

# Boston Common

1634 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

## Words to know

**public** — connected to people as a whole

**space** — an area or room; also the universe beyond Earth's atmosphere

**change** — become different

## Look closely



Modern topic illustration created for Massachusetts History Explorers. It is not a historical artifact.

## Read the story

Boston set aside the Common in 1634. Cows once grazed there. People used the open land for work and gatherings. Today people walk and play there. It is commonly called the nation's oldest public park.

## Think, talk, and show evidence

1. What happened in this reading? Tell one fact.
2. Who or what is this reading mostly about?
3. Choose a word from the word bank. Explain it in your own words.
4. Look at the picture and its caption. What does it help you notice? Is it from the time of the event?

## Follow-up reading: Boston Latin School opens

1635

Boston Latin School began in 1635. Boys studied subjects such as Latin. It is the oldest public school in what is now the United States. Girls did not have the same chance to attend.

How are the two readings alike or different? Tell a partner one connection. Which event came first?

# Teacher guide & source trail

Original classroom adaptation. Suggested reading levels are instructional choices, not standardized readability certifications. Use professional judgment and learner feedback.

ELA practice: RI.2.1: ask and answer questions; RI.2.2: identify a main topic; RI.2.7: use images and words; W.2.2 and SL.2.1: explain and discuss.

These tasks support selected skills in the [Massachusetts 2017 ELA framework](#); they do not establish mastery of an entire standard.

## Answer guidance

**Factual anchor:** Boston set aside the Common in 1634. Cows once grazed there. People used the open land for work and gatherings. Today people walk and play there. It is commonly called the nation's oldest public park. The Common was not designed like a modern park. Its uses included grazing, military activity, protest, and punishment. Ask who could use a public space safely in different periods.

Accept accurate main ideas and explanations supported by the text. Vocabulary meanings are in the opening word bank. For picture questions, use the caption and credit below; distinguish what is visible from what is inferred. For comparison, accept a specific connection supported by both readings. Do not require personal accounts of trauma.

## Continue the inquiry

[Research source for this event ↗](#)

[Research source for follow-up ↗](#)

[Event page, accessible HTML reading, and vocabulary game ↗](#)

**Image:** Original site illustration.

[Image source and rights record ↗](#)

The PDF contains selectable English text and embedded fonts. For adjustable text and browser reading tools, use the event's [HTML page](#). External sources may need adult guidance.