

DEC introduces the VAX

1977 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

technology — tools and methods people develop to solve problems

network — connected people, places, or machines

industry — work that makes goods or provides services

Look closely



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

Read the story

Digital Equipment Corporation introduced the VAX-11/780 computer. The Massachusetts company was part of the region's growing technology industry. Computer systems helped researchers and businesses work in new ways.

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: The Blizzard of '78

1978

A major blizzard brought deep snow, strong winds, and coastal flooding. Roads became blocked, and people helped one another. The storm affected Massachusetts communities in different ways.

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: Digital Equipment Corporation introduced the VAX-11/780 computer. The Massachusetts company was part of the region's growing technology industry. Computer systems helped researchers and businesses work in new ways. The Route 128 technology region grew through companies, universities, investment, and skilled workers. No single machine created the whole system. Ask who gained access to technology and who made it possible.

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.