms (the state tree) grow in the state's forests. Massachusetts is also filled with wildflowers such as New England asters, blue violets, wild bleeding hearts, black-eyed Susans, and oxeye daisies.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The state's fertile soil and its harbors (the Bay State has more than 1,500 miles of coastline), produce plenty of crops and seafood. Local farmers grow about 25 percent of the cranberries in the [United States](#)!

FUN STUFF

—Boston cream pie—chocolate-iced white cake filled with custard—is the official state dessert. But it's not the only famous Massachusetts goodie: Chocolate chip cookies were invented here!

—Paul Revere, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, John Hancock, Susan B. Anthony, and Dr. Seuss (whose real name is Theodor Seuss Geisel) were all born in Massachusetts.

—You can visit Plymouth Rock, the boulder that's said to be the exact spot where the Pilgrims stepped off the Mayflower. It's less than half the size today as it was in the 1600s—tourists kept chipping off pieces!

—Boston's Freedom Trail is a painted line through the city that leads history buffs to 16 official Revolutionary sites—including the Paul Revere House, where Revere lived at the time of his famous midnight ride.

—In the late 1600s about 20 people died because they were accused of witchcraft in a series of hearings called the [Salem witch trials](#).

3-2-1 Summary

Topic: _____

3 Things I Learned:

1.

2.

3.

2 Things I Found Interesting:

1.

2.

1 Question I Still Have:

1.