

Standards Alignment Table

The Secrets of Plymouth Rock & Rockin' the Secrets of Plymouth Rock

Massachusetts HSS Framework Standard	What the Standard Requires	How This Program Meets the Requirement	Alignment Level
Grade 3 – 3.1	Identify Indigenous peoples (Wampanoag), communities, ways of life	Introduces Patuxet homeland; Indigenous-perspective supplements available	Moderate
Grade 3 – 3.2	Explain 1620, Mayflower, Pilgrims, founding of Plymouth Colony	Core narrative focus; songs reinforce events	Strong
Grade 3 – 3.3	Describe Pilgrim daily life & differences from Wampanoag	Depicts Pilgrim challenges; student comparison charts included	Good
Grade 3 – 3.4	Explain early cooperation between Pilgrims & Wampanoag	Story hints at shared survival; supplemental materials deepen coverage	Moderate
Grade 3 – 3.5	Identify & explain MA historical symbols	Plymouth Rock presented as primary symbol; performance highlights meaning	Strong
Practice Standard 1	Demonstrate civic knowledge & dispositions	Themes of community and responsibility in songs & script	Very Good
Practice Standard 2	Inquiry: Ask questions, investigate the past	Booklet prompts inquiry; Rock perspective encourages curiosity	Very Good
Practice Standard 3	Organize information from sources	Teacher guide includes primary source suggestions	Good
Practice Standard 4	Recognize continuity & change	Rock describes changes over time; scenes highlight community development	Very Good
Practice Standard 5	Multiple historical perspectives	Rock + Pilgrims + Wampanoag create layered viewpoints	Very Good
Practice Standard 6	Apply geography concepts	Coastal geography & harbor location appear in lessons	Good
Practice Standard 7	Communicate conclusions	Students perform, discuss, write, and sing	Strong

Alignment Legend

Strong: Fully aligned with standard

Very Good: Addresses most required components

Good: Meets general expectations

Moderate: Requires supplement to achieve full alignment

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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