



WHAT IS A COMPELLING QUESTION?

To compel: to make someone do something

So, a ***COMPELLING QUESTION*** is a question so interesting and engaging
that it makes you try to answer it!

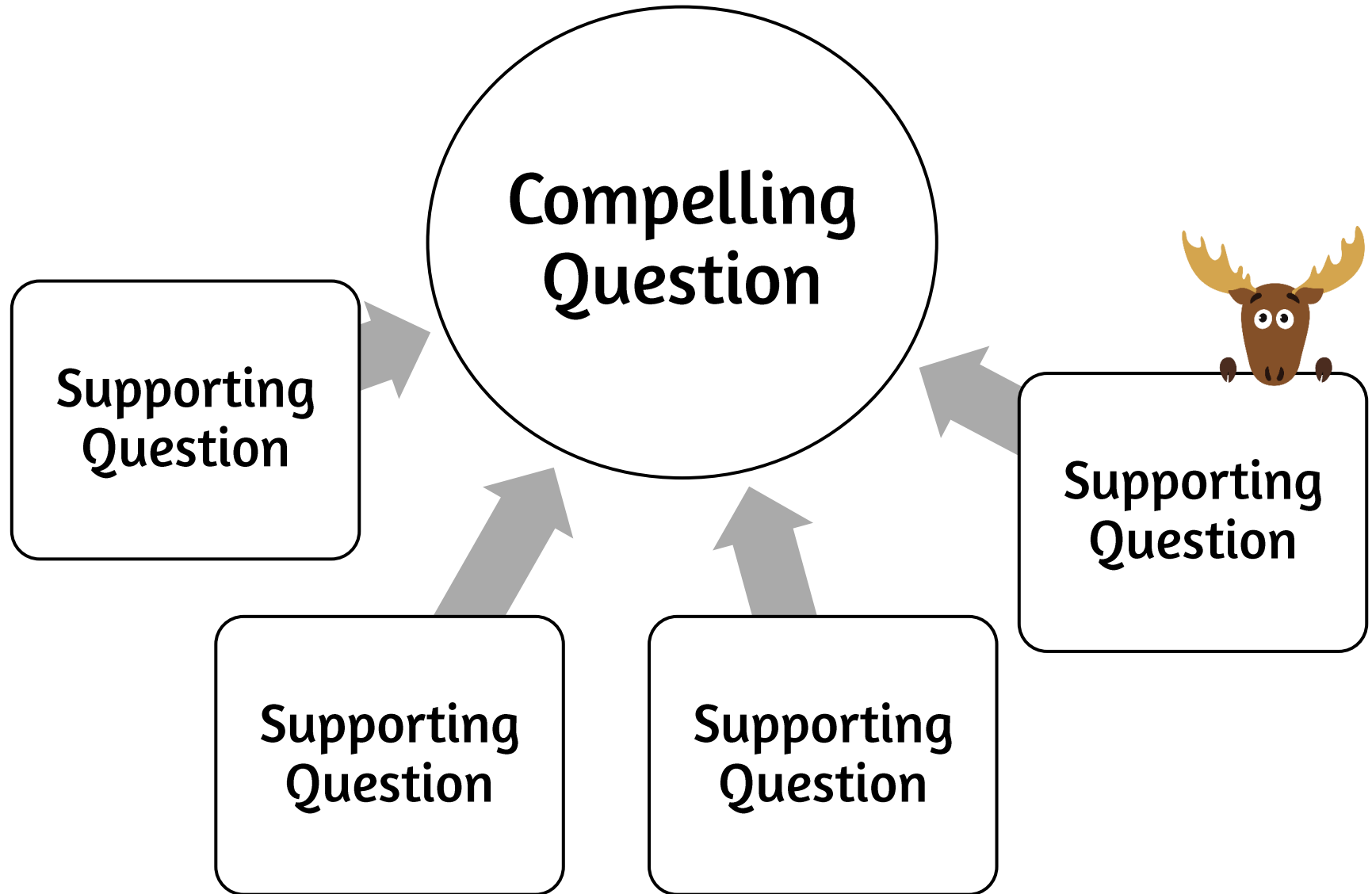
A compelling question:

Makes you think
Can explore a mystery or be puzzling
Has vocabulary you understand
Needs more than a “yes” or “no” answer
Grabs your attention

Needs you to **think** instead of just find facts
Has no “right answer”
Makes you curious to find out more
Leads you to research the topic
Can be about controversial issues



Lesson 17.2: Mason's Five Ideas in New Hampshire Today





FIVE IDEAS EVERY NH KID SHOULD KNOW

1

Granite Staters cherish traditions but embrace change.

The idea that New Hampshire has always been as it is now is a myth. It wasn't until the 1940s and 1950s that Americans began to idealize New England as a land of church steeples and town commons whose people were resistant to new ideas and rejected change. Throughout its history New England has led the nation in embracing reform movements, new industries, and forward-thinking policies. Traditions are important, and they often convey cherished ideas or ways of doing things that we are right to honor, but Granite Staters have never been slow to adapt to the world around them or to push the world in a new direction when there is cause to do so.

2

New Hampshire is a land of immigrants.

The first immigrants arrived in New Hampshire at least 12,000 years ago. Each generation of immigrants that came after them has had to overcome the challenges of adapting to a new culture and face hostility and resistance from those who were here before them. Ultimately immigrants have contributed to New Hampshire's rich, multi-ethnic society. Each era of New Hampshire's history has seen clashes among those claiming New Hampshire for their own and those coming to New Hampshire seeking a better life, whether it was Scots-Irish, French-Canadians, or Latin Americans. All have challenged Granite Staters' traditional views of who belongs here and who can call New Hampshire home.

3

Granite Staters have a symbiotic relationship with the land.

The people of New Hampshire have valued the natural landscape and chosen to protect and preserve it. New Hampshire had early experience with the dangers of overusing natural resources, as the colony was heavily dependent on fish, fur, and timber in its early decades. As the years passed, the state relied on water power to fuel the hundreds of mills that shaped its economy while the glories of the natural landscape sustained a thriving tourist industry—one of the first in the nation. By the turn of the 20th century, the people of New Hampshire had become pioneers in the conservation movement to protect the environment in which they had made their homes.

4

The people of New Hampshire are independent.

This independent spirit can be seen most clearly in our system of governance, from town hall meetings to the citizen legislature to presidential politics. Sometimes viewed as Yankee stubbornness, this New Hampshire trait has bred a belief among Granite Staters that they are beholden to no one but their own consciences. It is a cultural inheritance that delights in surprising presidential frontrunners and the media every four years. But this Yankee stubbornness has also produced a reverence for participatory government that seems less robust in other parts of the country.

5

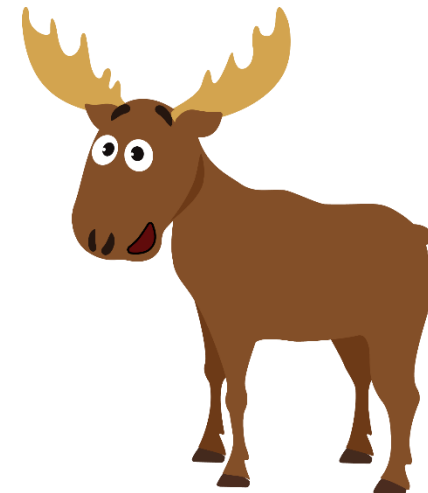
New Hampshire has had an outsized impact on American history.

Whether pioneering new industries, sparking new trends and cultural movements, or influencing who will become president of the United States, a lot has happened here—more than most people might think—and the Granite State has both led the country and mirrored its history. Learning about New Hampshire provides students with a foundation upon which they will understand American history when they become middle and high school students.



Mason's Five Ideas

1. Granite Staters value traditions but welcome change.
2. New Hampshire is a land of immigrants.
3. Granite Staters have an interdependent relationship with the land.
4. The people of New Hampshire are independent.
5. New Hampshire has had a big impact on American history.





Mason's Ideas About New Hampshire: #1

1. Granite Staters value traditions but welcome change.

Many people in New Hampshire think it's very important to keep our traditions. After all, our state's traditional way of doing things is the way we've done things for years. Our traditions help us remember who we are as a people and why New Hampshire is a special place. But New Hampshire wasn't always like it is now. It has changed a lot over the years, and the people who live here have always been quick to find new, better ways to do things. In fact, a lot of new ideas were tried out first here in New Hampshire, and Granite Staters are good at adapting to new circumstances. Traditions help us remember our heritage, Granite Staters have never been slow to change when they needed to.

What are your ideas for possible compelling questions about this topic?

Remember that compelling questions:

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Brainstorm five possible questions on this topic below.



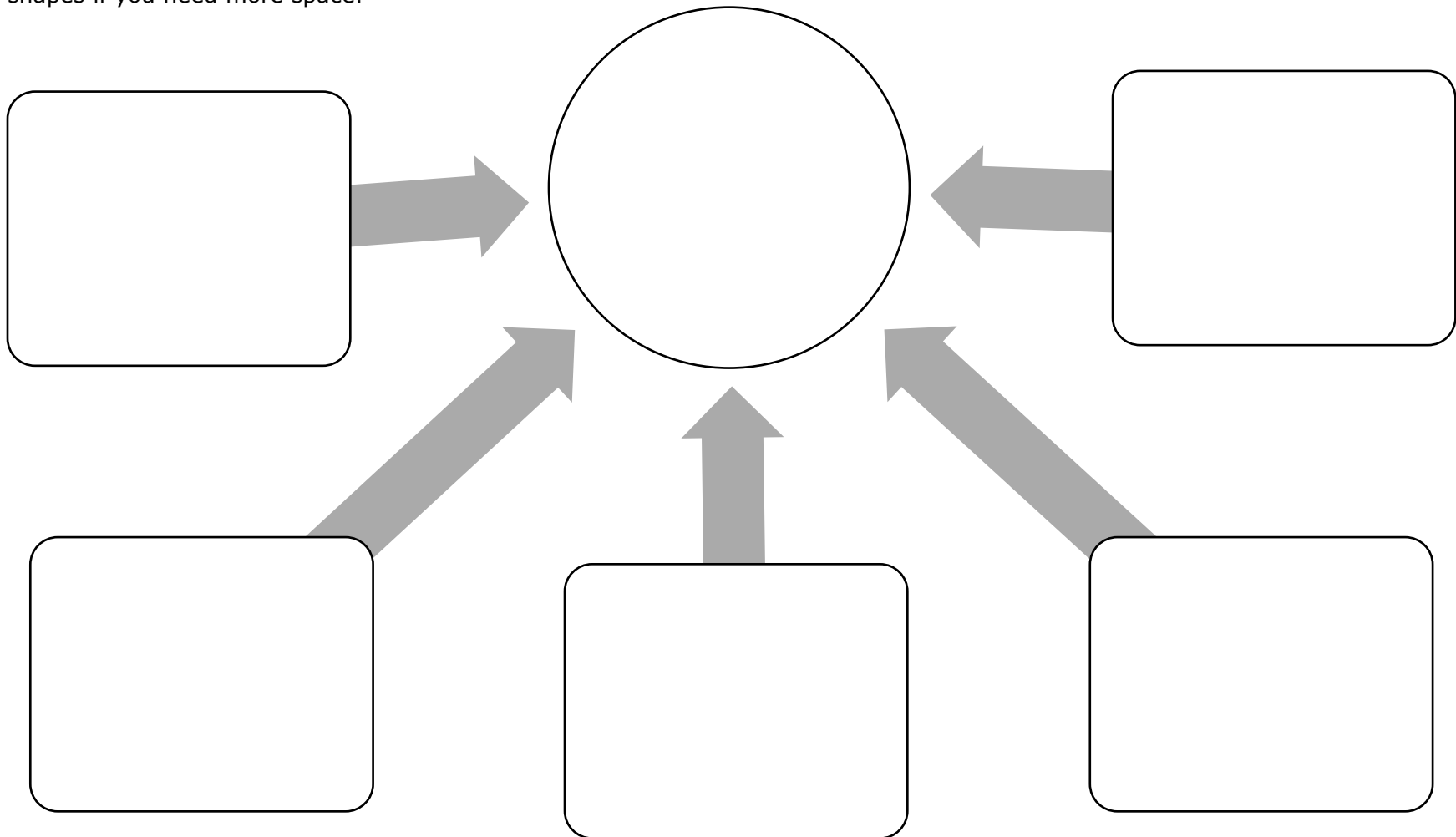


Lesson 17.2: Mason's Five Ideas in New Hampshire Today

Supporting questions.

Once you have your compelling question, it's time to write supporting questions to help you organize your study. What do you need to know about this topic in order to answer the compelling question?

Write your compelling question in the circle, then brainstorm at least five supporting questions in the rectangles. Add more shapes if you need more space!





Mason's Ideas About New Hampshire: #2

2. New Hampshire is a land of immigrants.

The first immigrants were the Abenaki, and they arrived in New Hampshire at least 12,000 years ago. Each generation of immigrants that came to New Hampshire after them has had to adapt to a new culture. Sometimes, the people already living in New Hampshire didn't want new people coming here, and immigrants were not welcomed. In the end immigrants have added to New Hampshire's rich, multi-ethnic society. Each era of New Hampshire's history has seen clashes among those who say New Hampshire is their own and those coming to New Hampshire seeking a better life, whether it was Scots-Irish, French-Canadians, or Latin Americans. All have tested Granite Staters' traditional views of who belongs here and who can call New Hampshire home.

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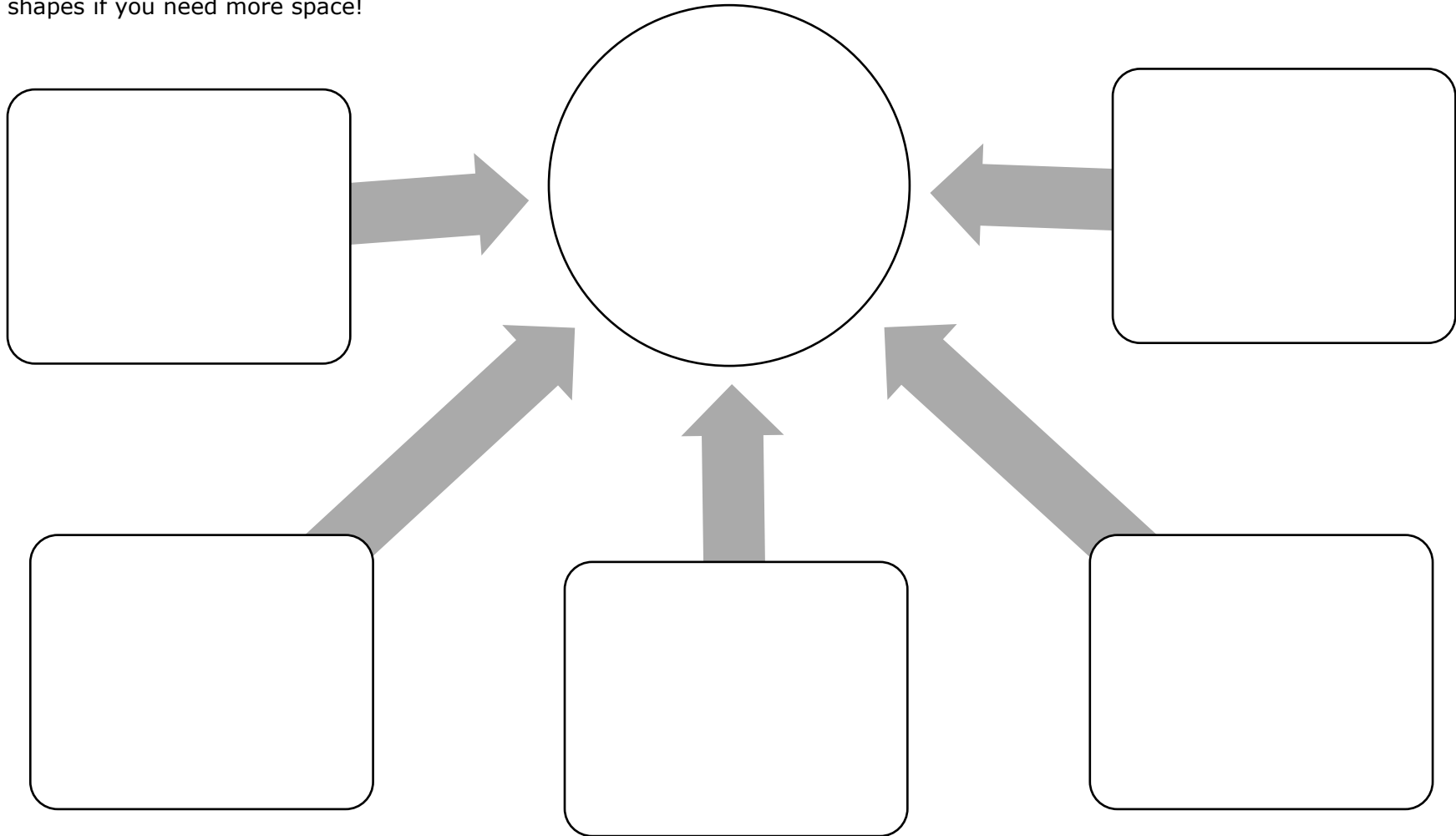


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Mason's Ideas About New Hampshire: #3

3. Granite Staters have an interdependent relationship with the land.

The people of New Hampshire value the natural landscape and chosen to protect and preserve it. Centuries ago, New Hampshire overused many of its natural resources, like fish, fur, and timber. The state needed water power to fuel the hundreds of mills that shaped its economy while the beautiful natural landscape supported the tourist industry—one of the first in the nation. By 1900, the people of New Hampshire had become leaders in the conservation movement to protect the environment in which they had made their homes.

What are your ideas for possible compelling questions about this topic?

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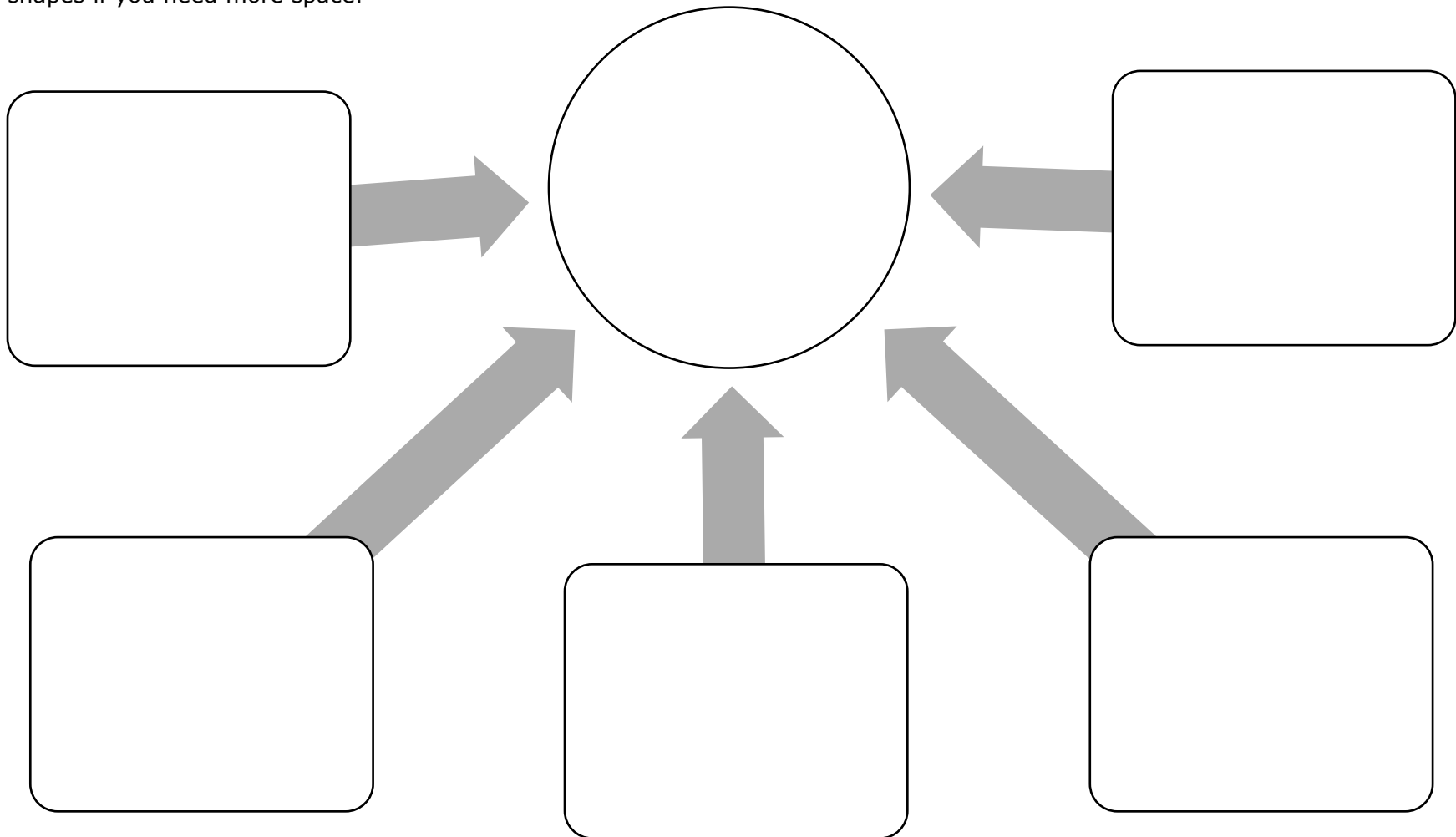


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Mason's Ideas About New Hampshire: #4

4. The people of New Hampshire are independent.

Granite Staters like to make their own decisions. This independent spirit can be seen in the way we govern ourselves. Locally, people make decisions for their community in town meetings. At the state level, the N.H. legislature is run by the people, which is why it is called the citizen legislature. In national politics, the people of New Hampshire vote first in the election to decide who will be nominated for president, and we don't always choose the person that everyone else in the country thinks we will choose. Some people call this spirit of independence Yankee stubbornness. It has become a New Hampshire trait that Granite Staters should do what they think is right, even if everyone else thinks differently. This spirit of independence also means that the people of New Hampshire want to govern themselves.

What are your ideas for possible compelling questions about this topic?

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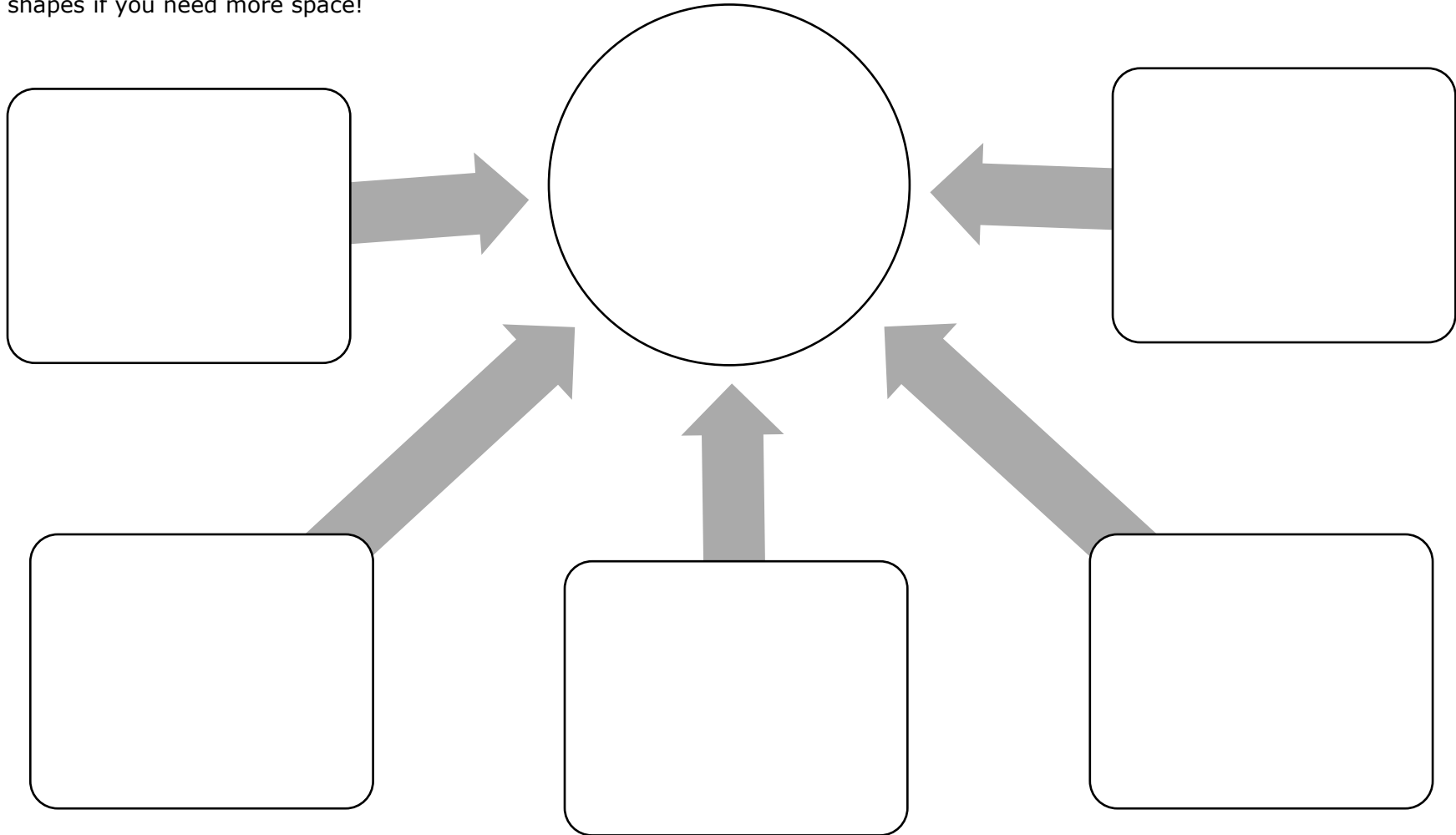


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Mason's Ideas About New Hampshire: #5

5. New Hampshire has had a big impact on American history.

New Hampshire may be a small state, but a lot of important things have happened here. Sometimes, what happens in New Hampshire changes what happens elsewhere in the nation. At other times, New Hampshire history provides a good example of what is happening in the rest of the country. By studying New Hampshire and its past, students are learning about American history.

What are your ideas for possible compelling questions about this topic?

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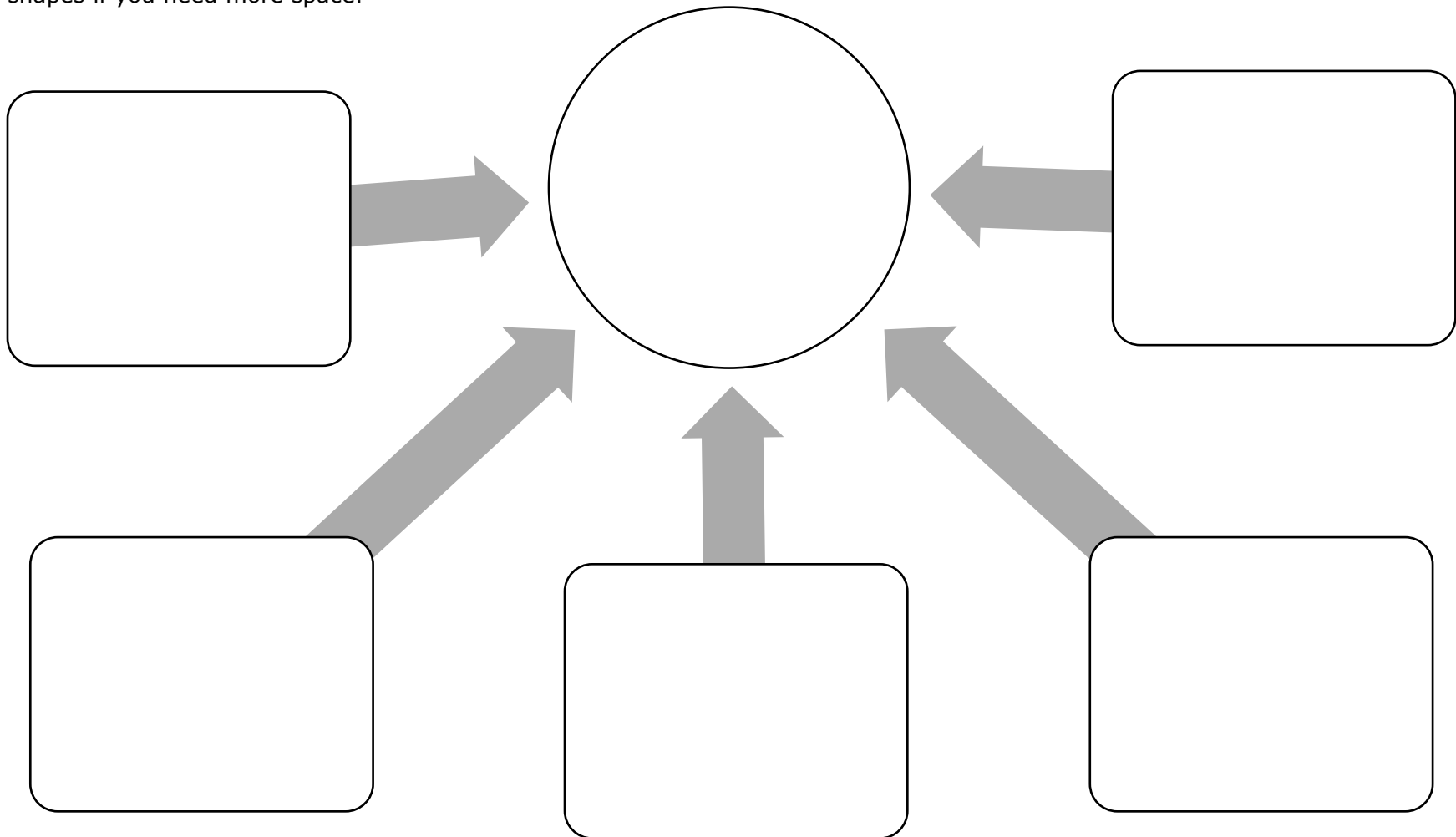


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Lesson 17.2: Mason's Five Ideas in New Hampshire Today

Name _____

Note Page for Mason's Five Ideas Project

What is your compelling question?	
Supporting question	Notes to help answer it



Lesson 17.2: Mason's Five Ideas in New Hampshire Today

Name _____

Mason's Five Ideas Project Planning Sheet

In your project, do you have . . .

A compelling question?

Show your compelling question clearly and answer it in 2–3 sentences.

Supporting questions?

Make your supporting questions clear.

Answer each question based on your research.

Visuals?

Your visual could be: (choose one!)

- a map of New Hampshire showing where your topic is happening
- a slide show or poster with pictures of your topic
- a short video showing pictures or events about your topic
- anything creative that helps explain your topic

The small details?

Be sure to include:

- Title of project
- Name(s) of students
- Sources for information and pictures
- A careful check of spelling and grammar

What is your responsibility in this project? What do you need to do?





FIVE IDEAS EVERY NH KID SHOULD KNOW

1. Granite Staters value traditions but welcome change.

Many people in New Hampshire think it's very important to keep our traditions. After all, our state's traditional way of doing things is the way we've done things for years. Our traditions help us remember who we are as a people and why New Hampshire is a special place. But New Hampshire wasn't always like it is now. It has changed a lot over the years, and the people who live here have always been quick to find new, better ways to do things. In fact, a lot of new ideas were tried out first here in New Hampshire, and Granite Staters are good at adapting to new circumstances. Traditions help us remember our heritage, Granite Staters have never been slow to change when they needed to.

Possible compelling questions

How do Granite Staters value tradition and change?
Which is better for the people of New Hampshire—tradition or change?

Possible supporting questions

Why are traditions important?
Why is adapting to new ideas important?
What are some traditions in New Hampshire?
What are some changes New Hampshire has welcomed?
How have people in New Hampshire made space for both in their lives?

Possible Unit 17 topics

Agricultural changes: fairs and crops, entertainment as well as sustainment
Politics: changes in marriage laws without being forced, welcoming refugees
Tourism: different transportation, different modality, visitors from everywhere

2. New Hampshire is a land of immigrants.

The first immigrants were the Abenaki, and they arrived in New Hampshire at least 12,000 years ago. Each generation of immigrants that came to New Hampshire after them has had to adapt to a new culture. Sometimes, the people already living in New Hampshire didn't want new people coming here, and immigrants were not welcomed. In the end immigrants have added to New Hampshire's rich, multi-ethnic society. Each era of New Hampshire's history has seen clashes among those who say New Hampshire is their own and those coming to New Hampshire seeking a better life, whether it was Scots-Irish, French-Canadians, or Latin Americans. All have tested Granite Staters' traditional views of who belongs here and who can call New Hampshire home.

Possible compelling question

How is immigration today changing New Hampshire?
Has immigration to New Hampshire been good for its people?

Possible supporting questions

Why do people immigrate to New Hampshire?
Who is immigrating to New Hampshire today?
What challenges do immigrants to New Hampshire face?
How does New Hampshire celebrate its diverse cultures?



Lesson 17.2: Mason's Five Ideas in New Hampshire Today

Possible Unit 17 topics

Modern immigration
Multiculturalism

3. Granite Staters have an interdependent relationship with the land.

The people of New Hampshire value the natural landscape and chosen to protect and preserve it. Centuries ago, New Hampshire overused many of its natural resources, like fish, fur, and timber. The state needed water power to fuel the hundreds of mills that shaped its economy while the beautiful natural landscape supported the tourist industry—one of the first in the nation. By 1900, the people of New Hampshire had become leaders in the conservation movement to protect the environment in which they had made their homes.

Possible compelling question

What is the relationship Granite Staters have with the land?
Have Granite Staters protected the land enough?

Possible supporting questions

How do people in New Hampshire use the land today?
How do people in New Hampshire protect the land today?
What problems are there when using the land?
What successes have people in New Hampshire had in the conservation movement?

Possible Unit 17 topics

Agriculture and tourism
Environmental piece

4. The people of New Hampshire are independent.

Granite Staters like to make their own decisions. This independent spirit can be seen in the way we govern ourselves. Locally, people make decisions for their community in town meetings. At the state level, the N.H. legislature is run by the people, which is why it is called the citizen legislature. In national politics, the people of New Hampshire vote first in the election to decide who will be nominated for president, and we don't always choose the person that everyone else in the country thinks we will choose. Some people call this spirit of independence Yankee stubbornness. It has become a New Hampshire trait that Granite Staters should do what they think is right, even if everyone else thinks differently. This spirit of independence also means that the people of New Hampshire want to govern themselves.

Possible compelling question

Are the people of New Hampshire more independent or stubborn?
Is it good the people of New Hampshire are independent?

Possible supporting questions

What traditions and culture have led to New Hampshire's independent spirit?
What shows that the people of New Hampshire are independent today?
How is New Hampshire's town and state government independent?
How does New Hampshire show its independence in presidential politics?



Lesson 17.2: Mason's Five Ideas in New Hampshire Today

Possible Unit 17 topics

Politics: town meetings, citizen legislature, presidential politics
Innovations in technology, leading the way globally in a small state

5. New Hampshire has had a big impact on American history.

New Hampshire may be a small state, but a lot of important things have happened here. Sometimes, what happens in New Hampshire changes what happens elsewhere in the nation. At other times, New Hampshire history provides a good example of what is happening in the rest of the country. By studying New Hampshire and its past, students are learning about American history.

Possible compelling question

Has New Hampshire had an outsized impact on American history?
Why has New Hampshire had an over-large impact on American history?

Possible supporting questions

How does New Hampshire politics lead the way in the nation?
How does New Hampshire lead the way in industry and technology?
Why is it surprising New Hampshire has had an outsized impact on American history?
How does New Hampshire mirror what is happening in the nation today?

Possible Unit 17 topics

First in the nation: politics
Tech sector: moving to mills, innovation