

Brunswick School Department
Social Studies
Grade 7 Maine's Historic Tribes/Wabanaki Confederation

Unit Overview

Maine's five historic tribes developed unique cultures, all with a sakom- and consensus-based style of governance. Maine's geographic features and seasons had a great impact on their cultures. The Abenaki, Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Mi'kmaq, and Malisset formed a confederation in the late 1600s; students will study why this occurred. The arrival of the European settlers and the Great Dying will also be a focus.

Essential Understandings

- The natural resources of Maine and its geography shaped the culture of the Wabanaki people.
- The Wabanaki tribes formed a confederation and a style of government similar to a Republic to protect themselves and their land from the Iroquois and European encroachment

Priority Standards and Performance Indicators

(as based on the Maine Learning Results)

P.S. SS-4 Utilize concepts and processes from geography to understand issues involving people, places, and environments in the United States and the world.

- d. Describe the dynamic relationship between geographic features and various cultures, including the cultures of Maine Native Americans, various historical groups in the United States, and other cultures in the world.

P.S.SS-5 Draw on concepts and processes from history to develop historical perspective and understand issues of continuity and change in the community, Maine, the United States, and world.

- a. Explain that history is the study of the written record of the past, based on available evidence from a variety of sources.
- c. Identify and analyze major historical eras, major enduring themes, turning points, events, consequences, and people in the history of Maine, the United States and various regions of the world.

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Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments

- Logical Argument essay
- Informational writing piece
- Wabanaki Vocabulary Quiz
- Map the Wabanaki tribes of Maine
- Compare and contrast two Wabanaki tribes
- Learn and retell a Wabanaki myth.

Sample Texts and Materials/Resources

- A Journey Through Maine, by Mary Stockwell.
- Indian Double Curve Secrets: Eastern Woodlands Guide for Stencils edited by Tom Raven Ford.
- Maine Speaks: An Anthology of Maine Literature, by the Maine Literature Project.
- Abbe Museum. "Wabanaki: Culture, Continuity, Courage & Change." 2012. <<http://abbemuseum.org/research/wabanaki/>>
- Cornell University Library: Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections. "The Wabanaki Indian Collection." 2009. <<http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/pdf/wabanaki.pdf>>
- Four Directions Development Corporation. "Investing in the Hopes and Dreams of Maine's Native People." <<http://www.fourdirectionsmaine.org>>
- University of Maine. "Wabanaki Center." <<http://naps.umaine.edu/>>