

Michael Dukakis runs for president

1988 | Grade 4 · Explain with evidence

Words to know

election — a process in which people vote to choose leaders or decide questions

campaign — organized work toward a goal, such as winning an election

represent — speak or act for others

Look closely



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

Read the story

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.

Winning a party nomination is different from winning the presidency. Compare campaign claims with records and outcomes. Political disagreement does not remove the need for accurate evidence.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. State the main idea. Support it with two details from the reading.
2. Explain a change or challenge described in the text. Which words support your answer?
3. Use one vocabulary word in a new sentence about this event.
4. What can the image and caption help explain? What can they not tell you?

Follow-up reading: Wôpanâak language reclamation

1993

Wampanoag community members began organized work to bring their language back into everyday use. Jessie Little Doe Baird helped lead the effort. Old written records and community learning became important resources.

The Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project began in 1993. Language work is led by the community and connects generations. Do not treat a language as belonging only to the past.

Compare the two readings. Explain one similarity or difference using a detail from each. Their order does not prove that one caused the other.

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.4.1: refer to details; RI.4.2: main idea and summary; RI.4.3: explain events; RI.4.7: interpret visual information; W.4.2 and SL.4.1: 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 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. Winning a party nomination is different from winning the presidency. Compare campaign claims with records and outcomes. Political disagreement does not remove the need for accurate evidence.

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.