

# MASSACHUSETTS REVOLUTIONARIES: *Bold Stories Bright Legacies*



## MASSACHUSETTS STUDENTS, TELL US: WHO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT REVOLUTIONARY IN MASSACHUSETTS HISTORY?



As part of the Massachusetts 250 initiative, we're inviting all Massachusetts K-12 public school students to submit your creative work to tell the story of an important revolutionary in our state's history. Use your talents and create a project about your chosen revolutionary and submit it by April 17. This spring, we will choose winning entries and invite those students to a celebration!

### THE CHALLENGE

In telling these stories, we invite students to ponder any of the following questions:

- How do you define 'revolutionary'? How does your featured revolutionary meet that definition?
- What are the different ways to revolutionize a society? What does a revolution look like in technology, politics and government, society, and beyond?
- Who are the revolutionaries whose stories haven't been as widely told? If your revolutionary is widely known, what made them so famous? Are there any "new" parts of their story that you can tell?
- How does knowing about your chosen revolutionary help us understand who we are as Massachusetts today, and where we should go in the future?



### THE SUBMISSION

We invite students (as individuals or in groups) to submit their entries in whatever format best fits your voice and talents. Entries could be:

- A visual product (artwork, graphic design, 3D, etc.) with brief description
- A narrative essay that addresses the challenge question and connects to the theme statement
- A brief documentary video (3-5 minutes) about your chosen revolutionary
- A performance piece (song, recorded performance, etc.)
- Any other creative format!

### SUBMIT:

<https://massachusetts250.org/executive-office-of-education/>

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## BACKGROUND

Not only is Massachusetts where the American Revolution began, but we have continued to revolutionize throughout our nation's history to modern day – be it politically, socially, or through science and technology.

The American Revolution established foundational ideas about liberty, rights, and the role of government in society. Though we are not the only “free” country, we acknowledge the battles fought for this privilege. However, freedom and independence are still being fought for every day around the world. From 1775 until today, Americans of all backgrounds, ages, and nationalities have continued to fight for our freedoms.

Since the nation's founding, definitions of “the people,” the boundaries of national belonging, and the very nature of citizenship have changed. For much of our history, the United States has excluded people—women, free and enslaved African Americans, Indigenous people, immigrants, people with disabilities, low-income people, and many others—from full participation and representation in the nation's political, economic, and cultural life.

However, members of all of these groups have still made revolutionary impact in myriad ways in both the past and the present. The 250th anniversary of our nation's founding is a real opportunity to widen the lens and tell all of these stories in a deeper way.

## FOR TEACHERS: RESOURCES & CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Bring the Massachusetts Revolutionaries project into your classroom lessons! Educators can support students participating in the challenge with the following connections and resources:

- **Framework Connections:** This challenge is a great fit for History & Social Science Framework standards in Grades 1, 3, 5, 8, and HS United States History I & II. There is also strong alignment with the ELA anchor standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening across the grade span. Digital Literacy (DTC strand) and Arts Frameworks may also be applicable depending on product formats.
- **Curriculum Connections:** This challenge has particularly strong alignment with DESE's open source Investigating History curriculum for Grade 5. Learn more: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/investigatinghistory/>
- **The Massachusetts Chronicles** is a comprehensive educational resource about the history of Massachusetts that spans from the earliest times to present. The resource is accessible to learners at all grade levels and can help spark student thinking about the theme and potential revolutionaries. Each school received a class set of materials in September 2020. View: <https://www.bridgew.edu/masschronicles>