

Happy new year! Another year has begun. How is everything going so far for you? The school I go to started on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and I realized that there isn't such a thing as “三が日” in here. This is because in America, Christmas is a bigger event compared to New Year's. Before school started, I went to Boston with my friends to go ice skating. So today, I want to share about what I experienced in Boston while sharing some interesting historical backgrounds at the same time.

Lot of people think that America is a car-oriented society with no transit networks. I mean this is true in majority of places. However, in Massachusetts, public transportation is abundant by having one of the oldest subway systems in America. I was one of the users of the subways when I went to Boston. One surprising fact about the train is that when you show the Student ID, your ticket fee would be free! Perhaps Boston being called as a city of students. When you get to Boston, you will be amazed by all the beautiful and historical buildings built with bricks. Actually, a lot of architecture in Boston is deeply related to the history of its city. Let's dive into some of the historical backgrounds!

State of Massachusetts is known for being part of the 13 colonies, when America was still colonized by Great Britain. This is around when Boston Tea Party occurred, 13 colonies insisting the political rights to the Great Britain by the famous saying of “No Taxation without Representation”. Since these 13 colonies were founded by Puritan settlers, they brought architecture from England. That's why the scenery in Boston is giving such a cool European vibe! Many architectural styles are combined from its complex historical roots, such as colonial-styles and Georgian-styles. I walked around Boston with my friends, saw beautiful buildings and went through famous park called Common Park. Because Massachusetts gets really cold in the winter, people use the pond to make it into an ice skate rink. My friend and I tried ice skating for the first time. We were both laughing at each other, because we looked like a baby deer shaking its legs to not trip over. However, after skating for an hour, somehow, she betrayed me by mastering how to skate, even though we practiced the exact same amount of time. We enjoyed the time together in Boston and planned the next hangout to go to the famous art museums located in Boston.

Like I mentioned before, here in Massachusetts it gets really chilly in the winter seasons. When we get like a snowstorm, we have a day called Snow Day, on which we get a day off from school, because it is too risky to transport. This is something that we don't get as students living in Tokyo, so I am really looking forward to it. Don't misunderstand that I am looking forward to skipping school, it is just me wanting to experience a new thing 😊 Not only in here, but Japan is getting over the harsh brutal coldness, too. Please take care of yourselves and enjoy the rest of the winter seasons. Thank you for reading until the very end.