

Boston Latin School opens

1635 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

school — a place or community for learning

access — a way to reach, enter, or use something

compare — look for ways things are alike and different

Look closely



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

Read the story

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.

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: Harvard College is founded

1636

A college began in Cambridge in 1636. It later took the name Harvard. Early students were men. Many studied for religious work. Its history includes learning, exclusion, and people whose labor was exploited.

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 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. Education existed in Native communities long before this institution. An old school is not proof of equal access. Investigate who attended, who paid, and whose knowledge was valued.

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.