



Lesson: A New Hampshire Tall Tale

(To follow Amplify CKLA 2, Knowledge 1: Tall Tales and Fairy Tales, Lesson 6: Pecos Bill)

At a Glance

In this lesson, students reinforce their understanding of the characteristics of tall tales by completing activities related to *A New Hampshire Tall Tale*, a tall tale about life in New Hampshire.

Primary Focus Objectives

- Students will identify the characteristics of a tall tale and review examples of exaggeration in *A New Hampshire Tall Tale*
- Students will distinguish between real and fictional elements in *A New Hampshire Tall Tale*.
- Students will write their own New Hampshire tall tale using what they know about the tall tale genre.

Formative Assessment

- Write It: A New Hampshire Tall Tale

Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.2

Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1

Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.5

Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

Materials

- Focus Text: "A New Hampshire Tall Tale"
- [Moose on the Loose](#) website for research
- Tall Tale Planner
- Write It! A New Hampshire Tall Tale

Time Needed

2 to 3 30-40 minute class sessions

Learning Activity

1. **Discuss tall tales.** Review what students know about tall tales. Make a list of features that tall tales have. *(15 minutes)*
2. **Read the Focus Text.** Read aloud *A New Hampshire Tall Tale*. Discuss what you notice about the text. *(20 minutes)*
3. **Research a topic.** Help students research a New Hampshire feature (e.g., a landform, body of water, weather event, or something unique about the town or city where they live) using Moose on the Loose Learn It! sections and complete the planning sheet. *(30 minutes)*
4. **Write a tall tale.** Support students as they use their planning sheet to write a short tall tale explaining how that feature came to be. *(45 minutes)*

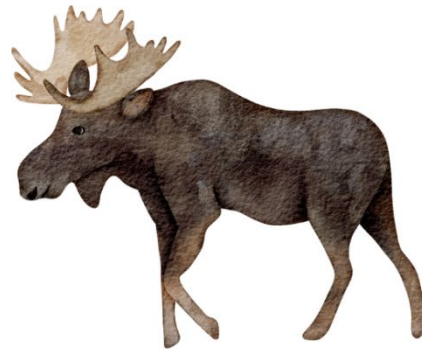


Educator Rationale and Answer Guide

Connection to Amplify	In this lesson, students will use what they know about tall tales and apply it to making their own. By brainstorming ahead of time what makes a tall tale they will be more able to apply this information to their writing.
Review tall tales	Tall tales are a specific kind of literary device. Have students think about the kind of voice that is in tall tales and how tall tales are structured. Ensure that students understand that tall tales explain how something unique came to be by using exaggerated, often humorous events.
Read the Focus Text	Read together <i>A New Hampshire Tall Tale</i> . Discuss what you notice about the piece. How did the author use a tall tale to talk about something unique to New Hampshire? What true New Hampshire elements exist in the text? How is this a tall tale? Ensure that students recognize that while Mount Washington, the wild weather, and moose are all real features of New Hampshire's landscape, the winds are not created by a bellowing moose. That is the exaggerated event used to explain why the winds are so wild.
Research a topic	Before beginning individual research, students may need to brainstorm some features that are unique to New Hampshire or their town. Utilizing the Moose on the Loose website might help them research different things that are special to New Hampshire. For example, they could write about a land feature, weather, or animals and create a tall tale around any of those. The planning template is provided to help students organize their ideas.
Write a tall tale	After students complete their research, help them use their ideas to write a short narrative that explains how their feature came to be. Remind them about the features of tall tales: a narrator who speaks directly to the reader presenting the story as fact, exaggerated events, and a humorous tone. A template is provided for final drafts of tall tales with a place for a title.



A New Hampshire Tall Tale



Have you heard that the top of Mount Washington has some of the world's worst weather? It's true! Wild whipping winds and freezing temperatures have all been measured as record breakers.

But where do these wild winds come from? Well, it's all because of a moose. "A moose?" you ask. Sit back and I will tell you the tale.

One day, long, long ago, a lost moose was wandering around the peak of Mount Washington, all alone. It was starting to get dark, and the moose wanted to get home, back to the forest he knew. The moose decided to call out to the other moose far below. He lifted his head and bellowed and roared as he stood over six thousand feet above New Hampshire. He bellowed and roared so much that the air around him began to whisper, then rustle, and finally whipped around and around the peak of Mount Washington, sending the call of the lost moose to the forest below. Some say that when the weather really gets wild at the top of Mount Washington, it's that moose still searching for the way home.



Tall Tale Planner

Describe your New Hampshire feature

Describe any characters in your story.

Beginning: What was it like before the feature existed?

Middle: What happened to create the feature? Remember to exaggerate!

End: How do people today interact with the feature?



Write it! A New Hampshire Tall Tale

by _____

A large rounded rectangular box containing 18 horizontal lines for writing a tall tale.