

ABENAKI-INSPIRED NAMES



Many places in New Hampshire today have names that were inspired by Abenaki words. Do you recognize any of these words or the places they refer to? Look at a map of New Hampshire and see if you can locate these places.

Abenaki-Inspired Name	What Does It Mean?	What Has This Name in New Hampshire?
Amoskeag	A place to fish with hook and line	Amoskeag Falls in Manchester
Asquam	Green grass	Squam Lake
Contoocook	By the river where there are nut trees	Contoocook River; Town of Contoocook
Coos	Pine tree	Coos County
Massabesic	Great lake outlet	Massabesic Lake
Monadnock	A mountain standing	Mount Monadnock
Nashua	Halfway	Nashua River; Town of Nashua, which lies halfway between the source and the mouth of the Merrimack River
Ossipee	Pine river	Lake Ossipee
Piscataquog	Great deer place	Piscataquog River

Notice & Wonder

1. What do you notice about the Abenaki-inspired names and what they mean?
2. Based on this list, how do you think the Abenaki usually named places? Why do you think that is?
3. How does your town name places? Think about notable places near you. How are they named?
4. Think about how you could change the names of the notable places near you so that their names describe them. How would you rename them?

