

A fusion magnet milestone

2021 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

research — careful study to find out more

experiment — a planned test of an idea

goal — something people aim to achieve

Look closely



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

Read the story

Researchers at MIT and Commonwealth Fusion Systems tested a powerful magnet. Their work aimed to help future fusion research. A successful test was an important step, but did not mean a working commercial power plant existed.

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: Michelle Wu is elected Boston mayor

2021

Michelle Wu became the first woman and first person of color elected mayor of Boston. Her election changed representation in city leadership. Kim Janey had already served as acting mayor.

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: Researchers at MIT and Commonwealth Fusion Systems tested a powerful magnet. Their work aimed to help future fusion research. A successful test was an important step, but did not mean a working commercial power plant existed. A 2021 high-temperature superconducting magnet test reached twenty tesla. Separate demonstrated engineering results from future promises. Scientific milestones require precise descriptions of what was measured.

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.