

Massachusetts challenges the Vietnam War

1970 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

court — a place or group that decides legal cases

power — the ability to make something happen

challenge — question or work against something

Look closely



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

Read the story

Massachusetts tried to bring a court challenge connected to the Vietnam War and the power to send its residents to fight. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the proposed case.

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: Network email in Cambridge

1971

Ray Tomlinson worked in Cambridge on early computer networks. He sent an early network email and used the at sign to help identify the user and computer. Messages could move between connected machines.

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: Massachusetts tried to bring a court challenge connected to the Vietnam War and the power to send its residents to fight. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the proposed case. This was not a Massachusetts court decision declaring the war unconstitutional. *Massachusetts v. Laird* illustrates the difference between a legal argument, a court accepting a case, and a ruling on its merits.

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.