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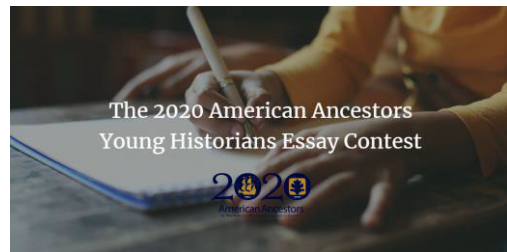


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A Massachusetts Statewide Student Essay Competition Will Commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the Landing of the *Mayflower*

American Ancestors|New England Historic Genealogical Society Challenges Massachusetts Students to Reflect Upon the Relevance of the Voyage of the Mayflower 400 Years after Its Arrival

January 13, 2020—*Boston, Massachusetts*—400 years ago the *Mayflower* landed on the shores of what would later be known as Massachusetts, forever changing the course of history of four nations: America, England, the Netherlands, and the Wampanoag. American Ancestors—also known as New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS)—a national family history organization headquartered in Boston and one of the groups leading activities to commemorate the quadricentennial of the landing of the *Mayflower*, has announced a statewide student competition in Massachusetts to honor the story of the Pilgrims and of the native Wampanoag people. The 2020 American Ancestors Young Historians Essay Contest asks students to explore how this 400-year old history relates to our national, familial, and/or personal stories and identities.



Above: Graphic for use in social media.

[Download 8.5" x 11" flyer](#)

Open to students currently enrolled in grades 5–12 in public, private, and parochial schools, and those in home-study programs across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the contest asks participants to address one of three topics:

How is the story of the *Mayflower* still relevant today?

How does your family's journey to America compare to the journey of the Pilgrims in 1620?

As a native student, what does your tribal history mean to you?

American Ancestors' Director of Education Ginevra Morse described the statewide competition as an opportunity to honor the story of the Pilgrims and of the native Wampanoag people. "Their stories, collectively and individually, embody the triumphs and tragedies of life in early New England and in the country itself. These stories are still relevant today."

"Involving some of the youngest minds in a process of reflection upon this historic event will lead to new insights and understanding for historians of all ages. We're delighted to offer an opportunity for Massachusetts students to interpret and understand history in their own words. We have no doubt that it will be revealing for many of

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2020 American Ancestors Young Historians Essay Contest in early August three winners will be selected from grades 5–8 and receive \$500 each and es 9–12 and receive \$750 each. All winners will be invited to present part of their research, commemorating the *Mayflower* 400 year.

120. [Submission guidelines may be found on the *Mayflower* companion](#)

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