

A TIMELINE GUIDE TO THE HISTORY OF MASSACHUSETTS

COMMERCE

CONFLICT

CULTURE

POLITICS

SCIENCE

SPORT

HOW TO USE THE TIMELINE

Leaf through the pages and travel on an amazing journey to discover key events in the history of Massachusetts, from earliest times to the present day. Each color represents a theme in the story. A selection of important moments in U.S. history helps show the bigger picture and highlights the influence that Massachusetts has had on the nation and beyond.

A series of QR codes run across the middle of the timeline, each one representing a different century over 400 years of history. Focus the camera of a smartphone or tablet on any one of these codes, click on the gray pop-up box and you will be transported to a playlist of videos, made by students, that tell these timeline stories in their own words.

It all adds up to a remarkable story of people and events whose unique legacy can still be felt today in the sixth State of the Union.

MASSACHUSETTS FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY

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12,000
years ago



1600s

1620s

1630s

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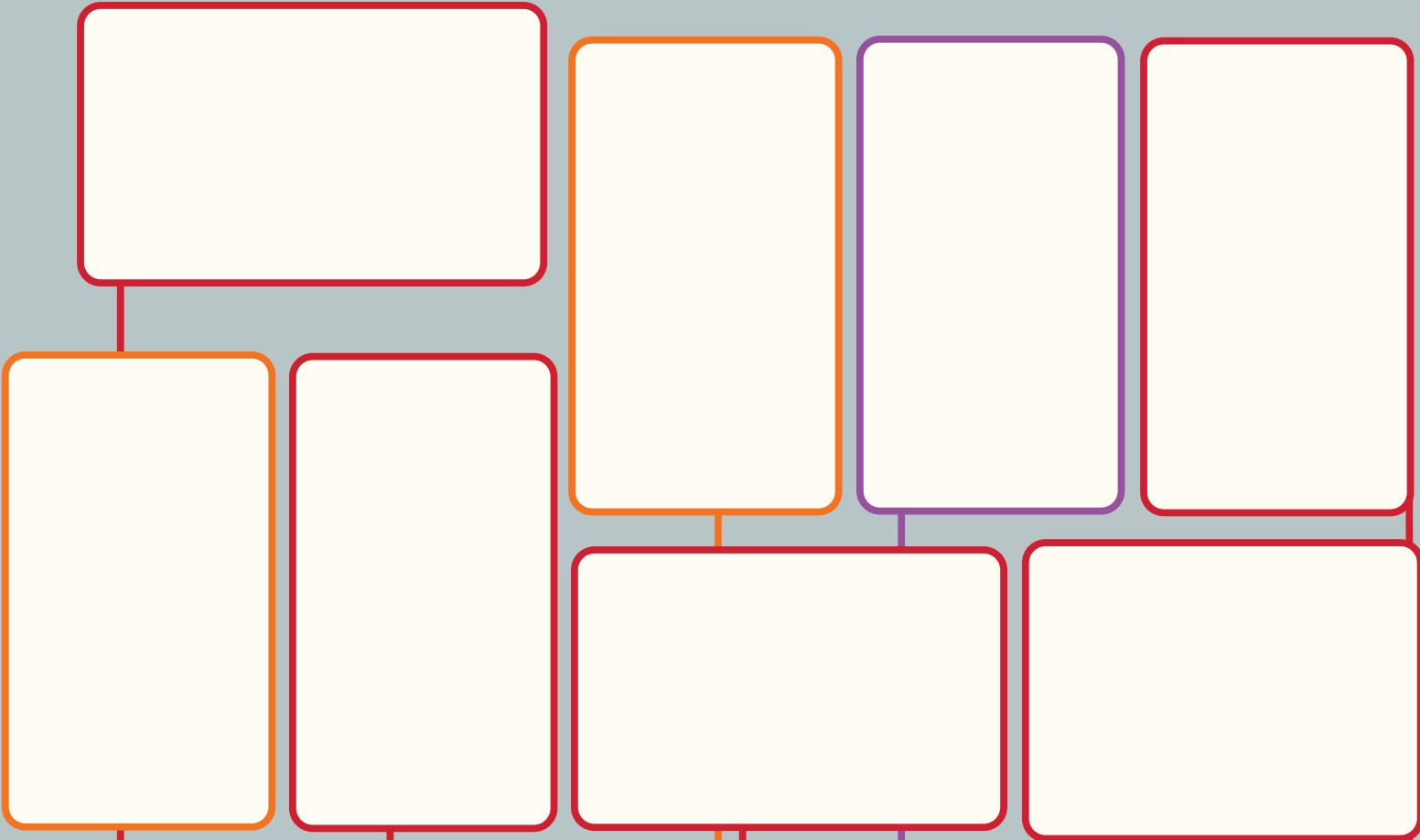
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A series of QR codes along the middle of the timeline represents each century. Point your smartphone or tablet camera on any QR code to see video-shorts made by students. Click on the QR code on the right to visit the *Massachusetts Chronicles* website.



See pages 46–48 for a useful **Glossary** (caption words marked in red)



1650s

1660s

1670s

1690s



1700s

1730s

1760s

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COLONIAL AMERICA

IN BRITAIN'S global empire are 13 English-speaking colonies in North America. With the support of American colonists who serve as militias, Britain defeats France in the French and Indian War (or Seven Years' War), and gains Canadian territories in 1763. Britain angers American colonists by imposing taxes to pay for the war, a major cause of the American Revolution.



AMERICAN REVOLUTION

THE 13 COLONIES eventually unite against Britain, declaring independence in 1776. Lacking representation in British government, the colonists reject Britain's right to tax them. With French and Spanish help, the American colonies defeat the British. The Revolutionary War ends in 1783, and the United States of America is established. A new constitution creates a federal system of national government.

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1770s

1780s

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U.S. EXPANSION

THE U.S. expands in 1803 after buying the Louisiana Territory from France. The War of 1812 settles its northeastern border with British-controlled Canada. Later, the U.S. will acquire Florida from Spain, and take over Texas. It will defeat Mexico in a war and gain vast lands, including California—the climax of the belief in “Manifest Destiny” that U.S. expansion across the continent is certain to happen, and desirable, even at the expense of Native peoples.

1790s

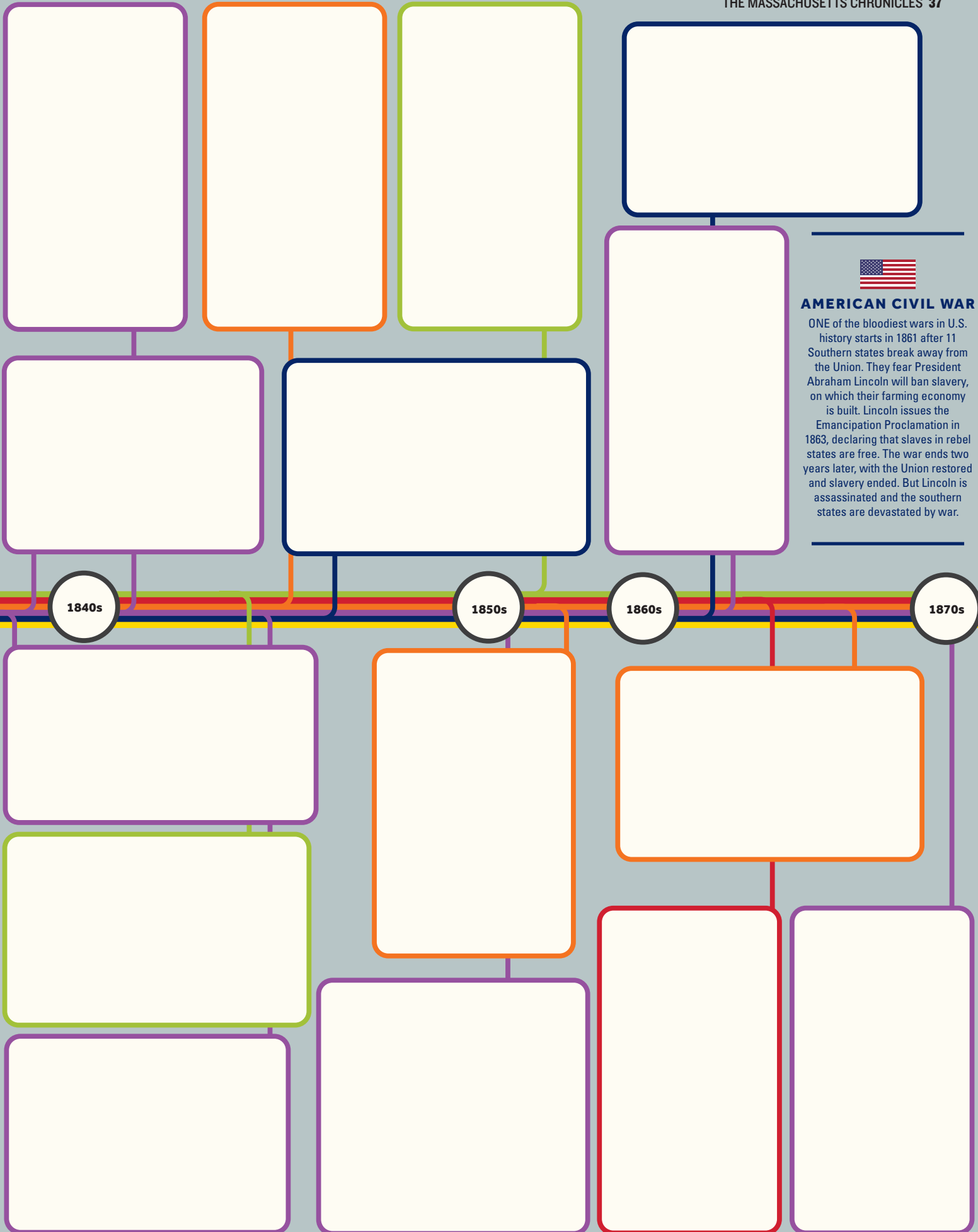


1800s

1810s

1820s

1830s



AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

ONE of the bloodiest wars in U.S. history starts in 1861 after 11 Southern states break away from the Union. They fear President Abraham Lincoln will ban slavery, on which their farming economy is built. Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, declaring that slaves in rebel states are free. The war ends two years later, with the Union restored and slavery ended. But Lincoln is assassinated and the southern states are devastated by war.



PROHIBITION

THE 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution—and the 1920 Volstead Act, which makes the amendment an enforceable law—bans the sale of alcoholic beverages in an attempt to curb crime and poverty. Federal agents try to enforce the law, but organized crime gangs make fortunes from illegal alcohol sales. Prohibition is ended in 1933.

1880s

1890s



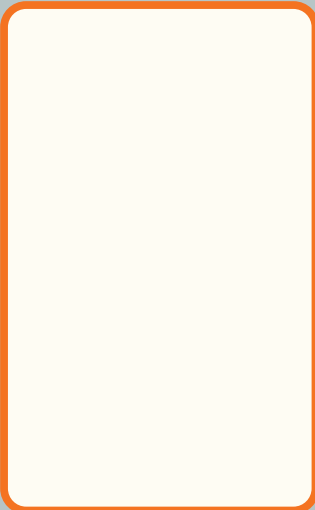
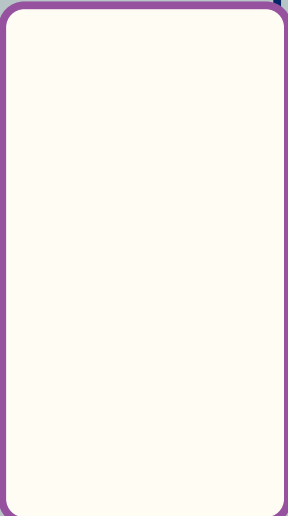
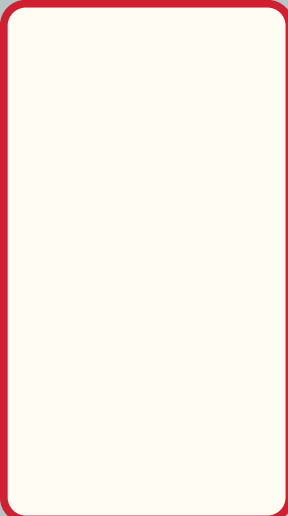
1900s

1910s



WORLD WAR I

THE U.S. abandons neutrality in 1917, and declares war on the German Empire after public outrage at American deaths from submarine warfare. The 26th "Yankee" Division is formed largely from the Massachusetts National Guard, and is among the first to be sent to France as part of the American Expeditionary Forces. Germany is defeated, and the U.S. emerges as a world power.



1962
EDWARD M. KENNEDY, known as "Ted," serves for decades as a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts. The brother of JFK and RFK, Ted continues the family's political tradition. A personal scandal will harm his chances of becoming President, but he earns a legacy as one of America's most respected Senators.



WORLD WAR II

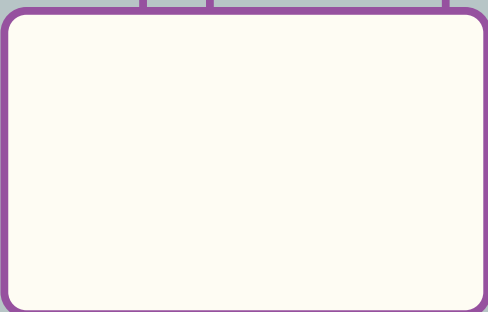
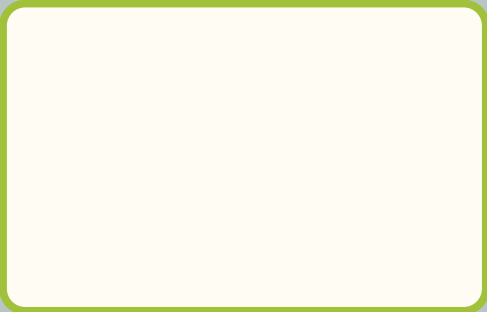
THE U.S. enters World War II in 1941 when Japan bombs the Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii. Some 16 million soldiers serve in the American armed forces, and 400,000 are killed in action. In 1945, the U.S. becomes the world's first superpower when Nazi Germany is overrun, and Japan surrenders after atom bombs are dropped on two cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

1920s

1940s

1950s

1960s



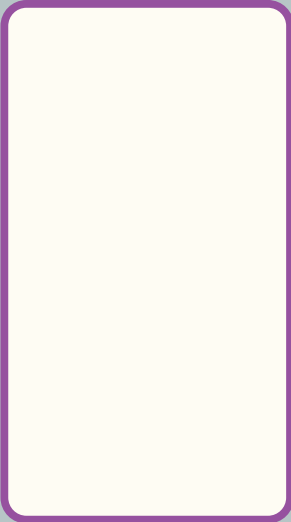
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

IN 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is officially adopted, giving women the right to vote in national elections. It follows their important role on the "Home Front" in World War I, when many women worked in transport or arms factories. Campaigners include the National American Woman Suffrage Association and Alice Paul's militant party, whose members are arrested for picketing the White House. Massachusetts is the 8th U.S. state to approve the amendment.



THE NEW DEAL

U.S. PRESIDENT Franklin D. Roosevelt launches the "New Deal" in 1933, creating jobs and relief for Americans hardest hit by the Great Depression—the worst financial slump in modern times. The program includes employment projects, experimental social welfare, and insurance programs to get America back on its feet. The Depression hits many Massachusetts industries, including textiles and shoemaking.





What will be the key events of tomorrow?
See how today's students imagine their future!



CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

THE STRUGGLE for equal rights for people of all races is inspired by Rosa Parks in 1955 after she refuses to give up her bus seat for a white person. Martin Luther King Jr., who received a doctoral degree from Boston University, later makes his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C., imagining a world in which all people are treated equally. He is assassinated in 1968.

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1970s

1980s



2010s

2000s

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THE COLD WAR

THE U.S. backs nations threatened by Soviet expansion after World War II. Decades of tense nuclear-armed stand-off follow, with Europe divided by the "Iron Curtain." The world narrowly escapes nuclear war when Russia plans to base missiles in Cuba. America will fight costly wars in Korea and—amid popular protests—Vietnam. The Cold War ends with the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991.



WAR ON TERROR

ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, hijackers use airliners to launch suicide attacks. Thousands are killed or injured, including more than 150 passengers and crew on two planes that take off from Boston's Logan International Airport. Responding to the slaughter, President George W. Bush declares a "war on terror."

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