

# The Red Sox win the World Series

2004 | Grade 8 · Analyze & connect

## Words to know

**team** — people working together

**tradition** — knowledge or practices passed between generations

**record** — information kept so people can use it later

## Look closely



Fenway Park in Boston, photographed in April 2016.

## Read the story

The Boston Red Sox won the World Series for the first time since 1918. Fans celebrated after an eighty-six-year wait. Sports can bring people together and become part of a place's shared memory.

The Curse of the Bambino was a popular story, not a scientific explanation for results. Separate metaphor and fan traditions from records of games, players, and decisions.

A timeline helps put events in order, but order alone does not establish a cause. People acted with the knowledge and choices available to them at the time. Records can reveal some experiences while overlooking others. Compare a contemporary source with a later interpretation. Explain the source's purpose, the detail it contributes, and a question it cannot answer on its own.

## Think, talk, and show evidence

1. Write an objective summary. Separate the event from the writer's interpretation of its importance.
2. Explain a cause, consequence, or continuity supported by the text. Identify a connection that would need more evidence.
3. Open the research source. Identify its creator or institution and purpose. Is it a contemporary source, a later account, or both?
4. Evaluate the image's date and purpose. Explain one useful detail and one limitation without treating an illustration as eyewitness evidence.

## Follow-up reading: Massachusetts health-care reform

2006

Governor Mitt Romney signed a law intended to expand health insurance coverage. The reform changed how many Massachusetts residents obtained insurance. It became influential in later national debate.

The state law was an important model for the Affordable Care Act, but the two laws were not identical. This is historical context, not current advice about benefits, eligibility, or medical care.

Write a paragraph comparing these events. Use evidence from both passages, distinguish chronology from causation, and identify a perspective missing from the readings.

# 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.8.1: cite evidence; RI.8.2: objective summary; RI.8.6: analyze purpose and viewpoint; RH.6–8.1–2: evidence and summary in history; W.8.2: explanatory writing.

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 Boston Red Sox won the World Series for the first time since 1918. Fans celebrated after an eighty-six-year wait. Sports can bring people together and become part of a place’s shared memory. The Curse of the Bambino was a popular story, not a scientific explanation for results. Separate metaphor and fan traditions from records of games, players, and decisions.

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:** Fenway Park, 2016 — Todd Van Hoosear / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0.

[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.