

The Boston News-Letter

1704 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

news — reports about events

print — make words or pictures on a surface

source — where information comes from

Look closely



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

Read the story

The Boston News-Letter began in 1704. It became the first continuously published newspaper in English America. An earlier Boston newspaper had lasted one issue. Newspapers help us study what people chose to report.

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: Benjamin Franklin is born in Boston

1706

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston. He learned about printing as a boy. Later he moved to Philadelphia. He became a writer, inventor, and public leader. His life connected many places.

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: The Boston News-Letter began in 1704. It became the first continuously published newspaper in English America. An earlier Boston newspaper had lasted one issue. Newspapers help us study what people chose to report. Postmaster John Campbell began the newspaper. Official approval shaped publication. Shipping news, foreign reports, and advertisements reveal priorities and biases; printing a claim did not automatically make it true.

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.