

Big Dig tunnels open

2003 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

transport — move people or goods from one place to another

change — become different

engineer — a person who designs and tests structures or systems

Look closely



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

Read the story

Major Big Dig roadways opened in Boston. Cars moved through new tunnels. Removing the elevated highway changed the city above. Construction and other project work continued afterward.

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: Marriage equality in Massachusetts

May 17, 2004

Massachusetts became the first U.S. state where same-sex couples could legally marry. Families celebrated having their relationships recognized. The change followed a state court decision.

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: Major Big Dig roadways opened in Boston. Cars moved through new tunnels. Removing the elevated highway changed the city above. Construction and other project work continued afterward. The project's major openings in 2003 were not its final completion, commonly dated 2007. Cost, safety, traffic, and public space all belong in the story. Compare plans with actual results.

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.