

Rotating State Culture Classes - Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Vocabulary:

Level I: Massachusetts, state, bay, east, west, Boston, song, freedom, ity, history, flag, college, school

Level II: Plymouth Rock, colony, Cape Cod, Native American Indians, anthem, Mayflower, independence, Patriotic/Patriot, university

Level III: Colonial, missionaries, settlers, Democracy, Boston Tea Party, Freedom Trail, Harvard University, MIT, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Star Spangled Banner, education

Materials:

-Postage Stamp of Massachusetts (one for each student's passport)

-Massachusetts State Quarter (one for each student)

-Map of Massachusetts

-Map of USA

-Books from Massachusetts Tourism Bureau

-Massachusetts State Flag

-United States of America Flag

-Piano

-Songs: "Star Spangled Banner," "America, America," "America The Beautiful"

Objectives:

1. Show students where the state of Massachusetts is in relation to the rest of the states in the USA. Point out the most important locations in Massachusetts (Lexington, Concord, Boston, Cape Cod, Plymouth)

3. Teach students about the Mayflower and Pinta ships; how missionaries from England landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620, and made settlements on the coast of Cape Cod.

4. Teach students about the history of the city of Boston -- how democracy and the ideas of freedom/independence originated in Boston. Also explain other historical things, like the Boston Tea Party.

5. Teach students the patriotic songs all Americans know "by heart": "The Star Spangled Banner," "America, America," and "America The Beautiful"

6. Explain the role of Boston in American culture today -- Boston is a leader especially in higher education (i.e., Harvard University & M.I.T.), cultural artistry (Boston Symphony Orchestra), and medicine (Longwood Medical Center, Mass. General Hospital, etc.)

Critical Thinking Questions / Classroom Discussion / Journal Writing Topics:

1. Based on what you now know about Massachusetts, please share with the class "where in China" has either a similar history / cultural role

2. What Chinese songs have similar significance to Chinese people, as compared with the American songs you learned today?