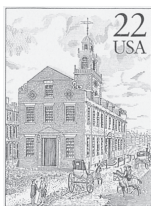


This Day in History... February 6, 1788

Massachusetts Becomes 6th State

On February 6, 1788, Massachusetts became the 6th state to join the Union.

Native Americans lived in the Massachusetts region for more than 3,000 years. In 1614, English sea captain John Smith sailed along the coast of Massachusetts. Smith's book, "A Description of New England," guided the Pilgrims to Massachusetts.



Feb 6, 1788
Massachusetts

This stamp pictures the Old Statehouse, site of the Boston Massacre.

On September 16, 1620, 41 Separatists and 61 others seeking religious freedom journeyed to America. These Pilgrims sailed from Plymouth, England, aboard the *Mayflower*. That November, they landed in what is now known as Provincetown Harbor. The Pilgrims faced a difficult winter – about half of them perished. Early in 1621, they made contact with American Indians. These Native Americans taught them how to plant corn and beans and how to live comfortably. Soon, more settlers came to the colony, and it flourished.

The Puritans received a charter from King Charles I to found a colony in the Massachusetts Bay area. In 1630, about 1,000 Puritans voyaged to the New World. They founded a settlement in what is now Boston. The Massachusetts Bay Colony grew quickly, and by 1640, it had 10,000 settlers.

The French and Indian War left Britain in debt, so taxes were levied on the colonies. The colonists' slogan, "No taxation without representation," was popular in Massachusetts. In 1770, British soldiers fired on a group of angry patriots, killing five of them. The Boston Massacre, as it came to be known, sparked resentment against the British. In 1773, angry colonists, disguised as Indians, staged the legendary Boston Tea Party to protest a tea tax, dumping 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor. Britain responded by passing a series of punitive laws, known in the colonies as the Intolerable Acts. These acts provoked the colonists and set the stage for war.



This Greetings from America stamp pictures the harbor at Rockport on Cape Ann and Mount Greylock in the Berkshire Hills.

Paris, which recognized the independence of the United States, and ended the war.

On February 6, 1788, Massachusetts ratified the US Constitution, becoming the sixth state to join the Union. As part of the ratification process, the state insisted that certain measures on individual rights be added. On December 15, 1791, the Bill of Rights became an important part of the "Law of the Land."

Massachusetts pioneered the textile and shoe industries. In New Bedford, Nantucket, and Boston, the whaling industry flourished until the 1860s, when kerosene replaced whale oil as the major fuel. Advancements in power were made as well; as waterpower proved inadequate for large-scale factories, steam engines powered by coal were introduced.



This stamp pictures the state flag, seabirds, and sailboats.

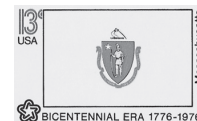


This stamp was issued in 1930 for the 300th anniversary of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.



The Massachusetts state bird and flower – the black-capped chickadee and the mayflower

The American Revolution began in Massachusetts. Massachusetts soldiers fought in the first battles at Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill. In the spring of 1776, General George Washington drove the British out of Boston. This marked the first major Colonial victory of the war. Massachusetts supplied a large number of soldiers and ships from the state inflicted heavy damage on British merchant ships. In 1783, the British signed the Treaty of



The state flag pictures an Algonquin Indian, the arm of Miles Standish, and the state motto, "By the Sword, We Seek Peace, But Peace Only Under Liberty."

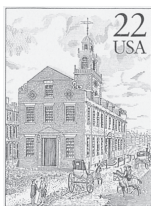
After the Civil War, many industries expanded, especially textiles, leather, and metal products. Although the economy suffered during the Depression, it soared during World War II. Factories and shipyards produced products needed for the war. During the 1950s and '60s, many of the state's traditional industries fell into decline. These were replaced by high-technology industries such as electronics, computers, cameras, jet engines, and missile parts. Today, the state has a thriving, modern industrial base, and a large number of colleges.

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