



Lesson: New Hampshire's Forest Friends

(To follow Amplify CKLA 1, Knowledge 8: Animals and Habitats, Lesson 5: Animals of the Temperate Deciduous Forest)

At a Glance

In this lesson, students extend their understanding of a specific habitat by investigating where deciduous forests are located in New Hampshire and which animals call that habitat home.

Primary Focus Objectives

- Students will identify the location of the temperate deciduous forest habitat in New Hampshire.
- Students will write about characteristics of animals that live in New Hampshire's temperate deciduous forest habitat.

Formative Assessment

- Group analysis of maps
- "Forest Friends" profile

Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.1

Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about Grade 1 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.2

Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2

Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

Materials

- Focus Text: [Unit 1: New Hampshire Geography, Learn It! "Features of the Land," page 2](#)
- Map: Forest Cover in 1894
- Map: Forest Cover in 2016
- Moose on the Loose Animal Fact Sheets: [Moose](#), [Purple Finch](#), and [Eagle](#)
- Animal Profiles: NHPBS "[Wildlife Journal Junior: Temperate Deciduous Forest](#)"

Time Needed

Two 30-40 minute class sessions

Learning Activity

1. **Read aloud the Focus Text.** Read aloud the suggested "Learn It" page. Students will be familiar with this text if they completed the lesson about New Hampshire's 27 habitats. Use this opportunity for more discussion about the features of the forest. *(10 minutes)*
2. **Compare the maps.** Project the map "Forest Cover in 1894." Tell students it is a map that shows the amount of forest in New Hampshire more than 100 years ago. After sharing observations, project "Forest Cover in 2016" and discuss the similarities and differences. *(20 minutes)*
3. **Investigate the animals.** Select from the suggested profiles of animals that live in New Hampshire's temperate deciduous forest and provide print copies to students. Give students time to read the profiles independently or in reading groups. *(20 minutes)*



4. **Create a “Forest Friends” profile.** Provide students with a copy of this worksheet and support them as they create their own animal profile. Create a booklet or bulletin board of the completed work. *(25 minutes)*



Educator Rationale and Answer Guide

Connection to Amplify

This lesson reinforces and extends the learning goals of Amplify CKLA 1, Knowledge 8: Animals and Habitats, Lesson 5: Animals of the Temperate Deciduous Forest, through an investigation of where this habitat type can be found in New Hampshire and some of the animal species that call it home. Students use a variety of non-fiction texts and maps to learn about the change in forest cover in our state over the last century as well as the way species use the features of the forest to survive throughout the four seasons.

Read aloud the Focus Text

The recommended "Learn It!" page features general details about forests in New Hampshire. Take time to discuss new vocabulary and examine the photograph. The Animal Fact Sheet infographics will be used later in the lesson. The recommended NHPBS site has other information about the temperate deciduous forest in New Hampshire that students may find interesting. Share as best for your students.

Compare the Maps

Students should observe that the map from 1894 only shows forests in the northern half of the state. After asking them why they think that was the case, explain that most of New Hampshire's forests in the southern part of the state were cut down to make room for farmland. Farming is no longer a central part of the economy in New Hampshire, so over the last 100 years, the forests have grown back and now 80% of the state is covered. The map from 2016 has an adapted key to explain the three shades of green. The most important takeaway is that deciduous or mixed forest is the dominant type. If students are curious, the red color represents land that has been developed by humans into buildings. Discuss with students how the regrowth of forests impacted animal life in the state and what happened when forests were cleared for farming long ago or for housing and other buildings today.

This is a good place to pause if dividing the lesson across two class sessions.

Investigate the animals

Moose on the Loose offers a selection of Animal Fact Sheets and links are provided for species that live in the deciduous forest habitat. The recommended NHPBS site has links to profiles for other species. Choose those that are appropriate for the readers in your class. This activity is ideal for small reading groups.

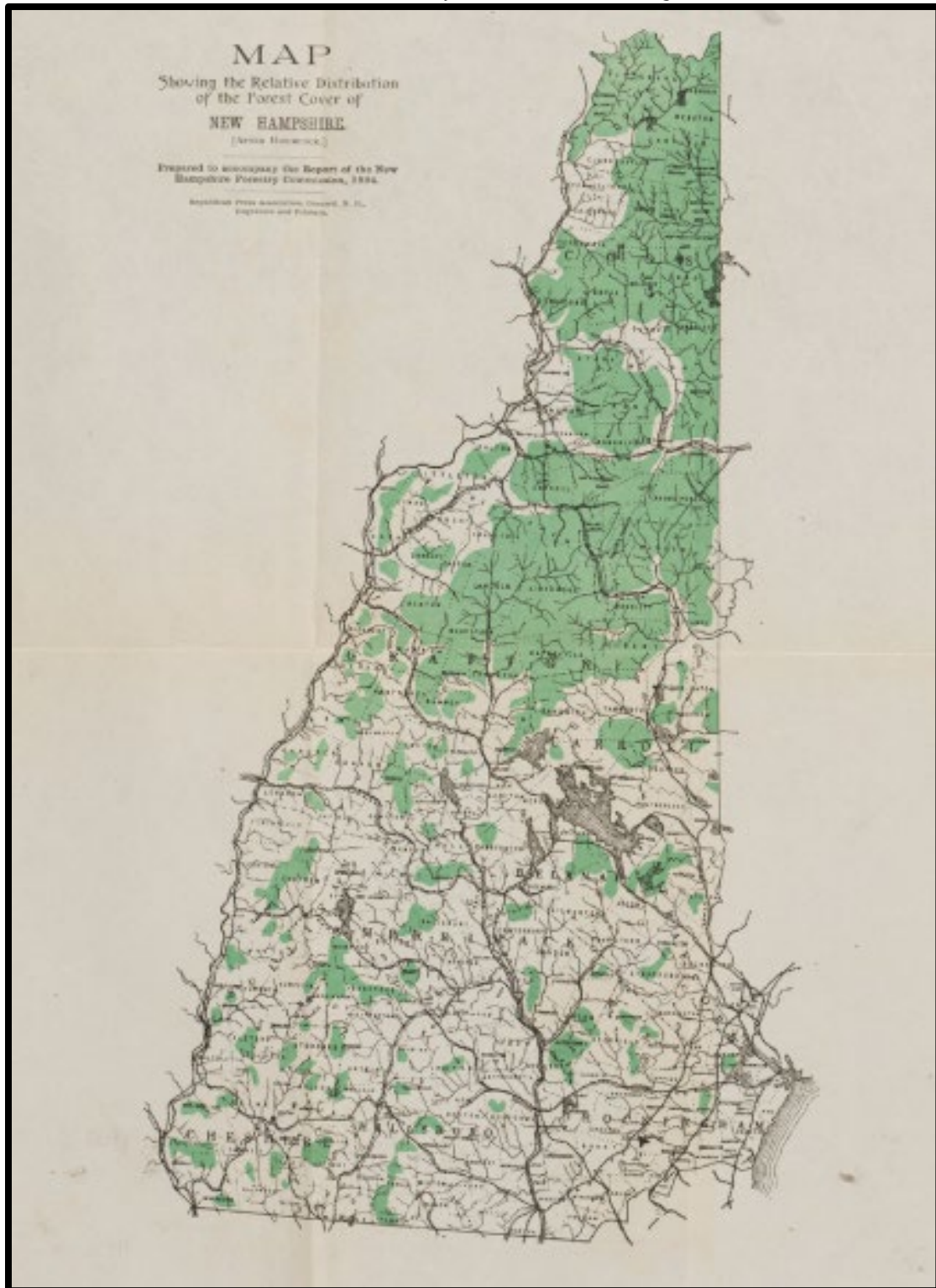
Create a "Forest Friends" profile

Distribute the "Forest Friends" profile sheets. Explain to students they will create a profile for one of the animals that lives in New Hampshire's temperate deciduous forests. Review the components of the profile. Explain that the circle is where they should draw a picture of the animal. Read the prompts in the different sections and support students as they use the Animal Fact Sheets or the NHPBS profiles to write informative text.



FOREST COVER IN 1894

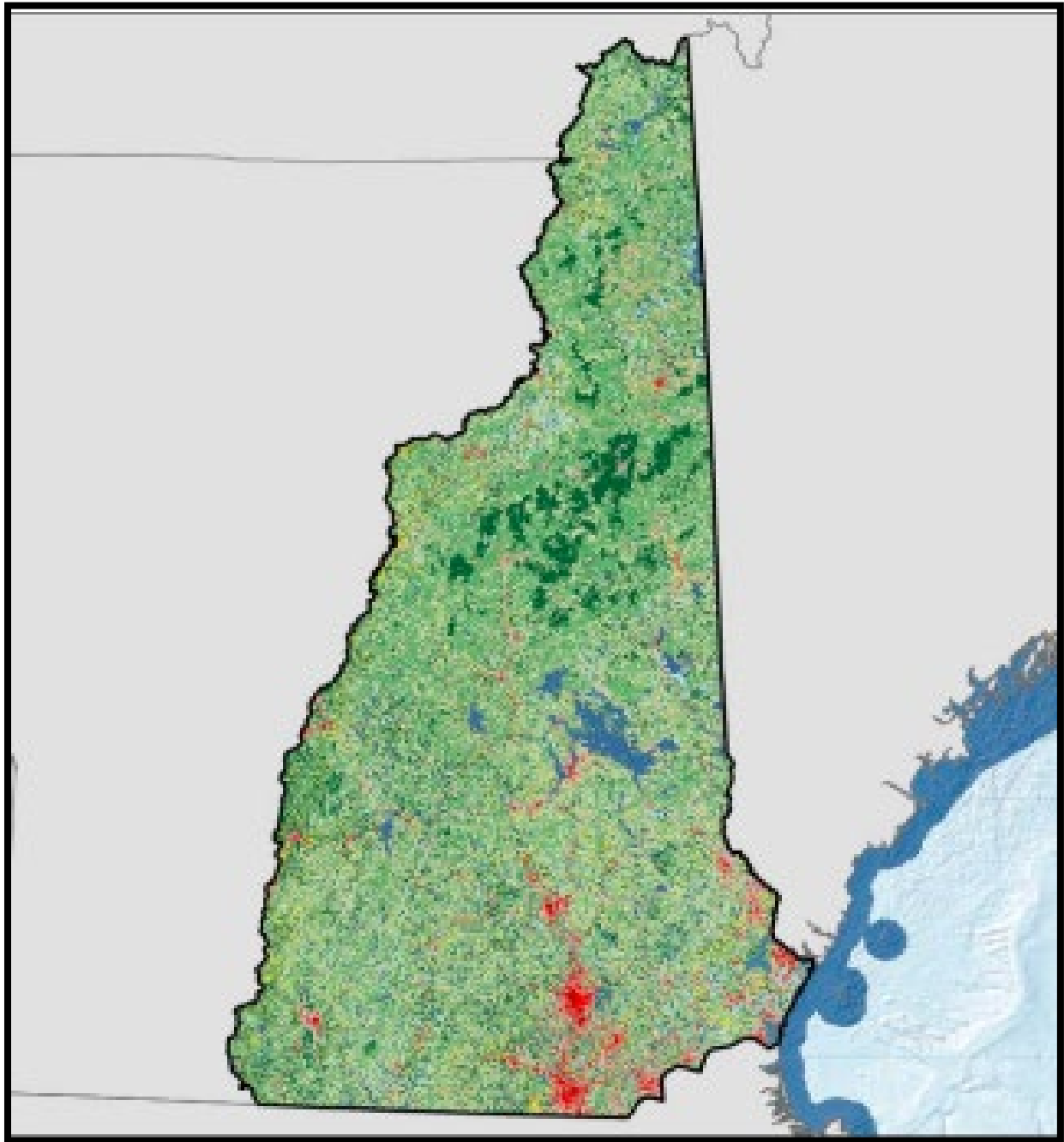
Source: New Hampshire Historical Society





FOREST COVER IN 2016

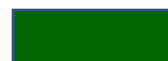
Source: U.S Geological Survey



Deciduous forest



Mixed forest



Evergreen forest



MOOSE

What do they look like?

- Moose are the largest land mammal in New Hampshire. An adult moose can weigh 1,000 pounds and measure 6 feet tall at the shoulders.
- Male moose grow antlers that can weigh up to 40 pounds!
- Their front legs are longer than their hind legs. This allows them to be good at jumping over things in their way.

What do they eat?

Moose eat leaves, twigs, tree bark, shrubs, and water plants. They also like to drink salty water.



Where do they live ?

Moose live all over New Hampshire, but most live in the Great North Woods. They especially like to live near ponds and marshes.

They also live in states that border Canada, as well as parts of Canada.

Fun Facts

- Before European colonization, moose were more common than deer in New Hampshire.
- Moose live between 10 and 12 years, but some are known to have lived up to 20 years!
- Moose have strong senses of smell and hearing but are near-sighted, which means they cannot see things that are far away.





PURPLE FINCH

What do they look like?

- Male purple finches have reddish-colored feathers on the head and shoulders, while females have brown and white feathers.
- The pattern of feathers on female purple finches helps them blend in with tree branches and bushes.

What do they eat?

They eat buds, seeds, insects, and berries. They also like to eat at birdfeeders.



A male purple finch.



Where do they live ?

- Purple finches live in forests all over New Hampshire. They are most common in the northern part of the state and least common along the seacoast.
- They build nests made out of twigs, weeds, tree bark, moss, and animal fur. They balance their nests on the branches of trees.

Fun Fact

The purple finch became the state bird of New Hampshire in 1957.



Female purple finch.

Notice & Wonder

- Have you ever seen a purple finch in the wild?
- Why do you think New Hampshire named it as the state bird?





BALD EAGLE

What do they look like?

- Adult bald eagles have a brown body, with a beak and feet that are yellow. They are not actually bald. The name comes from their white heads.
- Baby eagles are born with all white feathers. Between the ages of 1 and 3, their feathers start to turn brown.



What do they eat?

Bald eagles mainly eat fish but also small birds, small mammals, and turtles.



Where do they live ?

- Bald eagles live all over New Hampshire.
- They like to built their nests in tall trees near bodies of water.



Fun Fact

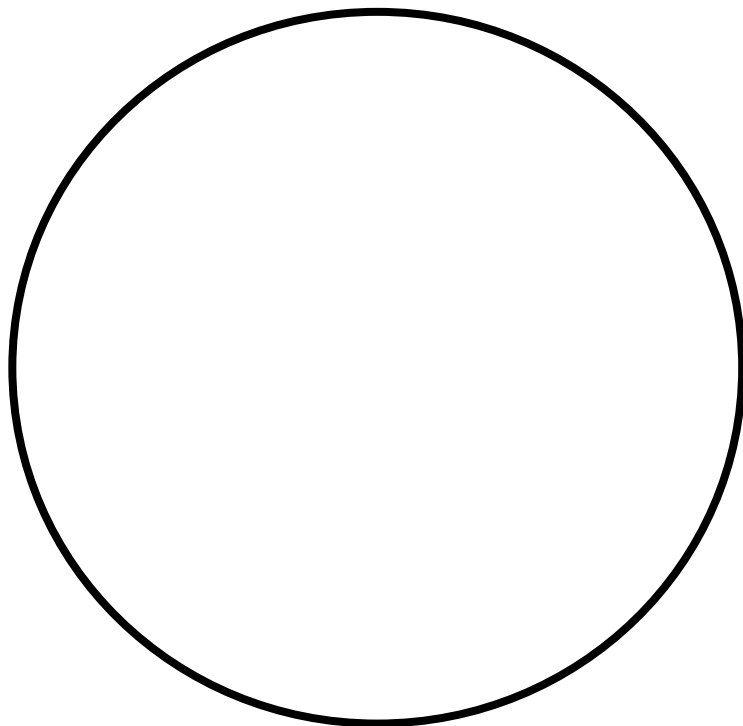
The bald eagle became the official bird of the United States in 1782. The population started to die out in the 20th century but has since recovered. Bald eagles are no longer considered an endangered or threatened species.





forest friends

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More fun facts about me:

What I'm up to right now:

Why I love my forest home:

What I love to eat:
