

MASSACHUSETTS

HISTORY

Massachusetts was home to Native nations and then to English colonists who built towns, schools and ships. Later its people helped start a new country.

The First Peoples

People have lived in Massachusetts for more than 10,000 years. The Wampanoag lived in the southeast and on Cape Cod. The Massachusett lived around Boston Harbor, and the Nipmuc lived in the middle of the state. They farmed, fished, hunted and traded. From 1616 to 1619, a sickness brought by European ships killed many people in coastal villages.

Pilgrims and Puritans

The Pilgrims built Plymouth in 1620. In 1630, a fleet of ships brought English Puritans to start the Massachusetts Bay **Colony**. Their leader was John Winthrop, and Boston became their main town. Thousands more settlers followed. They cleared farms and built ships. Boston Latin School opened in 1635 and Harvard College in 1636. A 1647 law told every town of 50 families to hire a teacher.

King Philip's War

As the colonies grew, settlers took over more land. The Wampanoag leader Metacom, called King Philip by the English, was the son of Massasoit. In 1675, he led Wampanoag, Nipmuc and Narragansett warriors against the colonists. They attacked dozens of towns and burned Springfield and Lancaster. Colonial soldiers and their Native **allies** attacked Native villages and camps. Metacom was killed in 1676, and the colonists won. Some Native captives were sold as slaves. Two Wampanoag tribes have their governments in Massachusetts today.



The Revolution Begins

Britain put taxes on the colonies. Many colonists said that was unfair. In 1773, Boston men dumped 342 chests of tea into the harbor. Fighting began at Lexington and Concord in April 1775. In June, British troops took Bunker Hill but had more than 1,000 men killed or wounded. The British left Boston in March 1776.

A New State

John Adams wrote most of the state **constitution** in 1780. It is still used today. Enslaved people had worked in Massachusetts homes, farms and shops. In 1781, Elizabeth Freeman went to court and won her freedom. Slavery ended in the state in the 1780s. Massachusetts became the 6th state on February 6, 1788. Maine was part of Massachusetts until 1820.



Building Massachusetts

Mills in Lowell, Lawrence and Fall River made cloth. Lynn and Brockton made shoes. **Immigrants** from Ireland, and later from Italy, Portugal and Poland, came to work. Horace Mann led the state's schools from 1837 and worked for free schools for every child. In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell made the first telephone call in Boston. Boston opened the country's first subway in 1897.

MASSACHUSETTS THROUGH TIME



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Metacom	Wampanoag leader called King Philip.
John Adams	Born in Braintree. The second president.
Elizabeth Freeman	Won her freedom in court in 1781.
Clara Barton	Started the American Red Cross.
Robert Goddard	Built the first liquid-fuel rocket.

WORDS TO KNOW

colony	land ruled by a faraway country
ally	one who fights on your side
constitution	the written plan for a government
immigrant	a person who moves to a new country