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Hearth of American Culture 波士顿：美国文化重镇 When people think of “ American culture and values ” , they are unconsciously referring to a set of principles , a world view , and a lifestyle which can best be found in Boston , capital of the state of Massachusetts and the major city in all of New England , those six relatively small states tucked away in the northeastern corner of the US. Although Boston is perhaps the seventh or eighth largest city in the US , no other city in America can compare with the influence which Boston has had on the development of government , education , medicine , and the arts. This influence is due in no small part to Boston's central role in the building of a new nation. Many people think that the United States was established in 1776 ; however , that was the year of the Declaration of Independence , a revolutionary document claiming self-rule from its mother country , England. Actual independence the formation of a government with an acting president ( George Washington ) did not begin until 1789. Boston was nearly middle-aged then , as it had had its beginnings a century and a half earlier , in 1630. It maintained its position as the colonies pre-eminent center for politics , education , and commerce until the mid-18th century , when both New York and Philadelphia ( the young nations first and second capitals , respectively ) overtook Boston in size. Boston was settled by

religious immigrants from the Church of England. It was with these early settlers that the first outlines of an American culture began : a strict adherence to religious dicta , diligence in work , educational aspirations , and a conservative lifestyle. Because Boston is closer to Europe than any other city in the US , it was the point of entry to the colonies until the 19th century , when New York became the new magnet for the “ poor , tired , and huddled masses ” who were to become the backbone of the new American economy. Boston remained , however , an important commercial center until the 20th century. Today Boston caters to finance and banking , education , and medicine , with some of the top international mutual fund and insurance companies , world-renowned educational institutes , and state-of-the-art medical centers and schools. The city has also managed to preserve much of its earlier identity as the home of the American Revolution ; thus , tourism is an important sector in the economy of Boston as well. Like San Francisco or New Orleans , Boston has a reputation for being a pleasant city to admire while walking around it. What can one do in Boston ? Important historic sites , well-preserved examples of architecture from the 17-20th centuries , and spacious parks invite the tourist or resident to “ smell the roses ” while in Boston. Its unhurried but sophisticated citizens boast not only high incomes but also high levels of education. Music flourishes here : the Boston Symphony Orchestra , the New England Conservatory of Music , and the Boston Pops Orchestra offer first-class musical entertainment in both public and private venues. The Museum of Fine Arts is a

major world gallery. Science Park , situated midway between Boston and its major satellite city , Cambridge , offers the Museum of Science. Had enough of “ high-brow culture ” ? Boston affords its citizens and visitors many first-class restaurants and shopping dockside in Faneuil Hall. Historic walking tours are a must for the tourist , especially Boston Commons , a city park , and Beacon Hill , with its roads still paved with the original stones from the 17th century. Admirers of university campuses steeped in tradition should see Harvard , the nations oldest university ( 1636 ) , as well as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology , Emerson College , Boston College , and Boston University , all in the metropolitan area. In short , no matter ones interest is , any visitor is sure to enjoy his stay in Boston , hearth of American culture and still a leader in education , medicine , and music. 100Test 下载频道开通 , 各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 [www.100test.com](http://www.100test.com)