

Grade Three

Massachusetts and its Cities and Towns: Geography and History

Using local historic sites, historical societies, and museums, third graders learn about the history of Massachusetts from the time of the arrival of the Pilgrims. They also learn the history of their own cities and towns and about famous people and events in Massachusetts' history. In addition, they read biographies of prominent Massachusetts people in science, technology, the arts, business, education, or political leadership in order to learn how they contributed to Massachusetts history.

Concepts and Skills:

History and Geography

1. Explain the meaning of time periods or dates in historical narratives (decade, century, 1600s, 1776) and use them correctly in speaking and writing. (H)
2. Observe visual sources such as historic paintings, photographs, or illustrations that accompany historical narratives, and describe details such as clothing, setting, or action. (H)
3. Observe and describe local or regional historic artifacts and sites and generate questions about their function, construction, and significance. (H)
4. Use cardinal directions, map scales, legends, and titles to locate places on contemporary maps of New England, Massachusetts, and the local community. (G)
5. Describe the difference between a contemporary map of their city or town and the map of their city or town in the 18th, 19th, or early 20th century. (H, G)

Civics and Government

6. Give examples of why it is necessary for communities to have governments (e.g., governments provide order and protect rights). (C)
7. Give examples of the different ways people in a community can influence their local government (e.g., by voting, running for office, or participating in meetings). (C)

Economics

8. Define what a tax is and the purposes for taxes, and with the help of their teachers and parents, give examples of different kinds of taxes (e.g., property, sales, or income taxes). (E)
9. Define specialization in jobs and businesses and give examples of specialized businesses in the community. (E)
10. Define barter, give examples of bartering (e.g., trading baseball cards with each other), and explain how money makes it easier for people to get things they want. (E)

*Barter is the direct exchange of goods and services between people without using money.
Trade is the exchange of goods and services between people.*