



Massachusetts

Massachusetts is one of the New England States. New England is a six-state region in the northeastern United States. Massachusetts lies along the Atlantic coast.

New Hampshire and Vermont are north of Massachusetts. New York lies to the west. Connecticut and Rhode Island are to the south. Massachusetts is called the *Bay State* because its eastern coast faces Massachusetts Bay.

Boston is the capital and largest city of Massachusetts. It lies along a sheltered harbor on the coast. Boston is a busy seaport and New England's most important business center. Worcester and Springfield are other large cities.

Land. The Massachusetts coastline has sandy beaches and many harbors. Cape Cod is a popular vacation area. It is a peninsula, a piece of land almost surrounded by water. The Elizabeth Islands, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Island lie off Cape Cod. The rest of the eastern part of the state has hills, swamps, small lakes, and ponds.

Western Massachusetts has wooded hills and valleys with green meadows. The Berkshire Hills and the Taconic Mountains stretch across this area. River valleys between these mountain ranges are good for farming.



Barnstable Harbor, Cape Cod, a popular vacation area

Resources and products. Farmers in Massachusetts grow flowers, garden plants, apples, hay, and sweet corn. They raise cranberries in bogs, low places with soft, spongy ground. The river valleys have many dairy farms.

Massachusetts is an important manufacturing state. Factories make instruments for scientists, telephone equipment, computers, and printed materials.

Massachusetts is a leading fishing state. People catch such shellfish as clams, crabs, lobsters, and scallops. They also fish for cod, flounder, and haddock.

Other articles to read: **Adams, John; Adams, John Quincy; American Revolution; Boston; Coolidge, Calvin; Kennedy, John Fitzgerald; Pilgrims; Plymouth Colony; Plymouth Rock**

Important dates in Massachusetts

- Prehistory** Native Americans probably lived in the area more than 3,000 years ago. When the first white explorers arrived, they found Algonquian Indians.
- 1620** The first English settlers, called Pilgrims, landed at Plymouth.
 - 1636** Harvard became the first college in the American colonies.
 - 1692** Nineteen men and women were found guilty of being witches. They were later hanged.
 - 1770** British soldiers killed colonists in the Boston Massacre.
 - 1773** American colonists dumped British tea into Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party. Their action helped lead to the American Revolutionary War.
 - 1775** The American Revolutionary War began with battles at Lexington and Concord.
 - 1788** Massachusetts became the sixth state on February 6.
 - 1797** John Adams of Massachusetts became president of the United States.
 - 1825** John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts became president of the United States.
 - 1876** American inventor Alexander Graham Bell developed the telephone in Boston.
 - 1961** John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts became president of the United States.
 - 2003** The underground highway replacing Boston's Central Artery opened.
 - 2007** Democrat Deval L. Patrick became the first African American governor of Massachusetts.

Massachusetts in brief

State capital: Boston, the capital of Massachusetts since 1630.

Area: 8,262 mi² (21,398 km²), including 461 mi² (1,194 km²) of inland water but excluding 977 mi² (2,531 km²) of Atlantic coastal water.

Population: 6,547,629.

Statehood: Feb. 6, 1788, the sixth state.

State abbreviations: Mass. (traditional); MA (postal).

State motto: *Ense Petit Placidam sub Libertate Quietem* (By the Sword We Seek Peace, But Peace Only Under Liberty).

State song: "All Hail to Massachusetts" by Arthur J. Marsh.

Largest cities in

Massachusetts: Boston (617,594); Worcester (181,045); Springfield (153,060); Lowell (106,519); Cambridge (105,162); New Bedford (95,072).

Governor: 4-year term.

State senators: 40; 2-year terms.

State representatives: 160; 2-year terms.



State bird Chickadee



State flower Mayflower