

Aquinnah gains federal recognition

1987 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

nation — a people with shared political identity and self-government

recognition — officially acknowledging something that exists

community — people connected by a place or something they share

Look closely



Aquinnah cliffs today, part of Wampanoag homelands. This modern photograph does not show the event described.

Read the story

The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, Aquinnah, gained federal recognition. Community members had worked for this outcome. Recognition changed the government relationship; it did not create the people or their history.

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: Michael Dukakis runs for president

1988

Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis became the Democratic presidential nominee. He lost the general election to George H. W. Bush. The campaign connected state leadership with national politics.

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 Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, Aquinnah, gained federal recognition. Community members had worked for this outcome. Recognition changed the government relationship; it did not create the people or their history. Aquinnah's tribal community existed long before 1987. Federal recognition is a legal and political status, not a test of whether Indigenous identity is real. Learn from the Tribe's account of its work.

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: [MarinelaK](#). CC BY-SA 4.0

[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.