When the English settlers first came to New Hampshire, they had to establish a town charter, which would describe how they planned to organize and govern their town. Some town charters even included rules about what kinds of buildings should be built in the town, like a meeting house, a church, a school, or a cemetery.

Imagine you are an early settler in New Hampshire and you and your friends are going to form a new town. Brainstorm some of the ideas you think should be included in your town charter. What kinds of buildings should be built? How will your government be organized? What natural resources do you want to be close to? Draw more lines if you need.
BRAINSTORM! CREATING A TOWN CHARTER

Now that you have thought about what should be included in your town charter, draw a picture of what your new town would look like.

Where would the meeting house, church, school, and cemeteries be located? Where would you place the saw and grain mills? How many families are living in your town? How big should everyone’s farms be?