

GRADE 3, UNIT 5

The People and Governments of Massachusetts



STUDENT WORKBOOK



Boston's Old City Hall was built between 1862 and 1865 and housed the Boston City Council until 1969. Image by Kenneth C. Zirkel via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 4.0.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Unit 5, Cluster 1 Inquiry Chart

Unit EQ	How do the people and governments in Massachusetts influence their communities?
Cluster SQ	How do the different forms of government in Massachusetts and the people they represent influence one another?
What questions will we ask?	

What did we do?	What did we learn that helps us answer our question(s)?
Lesson 2: We looked at different seals and flags from governments in Massachusetts and discussed what they represented.	
Lesson 3: We read about and discussed the Wampanoag of Gay Head (Aquinnah)'s tribal government.	
Lesson 4: We read about and discussed town government in Massachusetts.	

What did we do?	What did we learn that helps us answer our question(s)?
Lesson 5: We read about and discussed city government in Massachusetts.	
Lesson 6: We explored sources that explain how our own town or city government is organized and how we can influence our government.	

Name: _____ Date: _____

Tribal Government in Massachusetts

Directions: Read the text below to learn about tribal government in Massachusetts. Use the word bank to support your understanding.

As you read, underline information about how the government influences people and how people can influence the government.

Word Bank

Tribal Council	a group of official government leaders of an Indigenous tribe or nation
represent	to act or stand for someone or something
laws	rules of a community, town, city, state, tribe, or country
sovereignty	the power of a nation to govern itself and make its own laws
override	to cancel or reject



The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) seal

The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) has a tribal government called the **Tribal Council**. The tribe follows its ancestors' tradition of having a Chief and a Medicine Man as leaders. Today, their Tribal Council has a total of 13 members, including a Chief, Medicine Man, chairman, secretary, and treasurer. There are also councilwomen and councilmen.

The tribal government leaders **represent** all members of the tribe. They make decisions about **laws** and safety. Leaders use their **sovereignty** to protect tribal land and natural resources and support tribal members' well-being through education and cultural practices. They also work towards positive relationships with neighboring communities.

Tribal members vote for their leaders and can attend Tribal Council meetings. These meetings occur twice a month. Tribal members can **override** any decision made by the Tribal Council by voting.

Text source: Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah). "[Tribal Council](#)."

Image source: Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) seal by Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) is used under the fair use doctrine.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Governments in Massachusetts Graphic Organizer

Directions: Answer the questions in the graphic organizer using evidence from readings and discussions.

Type of government	Who does it represent?	How is it organized?	How can this form of government influence people?	How can people influence this form of government?
Tribal				
Town				

Type of government	Who does it represent?	How is it organized?	How can this form of government influence people?	How can people influence this form of government?
City				
Our town or city				

Name: _____ Date: _____

Town Government in Massachusetts Reading

Directions: Read the text below to learn about town government in Massachusetts. Use the word bank to support your understanding.

As you read, underline information about how the government influences people and how people can influence the government.

Word Bank

towns	communities with a Select Board and Town Meeting form of government
elected	selected for a position by voting
represent	to act or stand for someone or something
committees	groups of people who work together for a specific purpose or project
residents	people who live in a certain area



Town Hall in South Hadley, Massachusetts

There are 292 **towns** in Massachusetts. People who live in a town have voted to have a town form of government. Towns are run by the Select Board and Town Meeting. These leaders are **elected** by town members every 1–3 years.

Select Boards are small groups of people who set rules for running the town, like giving permits for events in the park. Town Meetings set the laws for the town and control how money is spent, including how much money goes to the schools.

Town governments **represent** all the people who live in the town. They make decisions about local laws, local projects, and how money and taxes will be spent. Leaders also use their roles to support the other **committees** in the town, including school committees and the board of health.

Residents of a town get to vote directly on issues or vote for leaders to do so for them. Each spring, towns hold an election between March and June to vote for their leaders. Town Meetings are also held at least once a year, and most are open to all community members.

Image source: South Hadley Town Hall image by Massachusetts Municipal Association used with permission from MMA.

Text sources:

- Massachusetts Municipal Association. [Forms of Local Government](#).
- Massachusetts Municipal Association. 2023. "[Local Government 101](#)," September 19.

Name: _____ Date: _____

City Government in Massachusetts

Directions: Read the text below to learn about city government in Massachusetts. Use the word bank to support your understanding.

As you read, underline information about how the government influences people and how people can influence the government.

Word Bank

cities	communities with a mayor and City Council form of government
represent	to act or stand for someone or something
residents	people who live in a certain area
elect	to select for a position by voting



City Hall in Medford, Massachusetts

There are 59 **cities** in Massachusetts. People who live in a community that is a city must have at least 12,000 people and vote to have a city form of government. Cities are run by a mayor and a City Council.

City governments **represent** the people who live in the city. A mayor is the leader of a city. The mayor has their position for 2 or 4 years. A City Council passes local laws. They have 9–13 members. City Council members hold their positions for 2 years.

Residents of the city **elect** the mayor and the City Council members. Elections take place in November every other year. The mayor and City Council members then make decisions for the community about city laws, how taxes are spent, and what projects are done. City Council meetings often have periods of time where members of the public can make statements to try to persuade City Council members to act on certain issues.

Image source: Medford Town Hall courtesy of Massachusetts Municipal Association used with permission from the MMA.

Text sources:

- Massachusetts Municipal Association. [Forms of Local Government](#).
- Massachusetts Municipal Association. 2023. [Local Government 101](#). September 19.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Formative Assessment Task

Part 1

Directions: Use the answer bank to complete the sentences. Write the letter (A, B, or C) on the line that matches the description.

Answer Bank

A	B	C
Mayor	Chief	Select Board member

In a tribal government, one leader is the _____.

In a town government, one leader is the _____.

In a city government, one leader is the _____.

Part 2

Directions: Read the story, and then use it to respond to the questions that follow.

Story: Last week, community members sent letters and emails in support of building an animal shelter. They felt it was important to have a safe place for stray animals to get care. They also argued that it would help these animals get adopted. Today, it was reported in our local newspaper that Mayor Jones approved this project. Construction will begin next month. Some local streets will be closed during the construction period.

Does this community have a tribal, town, or city government? How do you know?

How did people influence the government in this story?

How did the government influence people in this story?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Unit 5, Cluster 2 Inquiry Chart

Unit EQ	How do the people and governments in Massachusetts influence their communities?
Cluster SQ	How have the different groups of people living in our town or city influenced the community over time?
What questions will we ask?	

What did we do?	What did we learn that helps us answer our question(s)?
Lesson 9: We explored our town or city using Google Maps and identified landmarks and geographic features.	
Lesson 10: We investigated sources that explain the beginnings of our town or city and the people who originally lived here.	
Lesson 11: We investigated sources that explain the current populations of our town or city.	

Name: _____ Date: _____

Our Town or City Graphic Organizer

Directions: Answer each question below using information and sources that your teacher provides.

Part 1: History of Our Town or City

Questions	Information
What is the name of our town or city?	
Who were the Indigenous peoples who lived here originally? What happened during colonization?	
When was our town or city founded? By whom?	
Who lived in our town or city at the time? Were there enslaved or indentured peoples?	

Part 2: Current Populations in Our Town or City

Questions	Information
What groups of people live in our town or city today?	
Where have people who live in our town or city today immigrated from?	
Which, if any, Indigenous tribes or nations are in our town or city today?	
What other important population information is there about our town or city?	

Name: _____ Date: _____

Formative Assessment Task

Directions: Use what you learned in this cluster to sketch a redesign of your town or city seal in order to best incorporate the people, places, and history of the area.

Then write an artist statement that explains your design choices and the specific reasons behind them. This artist statement should clearly describe the historical and present-day groups of people who have influenced your town or city.

My seal sketch:



[illegible]

Name: _____ Date: _____

Unit 5, Cluster 3 Inquiry Chart

Unit EQ	How do the people and governments in Massachusetts influence their communities?
Cluster SQ	How can we participate in and contribute to our communities?
What questions will we ask?	

What did we do?	What did we learn that helps us answer our question(s)?
Lesson 14: We read and discussed the picture book, Just Help!: How to Build a Better World.	
Lesson 15: We interviewed each other about community issues we care about and how we are involved in our community.	
Lesson 16: We learned about local community members who are contributing to the community.	

What did we do?	What did we learn that helps us answer our question(s)?
Lesson 17: We learned about more local community members who are contributing to the community.	

Name: _____ Date: _____

Peer Interview Graphic Organizer

Directions: Record information from your peer interviews in the chart below. The blank rows are for any additional questions you want to ask or notes you want to record.

Questions	Information
What is your name?	
What are some places in our community that are important to you and why?	
Who do you know who helps make the community better? How do they help?	

Questions	Information
What are some ways that you think our community could be even better?	

Name: _____ Date: _____

Community Member Graphic Organizer

Directions: Record information from interviews or readings in the chart below. The blank rows are for any additional questions you want to ask or notes you want to record.

Questions	Information
What is your name, and what are your role(s) in the community?	
What community issues are important to you and why?	
How do you participate in or contribute to the community?	

Questions	Information
Are there any ways that you influence or participate in the government in our community?	

Name: _____ Date: _____

Formative Assessment Task

Directions: Describe a community issue that you care about. Then list three ways that people and the government can help or take action on this issue based on what you learned from other community members in this cluster.

In your list, be sure to include at least one way people can help and one way the government can help.

Community issue:

Ways that people and the government can help or take action:

1.

2.

3.

Optional: Create a drawing that represents or illustrates the ideas you described.