

Deval Patrick becomes governor

2007 | Grade 8 · Analyze & connect

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.

Rights written in a document and rights experienced in daily life can differ. People challenge unequal treatment through organizing, petitions, elections, public debate, and courts. These methods operate in different settings. Identify who had authority and whose participation was restricted. Then ask what changed, what continued, and what further evidence would be needed before making a broader claim.

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: 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.

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: 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.