



## **Maine's Bicentennial Commemoration**

The Maine Bicentennial Commission, along with members of Maine's large network of cultural organizations, schools and communities, will host several programs and events to commemorate Maine's 200th anniversary of statehood in 2020. You can view them all at [Maine200.org/calendar](https://Maine200.org/calendar) and see where you might like to engage.

### ***Maine Bicentennial Grant Program***

The Maine Bicentennial Commission is offering a total of \$375,000 in Community Grants to support the interests, needs, and creativity of citizens and communities throughout Maine as they plan local commemorations of the bicentennial. Schools and educators are encouraged to apply, as funds may be used for curriculum development or other school-based projects. Check out the commission website for more information and to apply: [maine200.org/community-grants](https://maine200.org/community-grants)

### ***Virtual Maine***

To supplement your bicentennial curriculum, an interactive 360 virtual reality experience will be available, featuring notable places in the State of Maine. Each experience is populated with historical information, fun facts, and audio-visual clips. These experiences can be viewed on a desktop computer, but are most effective when using a cell phone in a VR headset, for the full 360-degree immersive view. The Archives has headsets available, but any school that has VR headsets can access these experiences and explore Maine through VR by visiting or clicking on the link and choosing the VR option [maine.gov/sos/arc/bicentennialmsa.html](https://maine.gov/sos/arc/bicentennialmsa.html). More VR experiences are coming soon including the Old Orchard Beach Pier, Fort Western, The Blaine House, Historic Portland and more!

### ***Bicentennial Public Service Announcements***

The Maine Bicentennial Moments are 30-second public service announcements featuring Maine history. Each PSA includes images and documents from the Archives and other sources to highlight a particular person, place or event in Maine history. These PSAs will be aired on broadcast television throughout the State during the bicentennial commemoration period in addition to being posted online. Each PSA is meant to pique viewers' interest and encourage further exploration of the topic. The PSAs will be posted to the Maine State Archives Bicentennial Projects website ([maine.gov/sos/arc/bicentennialmsa.html](https://maine.gov/sos/arc/bicentennialmsa.html)) and to Maine television stations in batches of 6-8 on a monthly basis throughout the bicentennial commemoration. If you would like to have access to all 72 PSAs at once for classroom purposes, please contact Kristen Schulze Muszynski, director of communications for the Department of the Secretary of State, at 207-626-8404 or [Kristen.Muszynski@Maine.gov](mailto:Kristen.Muszynski@Maine.gov).

**Please see reverse for additional programs.**

### ***Bicentennial Presentation***

Consider scheduling a Maine Bicentennial Presentation at your school. The presentation will review how Maine achieved statehood and its aftermath, with a tie-in to your location. For information on Maine's bicentennial commemoration, visit [maine200.org](http://maine200.org). To schedule a visit, contact Dave Cheever at 626-8410 or [David.R.Cheever@maine.gov](mailto:David.R.Cheever@maine.gov).

### ***Bicentennial Flag***

Schools may wish to honor Maine's bicentennial by holding a special flag-raising ceremony of the bicentennial flag [maine200.org/programs](http://maine200.org/programs). Order yours at the Maine200.org Shop <https://store.maine200.org/>.



**We are happy to share items that our colleagues in the Maine Cultural Building are creating to commemorate Maine's bicentennial:**

### ***Path to Statehood Exhibition***

The Maine State Museum is planning an exhibition commemorating the state's 2020 bicentennial entitled *Regional Struggle – National Story: Maine's Path to Statehood*, to run March 14, 2020 to February 28, 2021. The exhibition will chronicle political and economic forces' struggle over Maine's land, and the District's internal debates in its efforts to establish self-governance. A parallel path through the exhibition will document Maine's role in preserving the Union, and how the external pressures embedded in the Missouri Compromise both threatened and enabled Maine to secure statehood. For more information, visit [mainestatemuseum.org](http://mainestatemuseum.org). To schedule a museum visit, use the online reservation form or call 287-6634 to speak with the museum scheduler.

### ***Literacy Promotional Calendar***

To celebrate Maine's Bicentennial, the Maine State Library will be distributing the Maine Day by Day Family Literacy Activity Calendar in January 2020. This perpetual calendar is designed to assist and encourage emergent reading for children ages 0-5. Each month features a theme around which books, songs, activities, arts and cultural events, plus health and family wellness information is centered. The Maine State Library intends to raise awareness and provide a tool that is built around the five early literacy practices: Read, Write, Talk, Play, and Sing. Since 2020 is Maine's bicentennial, the library wishes to celebrate and feature the wonderful Maine children's books illustrators by using their artwork for the calendar. This practical and fun tool has an activity for every day that makes it easy for anyone using the calendar to implement the five early literacy practices. Check your local public library for a copy of the calendar in January or contact Janet McKenney at [janet.mckenney@maine.gov](mailto:janet.mckenney@maine.gov) or 287-5603 with questions.