

District Summary Sheet

The Secrets of Plymouth Rock (Book)

Rockin' the Secrets of Plymouth Rock (Music & Classroom Musical)

Overview

The Secrets of Plymouth Rock (Diane L. Finn) and *Rockin' the Secrets of Plymouth Rock* (Candido Bretto) form a fully integrated literacy, history, and performing-arts experience for Grades 3–5. This standards-aligned program brings the story of Plymouth, the Pilgrims, the Wampanoag, and the symbolic importance of Plymouth Rock to life through reading, music, movement, and performance.

Through the Rock's unique narrative voice, students encounter multiple historical perspectives while developing empathy, curiosity, and civic understanding.

Key Features

✓ Standards-Aligned Massachusetts History Unit (Grade 3 Focus)

Aligned to the Massachusetts History & Social Science Curriculum Framework (2018), including:

- 1620, the Mayflower, and the Pilgrims
- Wampanoag homelands and early interactions
- Daily life in early Plymouth Colony
- Symbols of Massachusetts history
- Historical thinking, inquiry, perspective-taking

✓ Arts-Integrated Learning

The musical album allows students to:

- Sing and perform historically informed pieces
- Learn sequencing and cause/effect through music
- Strengthen comprehension and retention via arts integration
- Participate in a class or schoolwide performance

✓ Flexible Implementation

Can be delivered as:

- A 5-day mini-unit
- A 2–3 week cross-curricular project
- A classroom musical or assembly performance
- A reading–music integrated lesson sequence

Instructional Materials Provided

Included Resources:

- Teacher Edition (detailed multi-day unit plan)
- Student Activity Booklet
- Student Performance Script
- Staging & music cue notes
- Vocabulary and key concepts list
- Optional assessment tools

Optional Add-Ons:

- Primary source pack
- Indigenous perspectives mini-lesson
- Printable posters, programs, and lyric sheets

Instructional Benefits

Authentic, Engaging Learning Experience

The program combines reading, music, social studies, and performance to:

- Support diverse learners
- Build historical background knowledge
- Deepen cultural and civic understanding
- Encourage collaboration and creativity
- Strengthen social-emotional connections to content

Media & Arts Literacy

Students practice listening, interpreting musical storytelling, and communicating ideas through performance—skills explicitly encouraged in DESE’s Guiding Principles.

Why Districts Adopt This Program

- ✓ Highly engaging and culturally responsive
- ✓ Designed by a Massachusetts educator and a Massachusetts musician
- ✓ Perfectly suited for Grade 3 local history requirements
- ✓ Provides turnkey materials for teachers
- ✓ Enhances school community engagement through performances
- ✓ Affordable, scalable, and easy to implement across a district

Contact & Access

Curriculum Downloads / Licensing:

PlymouthRock.org

Musical Album:

Rockin' the Secrets of Plymouth Rock

Creator Contact:

Candido Bretto

Musician • Author • Composer

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