

Deval Patrick becomes governor

2007 | Grade 4 · Explain with evidence

Words to know

represent — speak or act for others

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

government — the system that makes and carries out public decisions

Look closely



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

Read the story

Deval Patrick took office as Massachusetts governor. He was the state's first Black governor. His inauguration marked a change in representation. A governor's work also needs study through policies and decisions.

Patrick won election in 2006 and took office in 2007. Representation is one important part of a political history; examine governing records and public debates as well as a milestone.

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: Mashpee Wampanoag federal recognition

2007

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe gained federal recognition. Tribal members had worked for many years toward this outcome. The community's identity and history existed long before the federal decision.

Recognition concerns the relationship between a tribal nation and the United States. It is not the start of a people's existence. Read the Tribe's own timeline and distinguish recognition from later land decisions.

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: Deval Patrick took office as Massachusetts governor. He was the state's first Black governor. His inauguration marked a change in representation. A governor's work also needs study through policies and decisions. Patrick won election in 2006 and took office in 2007. Representation is one important part of a political history; examine governing records and public debates as well as a milestone.

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.