

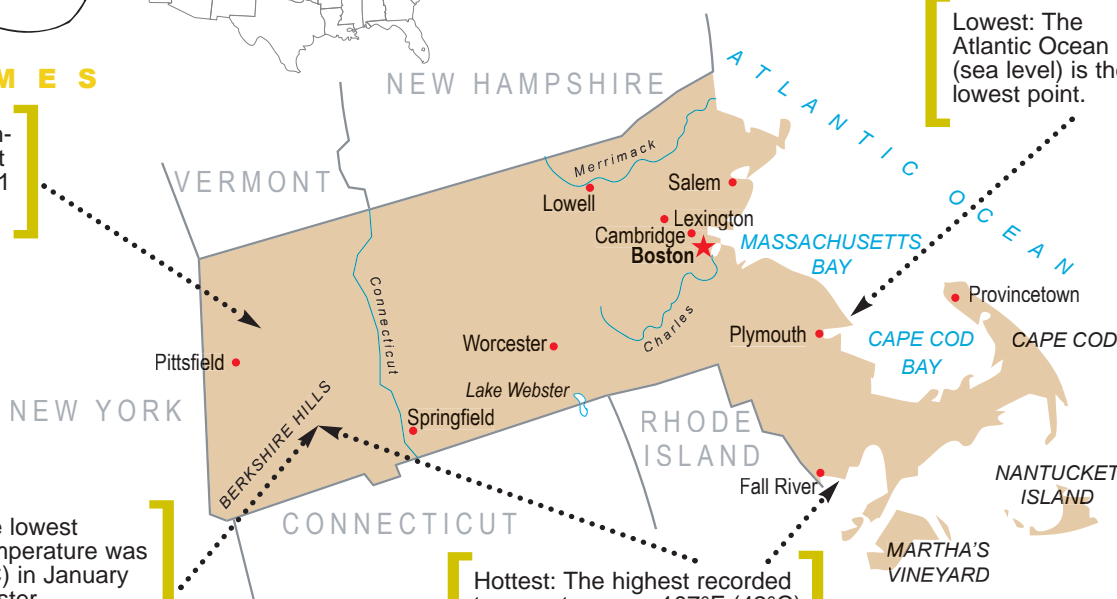
### EXTREMES

Highest: The highest peak is Mount Greylock, at 3,491 feet (1,064 m).

Lowest: The Atlantic Ocean (sea level) is the lowest point.

Coldest: The lowest recorded temperature was -35°F (-37°C) in January 1981 in Chester.

Hottest: The highest recorded temperature was 107°F (42°C) at New Bedford and Chester on 2 August 1975.



## Climate

Famous *northeasters* cause a lot of damage every year, especially in the winter. These strong winds and storms blow from the Atlantic Ocean's polar regions. The blizzards and ice storms aren't as severe by the coast as they are in the western mountain area. Because of the ocean, the temperatures on the coast and islands are milder and more humid than those areas farther away. Winter temperatures are around 28°F (-2°C). However, summer is perfect for outside play. Temperatures are around 68°F to 72°F (20–22°C), although sometimes they are in the lower 90s (32–38°C). Tornadoes come every couple of years.

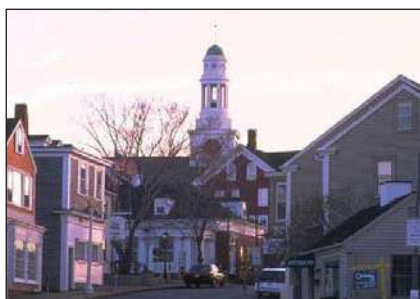
## Geography

Depending on where you live, you might be surrounded by mountains, sandy beaches, or level ground. Massachusetts is the sixth smallest state in the United States, with a total area of 9,241 square miles (23,934 sq km). Thousands of years ago, glaciers left behind boulders, stones, and hundreds of lakes covering the state. The mountains of western Massachusetts are heavily forested. The east has smaller hills, called

*drumlins*, left over from glaciers. Swamps, ponds, and rivers are scattered about the small hills. The most famous drumlin is Bunker Hill, where one of the first battles of the American Revolution took place. The central part of Massachusetts is a plateau where most of the farming occurs. The few ridges are from eroded volcanic lava flow.

## Resources and Economy

Boston's Route 128 is a "technology highway." Thousands of computer and electronics companies have their businesses in the state. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard help develop the newest technologies. Many Bay Staters are also involved in manufacturing computer and electronic parts, surgical tools, and military and space products. Paper manufacturing and publishing are two original industries still around today. While farming is no longer a big part of the economy, Massachusetts grows the largest crop of cranberries in the world. Boston Harbor is the most important Atlantic trading port, importing sugar, salt, cars, and petroleum.



# History

## Native American Life

Hundreds of years ago, Algonquian Nation tribes lived in Massachusetts. In summer they lived in long-houses in coastal villages. They farmed corn, squash, tobacco, and beans. They would also catch fish and shellfish. In winter each family generally lived in a wigwam, and they hunted deer and other animals. The diseases the first European explorers brought killed thousands of natives. European settlers took over their lands, and because of wars, disease, and land loss, few are left in Massachusetts today.

## Thanksgiving

John Cabot was looking for Asia when he found the coast of Massachusetts. He was the first recorded European explorer but was followed by many others. Captain John Smith wrote home and told of the beautiful land, animals, and fish. The Pilgrims, who were suffering religious persecution in England, heard of his descriptions. In 1620, the Pilgrims settled the town of Plymouth. They set up a democratic society under the Mayflower Compact. Life was harder than expected, but Chief Massasoit and the Wampanoag tribe taught the Pilgrims how to survive in the American wilderness. In 1621, they celebrated their first Thanksgiving. The Puritans were the next big group to settle. While their town meetings were the beginnings of democracy, some men were excluded from participating because they weren't of the Puritan religion.



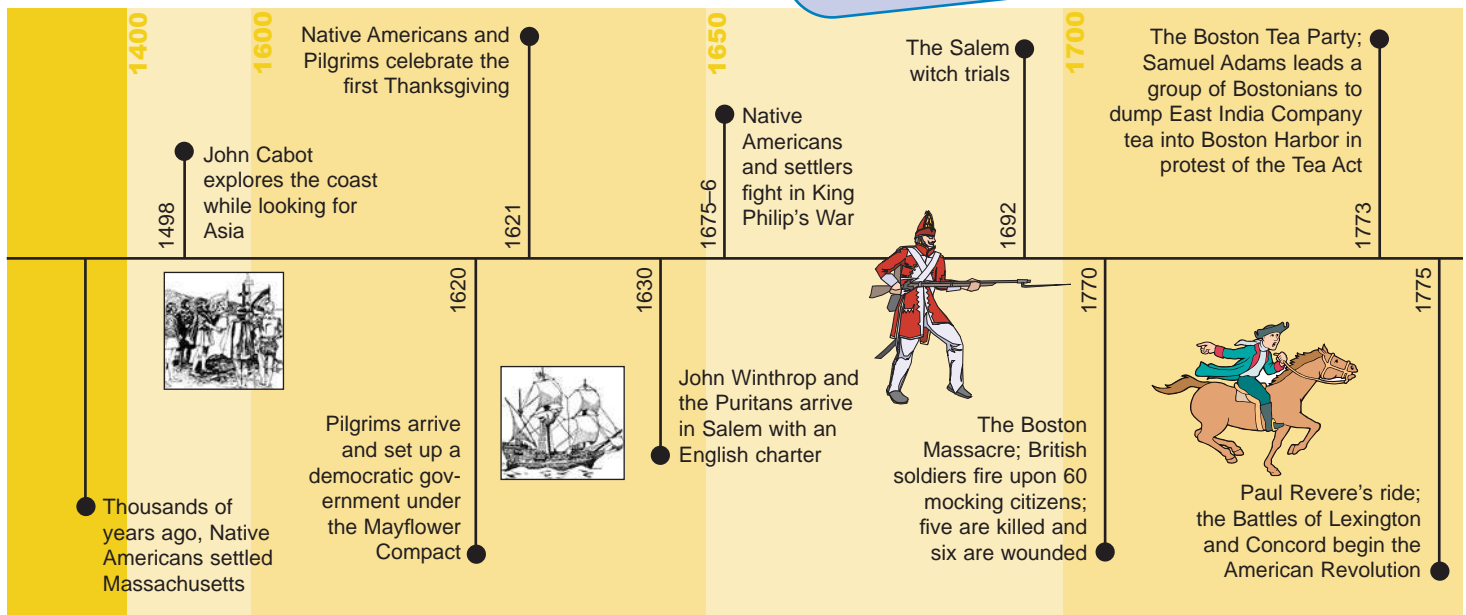
## American Revolution

Massachusetts's farmers were the first to fight in the American Revolution. England's harsh tax laws angered Bostonians. When a group of colonists mocked the British, the troops opened fire. The Boston Massacre, as it became known, was only one among many incidents leading up to the Revolution. Paul Revere took a famous midnight ride to warn colonial leaders that General Gage was going to arrest them in Lexington. The British marched to Concord (cont. next page)



### Cultural Note

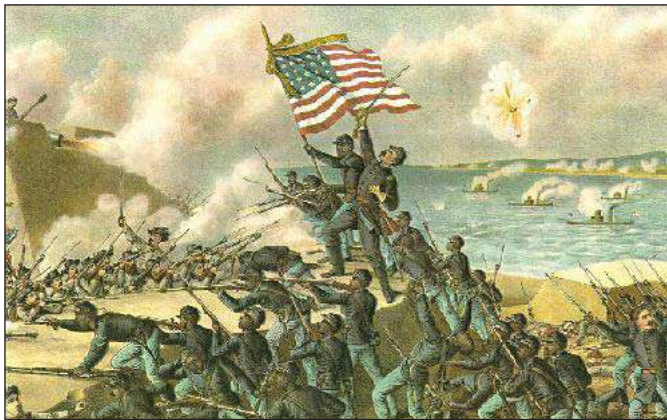
Volleyball and basketball were invented in Massachusetts. The first World Series baseball and National Basketball Association (NBA) All-Star games were held in Boston. Along with the development of sports came the development of minds. Massachusetts was the first state (1852) to pass a law stating that children had to attend school. Harvard University is America's oldest college. Boston, Tufts, and Brandeis Universities and Williams College are some of the many respected schools in the area. Boston has become a center for music, art, science, and architecture.



to take over military supplies. The world was shocked that the American farmers won the Battles of Lexington and Concord. A small force of untrained farmers and merchants had stood up to the military of one of the most powerful nations in the world.

## Civil War and Abolition

Freedom has always been a concern for Bay Staters. They created the New England Anti-Slavery Society, helping slaves escape on the Underground Railroad. Black soldiers led by a white commander General Robert Shaw staffed the 54th Regiment of the Civil War. The men were recruited from all over the Northeast, the Midwest, and Canada in 1863. They were commanded to attack Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina. As they stormed the fort, more than one-third of the six hundred men were killed, including the general. They were buried in a common grave. Their heroic actions helped change the way some people felt about African-American soldiers. However, racial equality remains an issue today.



## Industrialization and Labor Reform

After the Civil War, farmers began to move to the West or to the cities for work. The whaling and fishing industries declined. Instead, the name of the game was *textiles* (clothing) and leather. Immigrants began to come from everywhere: Ireland, Canada, Italy, Portugal, Poland, and more. Work conditions were horrible. Workers worked long hours for almost nothing. They got together and formed unions to protest. From the late 1800s to the early 1900s, there were around two thousand strikes. The state government passed some laws that helped, but reform took a long time coming.

Dickinson



Bernstein



Morse

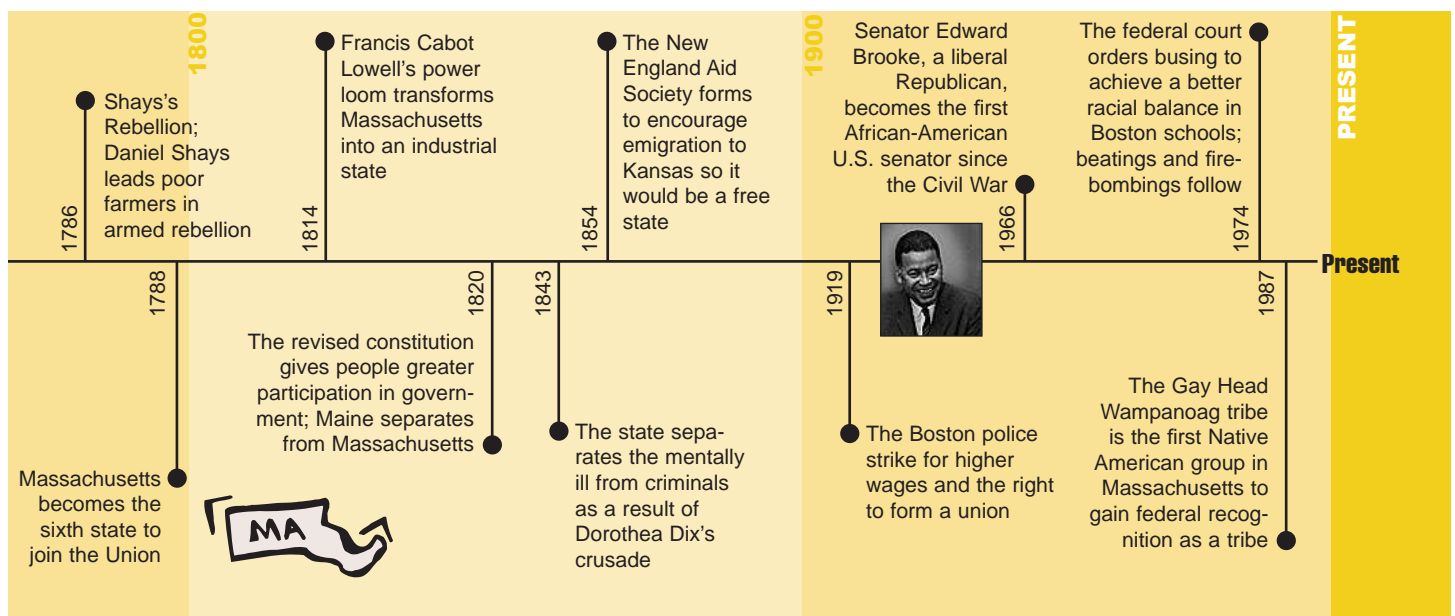


Eddy



### Famous People

Louisa May Alcott: Author  
 Maria Mitchell: Astronomer  
 Emily Dickinson: Poet  
 Winslow Homer: Painter  
 W. E. B. DuBois: Civil rights activist  
 Leonard Bernstein: Composer and director  
 Samuel F. B. Morse: Inventor  
 Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss): Children's book author  
 Mary Baker Eddy: Religious leader  
 Edgar Allen Poe: Author  
 Benjamin Franklin: Statesman and inventor





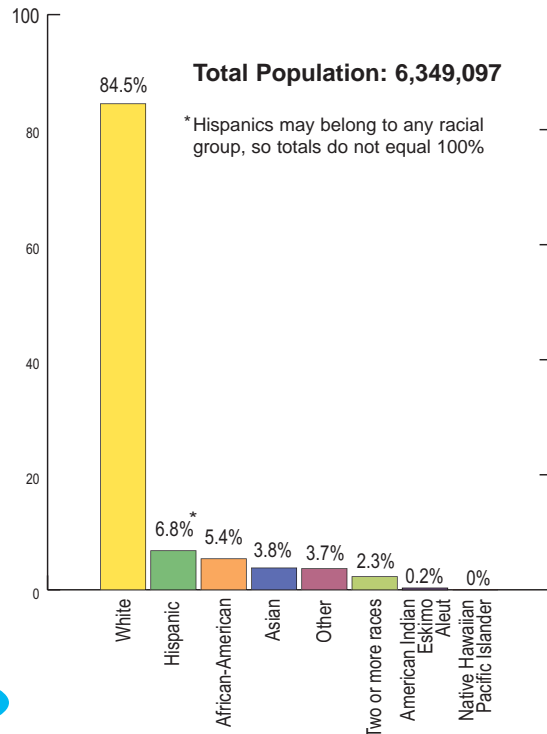
## Did You Know?

- Lake *Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg* has the longest place-name in North America. It's Nipmuc (Algonquian) for "You fish on your side, I fish on my side, nobody fishes in the middle." Many people can't pronounce even the shortened version, so they call it Lake Webster.
- George's Island, off the coast of Massachusetts, was used as a prison during the Civil War.
- In 1866, New England's first African-American legislators were elected to serve in Massachusetts's General Court.
- Deborah Samson, the state heroine, disguised herself as Robert Shurtleff and fought in the American Revolution.
- Massachusetts is sometimes nicknamed the Baked Bean State because the Puritans used to serve baked beans on Sundays.
- The first U.S. subway system was built in Boston in 1897.
- Four U.S. presidents were born in Norfolk County: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, John F. Kennedy, and George Bush.



## Population

Early settlers lived by the ocean or the rivers. Today, Bay Staters continue to live on the coast, mostly for the swimming, boating, and fishing. The English settled the land, but people from all around the world have made Massachusetts their home. About 13 percent of the population was born in another country. Massachusetts has more people per square mile (788, or 304 per sq km) than all but two other states. Almost 90 percent of the people live in cities. Boston is by far the biggest city. It is at the end of the urban belt beginning in Virginia near Washington, D.C.



## State Symbols



**State Dessert**  
Boston cream pie—This won over Indian pudding. The idea was sponsored by a civics class from Norton.



**State Flower**  
Mayflower—These flowers were adopted in 1918 but have been on the endangered species list since 1925.



**State Tree**  
American elm—General George Washington became head of the Continental Army under an American elm in 1775.



**State Bird**  
Black-capped chickadee—They are 4 to 5 inches (10–13 cm) long, but their tails make up almost half their size.

## Government

**Capital:** Boston

**U.S. Senators:** 2

**U.S. Representatives:** 10

**Counties:** 14

- An area can choose to be either a town or a city. Some towns are four times as big as some of the cities.
- Small towns sometimes govern through town meetings. All of the people vote on town matters.

**State Motto:** *Ense Petit Placidam Sub Libertate Quietem*—This is Latin for "By the Sword We Seek Peace, but Peace Only under Liberty."

**For more information:** See [www.state.ma.us](http://www.state.ma.us) or contact the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, 10 Park Plaza, Suite 4510, Boston, MA 02116; phone (800) 227-MASS; Web site [www.massvacation.com](http://www.massvacation.com).

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