

# NEW HAMPSHIRE'S BORDERS

New Hampshire shares a border with three other states (Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts) and one foreign country (Canada). People had to make decisions together to figure out where these imaginary lines would be. Sometimes, it was hard to agree!

## CANADA

Before the Revolutionary War, New Hampshire and Canada were both British colonies. After the war, they were two different countries. Figuring out the border between them became more important! Britain and the United States signed an agreement in 1783 choosing a new border. They decided that it would be along the stream that led to the Connecticut River. It took until 1842 to figure out exactly where that stream was!

## VERMONT

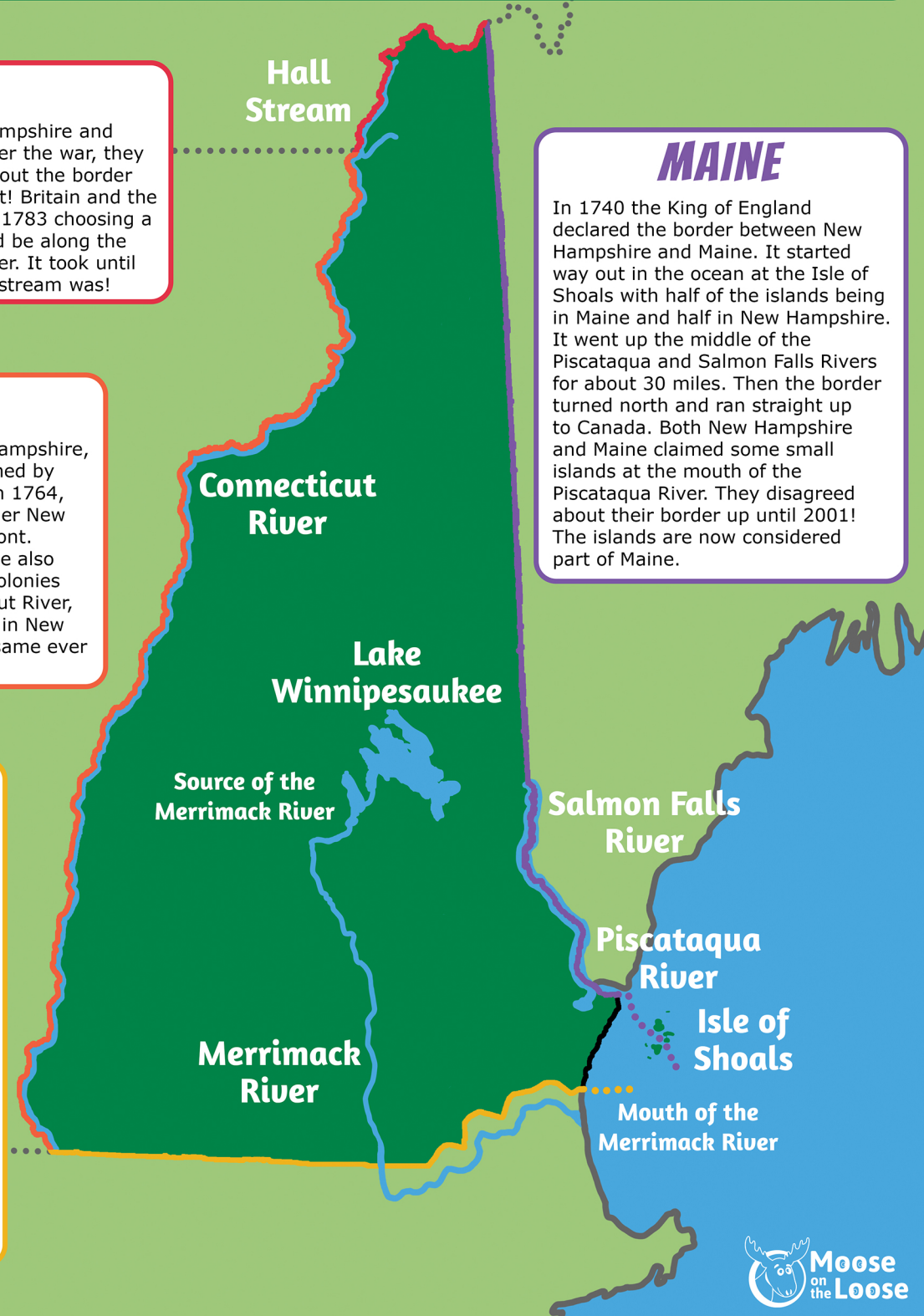
Vermont was settled later than New Hampshire, and for a long time Vermont was claimed by both New Hampshire and New York. In 1764, the King of England decided that neither New York nor New Hampshire owned Vermont. Instead, it should be its own colony. He also decided the border between the two colonies was the western side of the Connecticut River, which meant the river was technically in New Hampshire. The border has been the same ever since.

## MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts and New Hampshire had a big argument about their border! When the two colonies were first founded, the border was set at three miles north of the Merrimack River. The problem was that no one realized that the Merrimack River turned and ran north to south. New Hampshire wanted the distance to be measured from the river's mouth. Massachusetts wanted it to be measured from the river's source. If Massachusetts got the border it wanted, most of New Hampshire would be in Massachusetts! In 1741, the King of England decided that New Hampshire was right, and the border started three miles north of the mouth of the river.

## MAINE

In 1740 the King of England declared the border between New Hampshire and Maine. It started way out in the ocean at the Isle of Shoals with half of the islands being in Maine and half in New Hampshire. It went up the middle of the Piscataqua and Salmon Falls Rivers for about 30 miles. Then the border turned north and ran straight up to Canada. Both New Hampshire and Maine claimed some small islands at the mouth of the Piscataqua River. They disagreed about their border up until 2001! The islands are now considered part of Maine.



1. Who makes decisions about where boundaries should be? Who do boundaries impact?
2. What are some types of boundaries that can be found in New Hampshire?
3. Where do physical features shape New Hampshire's boundaries?
4. Why did people disagree about the location of boundaries?