

Investigating History

3rd-4th Grade Pilot



Investigating History is DESE's groundbreaking, comprehensive, inquiry-based, no-cost social studies curriculum. Teachers and students in grades 5, 6, and 7 classrooms across Massachusetts are using this student-engaging curriculum. Now Investigating History is coming for grades 3 and 4!

During the 2024-25 school year, Massachusetts schools can apply to pilot Investigating History materials in their grades 3 & 4 classrooms. Pilot teachers and students will provide valuable feedback in order to strengthen the materials before their public release in Summer 2025.

Investigating History is fully aligned with the 2018 History/Social Science Framework. All materials have been reviewed by educators, scholars, and experts.

Learn more

- Join an [informational webinar](#) on April 10, 2024
- Apply online at tinyurl.com/IH-Pilot-App
- Visit mass.gov/investigatinghistory for more information



“Investigating History asks students to become history detectives. By examining and providing evidence-based responses to social studies inquiries, students develop a real love of learning.”

- Grade 3 Field Test Teacher



Investigating History materials are designed to center the principles of:



Historical Inquiry



Historical Empathy and Human Connections



Current World and Civic Relevance



Culturally and Linguistically Sustaining Pedagogy

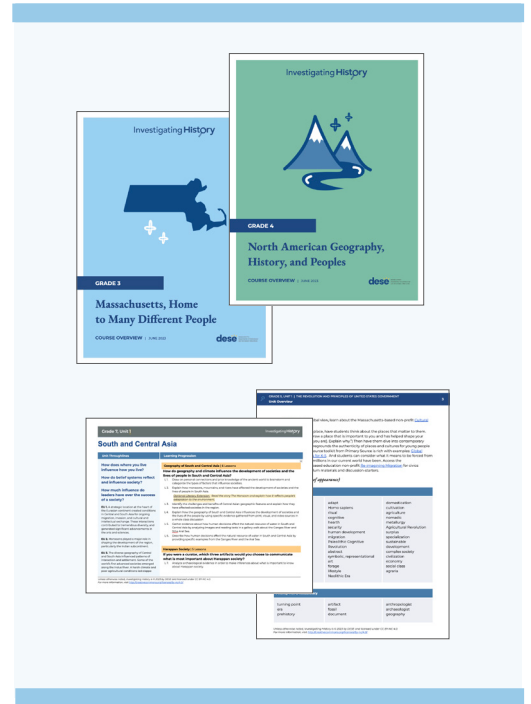


Learn more at: mass.gov/investigatinghistory



Participating pilot schools will receive

- Comprehensive social studies curriculum materials -- including lesson plans, slide decks, and student handouts
- Full-day, in-person professional development sessions for each unit
- Funding, pending availability, to:
 - Provide a \$500 stipend for each teacher who participates fully in the pilot, which will require traveling to six in-person PD days and planning outside of school hours to implement the curriculum
 - Cover the cost of substitute teachers for professional development sessions held on school days
- The opportunity to shape curricular materials that will ultimately be used in hundreds of classrooms across Massachusetts



Pilot Details

Schools can choose to pilot Investigating History in either or both grade levels, although priority will be given to schools who apply to pilot the materials in both grades and/or across all classrooms in a grade.

Each Investigating History course includes five units of roughly 20-25, 30-minute lessons.

Grade 3 Units	Grade 4 Units	Teaching Window	PD Day
Native People and Places in the Northeast	North American Geography	Sept – Nov	August (2 days)
Indigenous Communities, Colonizers, and the Plymouth Colony	Ancient American Civilizations	Nov – Jan	October
The Puritans, the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Native People, and Africans	Interactions with European Explorers	Jan – Feb	December
Governing the People of Massachusetts: The American Revolution and its Impacts	Impacts of U.S. Expansion	Feb – Apr	February
The People and Governments of Massachusetts, Past and Present	Regions of the United States	Apr – Jun	March





Pilot Commitments

Participating schools must commit to:

- **Sending** all participating classroom teachers to six days of in-person professional development, held in Central Massachusetts
 - August sessions (two days) will tentatively be held the week of August 19
 - Remaining PD sessions will be held on school days; *pending availability, funding will be available for substitute coverage*
- **Teaching** units and lessons as designed, with some allowable adaptations
- **Scheduling** at least 90 minutes per week, on average, for dedicated social studies instruction
- **Providing** feedback to DESE and the curriculum developers regularly throughout the pilot
- **Engaging** with a third-party evaluation (e.g. classroom observations, focus groups, surveys, etc.) to support our continuous improvement of the curriculum

Please apply for the pilot only if you are confident you can meet these commitments.

In advance of the materials' release in Summer 2025, there will be other opportunities to explore the curriculum more informally throughout the 2024-25 school year. [Sign up here for updates!](#)

Interested?

To apply for the pilot, [click here](#). Pilot applications are due by **May 17, 2024 at 5:00 PM**.

Questions? Email InvestigatingHistory@mass.gov.

