



Lesson 1.5 “Regions of New Hampshire”

Unit: New Hampshire Geography

Lesson Objectives

- Students will investigate the seven different tourism regions of New Hampshire and identify the special qualities of each region.
- Students will plan a trip through the seven regions of New Hampshire that includes a visit to a man-made attraction and a natural attraction in each region.
- Students will gather information from a variety of print and online resources.

Lesson Competencies

- I can locate, organize, and analyze information from print and nonprint sources to support my development of central ideas and subtopics. (ELA 8)
- I can gather and organize information, and orally deliver short and longer presentations for different purposes and audiences, adding visual/graphic/audio enhancements when appropriate for clarifying the message. (ELA 7)
- I can locate relevant key ideas using text features, including visual and graphic information, to make connections within or across sources and explain how various parts of information contribute to overall meaning. (ELA 3)

Essential Question

How has New Hampshire come to be the way it is?

Focus Questions

What physical and human characteristics define New Hampshire?
How did New Hampshire’s boundaries and regions come to be the way they are today?
How does where you live impact how you live?

Estimated Time

Five 40-minute class sessions

Materials & Equipment

Projector or computer to view “Visit NH” Class Act commercials
Class set of “New Hampshire Regions” map
“Mason Explains: New Hampshire Regions” video for projection
Group set of “Topographical Map of New Hampshire”
Group set of “New Hampshire Major Lakes and Rivers”
Seven pieces of chart paper and markers for writing
New Hampshire travel brochures for a variety of attractions
Access to information to research attractions throughout the state
or group set of “New Hampshire Major Roadways” map
Group set of “What Will You see?” worksheet
Class set of “A Trip Through New Hampshire’s Regions” worksheet
Optional: Group set of New Hampshire highway maps found at New Hampshire rest stops



Educator Introduction & Rationale

From its Atlantic coastline, through its dense forests and meandering rivers, across its lakes, and over the peaks of its alpine mountains to its international border with Canada, New Hampshire's geography is like no other state. Exploring the regions of New Hampshire is important so students understand how physical and human characteristics of each region differ and help define New Hampshire. Please reference the Educator Overview for more information.

This lesson is the fifth lesson of Unit 1: New Hampshire Geography and focuses on the seven regions of New Hampshire and what makes each of those regions unique. In activation, students watch commercials created by fourth graders for a contest previously run by visitNH.gov, noting the attractions and activities featured in the commercials. Students then explore many different man-made and natural attractions in New Hampshire and sort them by region. After small group and whole class discussions, students work in teams to plan and present a trip through all seven regions, completing the lesson by reflecting on which region of New Hampshire is their favorite.

The seven regions are identified in different resources as: Great North Woods, White Mountains, Dartmouth-Lake Sunapee, Lakes, Monadnock, Merrimack Valley, and Seacoast. The Dartmouth-Lake Sunapee region is also known as the Connecticut River Valley. These seven regions are referred to as "geographical regions" and sometimes, "tourism regions." Please note, the three land types (Coastal Lowlands, Eastern New England Uplands, and White Mountains) found in New Hampshire are explored in Lesson 1.3 "New Hampshire's Land."

Teaching Tips: If New Hampshire road maps are not available, any map of New Hampshire can be used. Plan ahead to gather as many New Hampshire travel brochures as possible. These can be used year-to-year; asking families in your class to get them throughout the year is helpful.

A reinforcement is provided for students who need more work understanding how the geography of New Hampshire plays a role in defining the regions of New Hampshire. Extension activities are provided for students ready to include another curricular area into their final product, or for students to explore the concept of New Hampshire regions in a STEM fashion or through another medium. Please note, lesson vocabulary and definitions are at the end of this document. You may wish to preview these with your students. Please adapt the materials presented in this lesson to accommodate the specific needs of your students.

Learning Activity

Activation

Visit NH Class Act Video Contest. Share several student-created commercials advertising New Hampshire available on YouTube (see Supporting Materials). These were created over the last few years for a “Visit NH” contest that is no longer happening. Have students discuss what they notice about the commercials, such as common threads about activities or places.

Direct Instruction

Defining the seven regions. Divide the class into seven groups, assigning each group a different New Hampshire region. Tell students that each group needs to figure out the reason behind the name of their region. Distribute the “New Hampshire Regions” map to each student and provide each group with a “Topographical Map of New Hampshire” and a “New Hampshire Major Lakes and Rivers” map. Give students a few minutes to discuss their region’s name and invite them to move onto figuring out other regions’ names if they have time.

Have groups share out one at a time. When sharing out, be sure to guide students to the location of each region and the major physical features of each region. Use the video “Mason Explains: New Hampshire Regions” as part of the class discussion. Find the video in the Media Library by selecting “Explainer Videos” resource type and this unit.

Teaching Tip: This is a good spot to pause if you will divide the lesson between several teaching periods.

Guided Practice & Discussion

Investigating the seven regions. To set up the classroom, display as many New Hampshire travel brochures as you are able to gather, as well as books about New Hampshire (see “Supporting Materials”). If you have computer access in the classroom, students could also use the website visitnh.gov (note the Regions tab in the upper right). Visitnh.gov also provides a digital or print Visitor’s Guide for free, listing tourist attractions by region.

Arrange seven pieces of large chart paper throughout the room, each one labeled with a different New Hampshire region. Students should work in pairs or small groups to add places to visit in each region to each piece of chart paper and use their “New Hampshire Regions” maps to determine where the attractions are. Invite them to write places on the chart paper, collecting their ideas by listing the name of the place and what one can do there. Continue until there are at least five attractions listed in each region.

Discussion. After a given amount of time, stop and review each region. Discuss:

- What makes an attraction man-made versus natural?
- What do you notice about the relationship between an attraction and where it is located?
- Are similar attractions in more than one region? Why?
- Which types of attractions are grouped together in each region? Why do you think that is?



Teaching Tip: This is a good spot to pause if you will divide the lesson between several teaching periods.

Independent Practice

Traveling the state. Divide students into pairs or small groups to plan a vacation trip through the seven New Hampshire regions using the information on the charts. Each group needs to visit all seven regions, going to at least one man-made attraction and one natural attraction in each region. Encourage students to plan a logical progression of visits so their trip will be efficient. Ensure students have continued access to the charts.

Distribute one "What Will You See?" worksheet per group and a class set of "A Trip Through New Hampshire's Regions" worksheet. Review with the class. Using the provided "New Hampshire Major Roadways" map or a large road map available at rest stops, students highlight and trace the route they will take. Each group marks their stops on the map and fills out the information on the "What Will You See?" worksheet to be ready to present.

Teaching Tip: This is a good spot to pause if you will divide the lesson between several teaching periods.

Formative Assessment & Reflection

Vacations in New Hampshire. Each group presents their planned vacations to their classmates. The presentations conclude with an explanation of the group's favorite region of New Hampshire.

Favorite region? At the end of the presentations, students should complete a reflection: After viewing all the presentations, is the region you originally chose as your favorite still your first choice? Why or why not?



Reinforcement

1. **New Hampshire giant map.** Borrow the Giant New Hampshire floor map so kids can explore different regions of New Hampshire from the New Hampshire Historical Society. By having students physically walk on the 16' x 24' map, they can see different physical features and where towns are located. Travel brochures could be sorted right onto the giant map. Email: info@nhhistory.org

Extension

1. **Budget.** After planning the basic trip in the lesson, students can add a projected cost for their trip by researching admission prices, places to stay, gas costs, and food costs.
2. **Visit NH Class Act commercial.** Students can plan and perform a commercial for an assigned New Hampshire region in the style of the Visit NH Class Act Video Contest, advertising why tourists should visit.
3. **Home attraction.** Have students design their own attraction for your region that fits the unique features of your home region. What is there about your region that should be celebrated or explored? Students can present their ideas in a drawing or words to the class.

Supporting Materials

Other Resources

- *New Hampshire Regions.* NH GRANIT Database, Complex Systems Research Center, University of New Hampshire, and New Hampshire Historical Society. Regional data added by New Hampshire Historical Society staff.
- *New Hampshire Topographical Map.* NH GRANIT Database, Complex Systems Research Center, University of New Hampshire, and New Hampshire Historical Society. Topographic data added by New Hampshire Historical Society staff.
- *New Hampshire Major Lakes and Rivers.* NH GRANIT Database, Complex Systems Research Center, University of New Hampshire, and New Hampshire Historical Society.
- *New Hampshire Major Highways.* NH GRANIT Database, Complex Systems Research Center, University of New Hampshire, and New Hampshire Historical Society.

Online resources:

- "Visit NH" Class Act video commercials created by New Hampshire Fourth Graders: search "NH Class Act Video" on YouTube.
- "New Hampshire Live Free." *Visit NH.* (2019) www.visitnh.gov/
- "New Hampshire Historical Highway Markers." *New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources.* www.nh.gov/nhdhr/markers/

Standards

“Moose on the Loose” Content:

- ✓ Students will understand that New Hampshire has a diverse geography, with mountains, seacoast, and farming land. They will understand it has been inhabited for thousands of years and has a variety of resources. (3-5T1.1)

“Moose on the Loose” Skills:

- ✓ Gathering, Interpreting, and Using Evidence (3-5.S1.1)
- ✓ Communicating and Critiquing Conclusions (3-5.S2.1)
- ✓ Comprehensive Geographic Reasoning (3-5.S4.1)

New Hampshire Social Studies Frameworks:

- ✓ Geography: The World in Spatial Terms (SS:GE:4:1.2, SS:GE:4:1.3)
- ✓ Geography: Places and Regions (SS:GE:4:2.1, SS:GE:4:2.3)

NCSS Themes:

- ✓ Theme 3: People, Places, and Environments

C3 Frameworks:

- ✓ Geographic Representations: Spatial Views of the World (D2.Geo.2.3-5)
- ✓ Gathering and Evaluating Sources (D3.1.3-5)

Common Core ELA:

- ✓ Key Ideas and Details in Informational Text (RI.4.3)
- ✓ Integration of Knowledge and Ideas in Informational Text (RI.4.7)
- ✓ Research to Build and Present Knowledge (W.4.7, W.4.8)
- ✓ Comprehension and Collaboration in Speaking and Listening (SL.4.1c)
- ✓ Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas (SL.4.4)

Lesson Vocabulary

region (noun) A section of a state or country that has specific characteristics but does not have an official boundary