

# MVPCS opens

1996 | Grade 4 · Explain with evidence

## Words to know

**school** — a place or community for learning

**community** — people connected by a place or something they share

**evidence** — information that helps support or question a claim

## Look closely



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

## Read the story

Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School opened in 1996. Students and adults built a learning community in West Tisbury. The school is part of a much longer history of the island and its land.

A school's opening date is not the beginning of the place's story. Investigate school records alongside Wampanoag history and documented land research. Do not invent a parcel's earlier ownership.

## 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: Loss and response after September 11

September 11, 2001

Two planes used in the September 11 attacks left Boston's Logan Airport. Many people died in the attacks. Families and communities mourned. People worked to help others and remember those who were lost.

Teach the event without graphic imagery. Distinguish the attackers' actions from the identities of whole religious or ethnic communities. Local connections include victims, helpers, and long-term community responses.

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:** Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School opened in 1996. Students and adults built a learning community in West Tisbury. The school is part of a much longer history of the island and its land. A school's opening date is not the beginning of the place's story. Investigate school records alongside Wampanoag history and documented land research. Do not invent a parcel's earlier ownership.

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.