



Lesson: Geography and *Ox-Cart Man*

(To follow Amplify CKLA 3, Knowledge 1: Classic Tales, Lesson 3: The Open Road)

At a Glance

In this lesson, students revisit the familiar tale *Ox-Cart Man* and use its details to learn more about New Hampshire geography and create a map of the story's events.

Primary Focus Objectives

- Students will listen to and independently read *Ox-Cart Man* by Donald Hall.
- Students will map and describe the locations in the story.
- Students will sort details from the story into the economic factor categories.

Formative Assessment

- Story Geography activity

Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2

Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

Materials

- Focus Text: *Ox-Cart Man* by Donald Hall, illustrated by Barbara Cooney
- Story Geography worksheet
- NH Map set: [Town Boundaries](#); [Lakes and Rivers](#); [Topography](#)
- Map template, color pencils, markers
- Optional: large piece of cardboard, salt dough, tempera paint, toothpicks

Time Needed

Two 30-40 minute class sessions

Learning Activity

1. **Read the Focus Text.** Read aloud *Ox-Cart Man* and discuss why the farmer must leave his farm and the differences between where he lives and Portsmouth Market. (20 minutes)
2. **Begin the worksheet.** Provide copies of the book to students and give them time to fill in the graphic organizer with geographical evidence. (10 minutes)
3. **Examine the maps and complete the worksheet.** Distribute copies of the map set and give students time to examine the maps and add more information to the Story Geography worksheet. (15 minutes)
4. **Map the story.** Distribute state map templates and instructions. Support students as they map the events of the story and fill in the map with geographical details. (25 minutes)



Educator Rationale and Answer Guide

Connection to Amplify

In this lesson, students extend the knowledge of story features and structure developed in Amplify CKLA 3, Knowledge 1, Lesson 3: The Open Road. In particular, students investigate how geography drives the action of *Ox-Cart Man* while using evidence gathered from the text and from different types of maps to create a detailed map featuring the route they believe the farmer took to and from Portsmouth Market.

Read the Focus Text

Students may be familiar with *Ox-Cart Man*, but it is beneficial to read it aloud before asking them to read independently. Donald Hall expanded a poem by the same name to create this story, and the words are meant to be read aloud. Remind students that this story is based on how many people lived in New Hampshire 200 years ago. After students listen to the story, ask them why they think the farmer needed to leave his farm. What was so special about Portsmouth Market that he needed to go there? Help students understand that while the farmer and his family grew or made so much of what they needed, they also needed items that could not be produced on their farm. The farmer needed to travel to a larger market town where he could trade for or buy items his family needed.

Begin the worksheet

Explain to students that the setting of the different parts of this story makes the plot of the story unique. They will investigate the geographical clues in the story to try to figure out where the farm is located and what route the farmer took to get to and from Portsmouth. If you can, provide copies of the book to pairs or small groups so students can work together to find evidence for the graphic organizer. Discuss findings as a whole group.

This is a good place to pause if dividing the lesson across two sessions.

Analyze the maps

Provide partners or small groups with a map set. Explain that each of these New Hampshire maps shows different kinds of geographical data and preview the maps together. As they examine the maps more closely with their partners or groups, students should add more details to the graphic organizers. Then, students should use the information they gathered to answer the questions at the bottom of the page and use these answers to estimate the location of the farm and the path taken to Portsmouth.

Map the story

Provide students with blank map templates and instruct them to plot the location of the farm, Portsmouth, and the path they believe the farmer took. Then, they should fill in their map with geographical features and, if possible, shading to indicate the change in topography. Remind students to make a key for their map to explain the meaning of special colors and symbols. Consider having students write a paragraph on an index card to summarize the reasoning and evidence they used to make their maps.

Story Geography

Fill in the chart with details about the different settings in *Ox-Cart Man*.

	Setting 1: farm	Setting 2: travel route	Setting 3: Portsmouth
visual details			
geographical features			

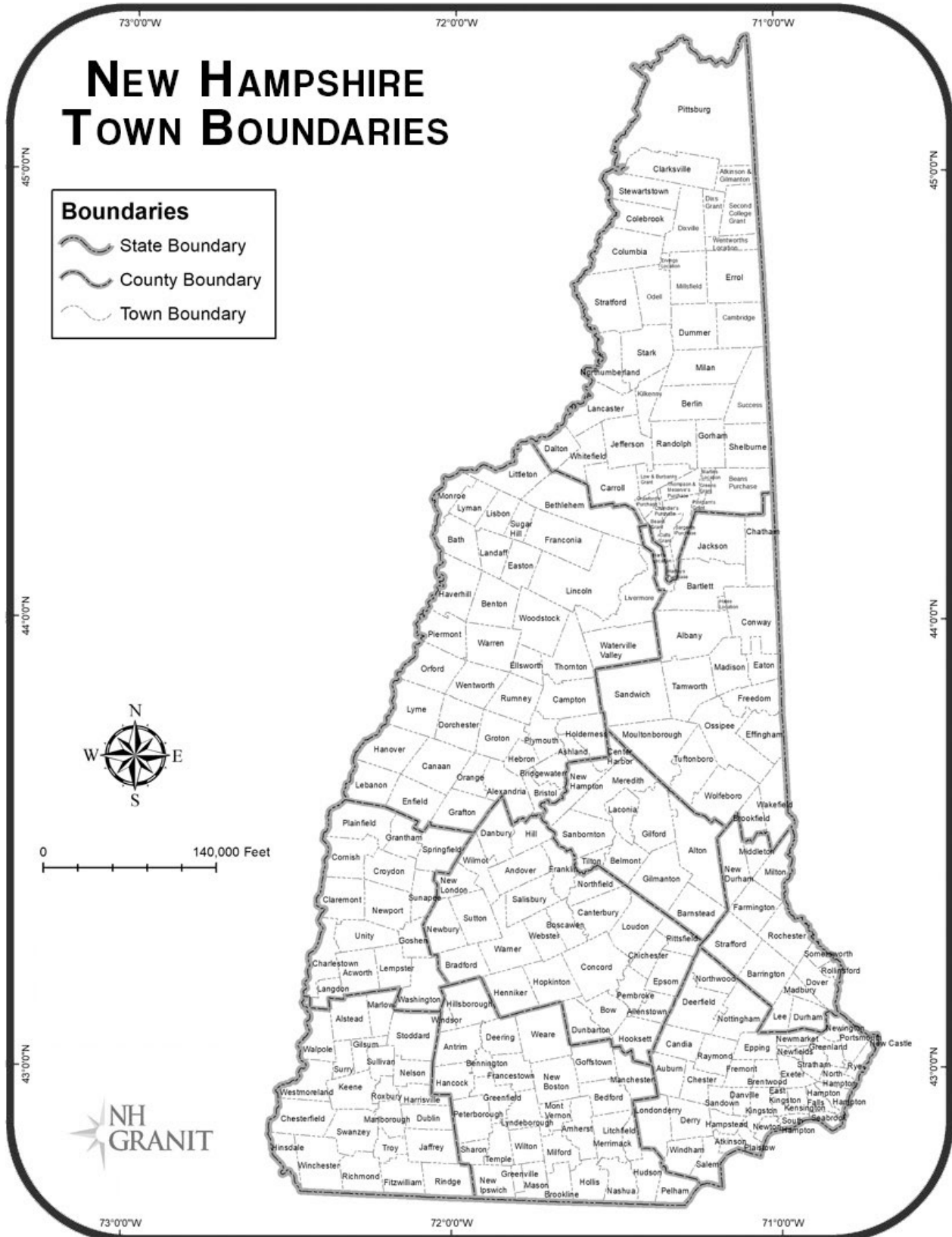
1. If an ox can pull a cart for 7 miles a day, and the farmer and his ox traveled for 10 days, how many miles did they travel to Portsmouth? _____
2. Use the scale on one of the maps to find a location in New Hampshire that many miles from Portsmouth. What are some locations? _____
3. Use the geographical clues you found in the story and the maps to pick the location that you think is most likely the location of the farm. Which did you choose? _____

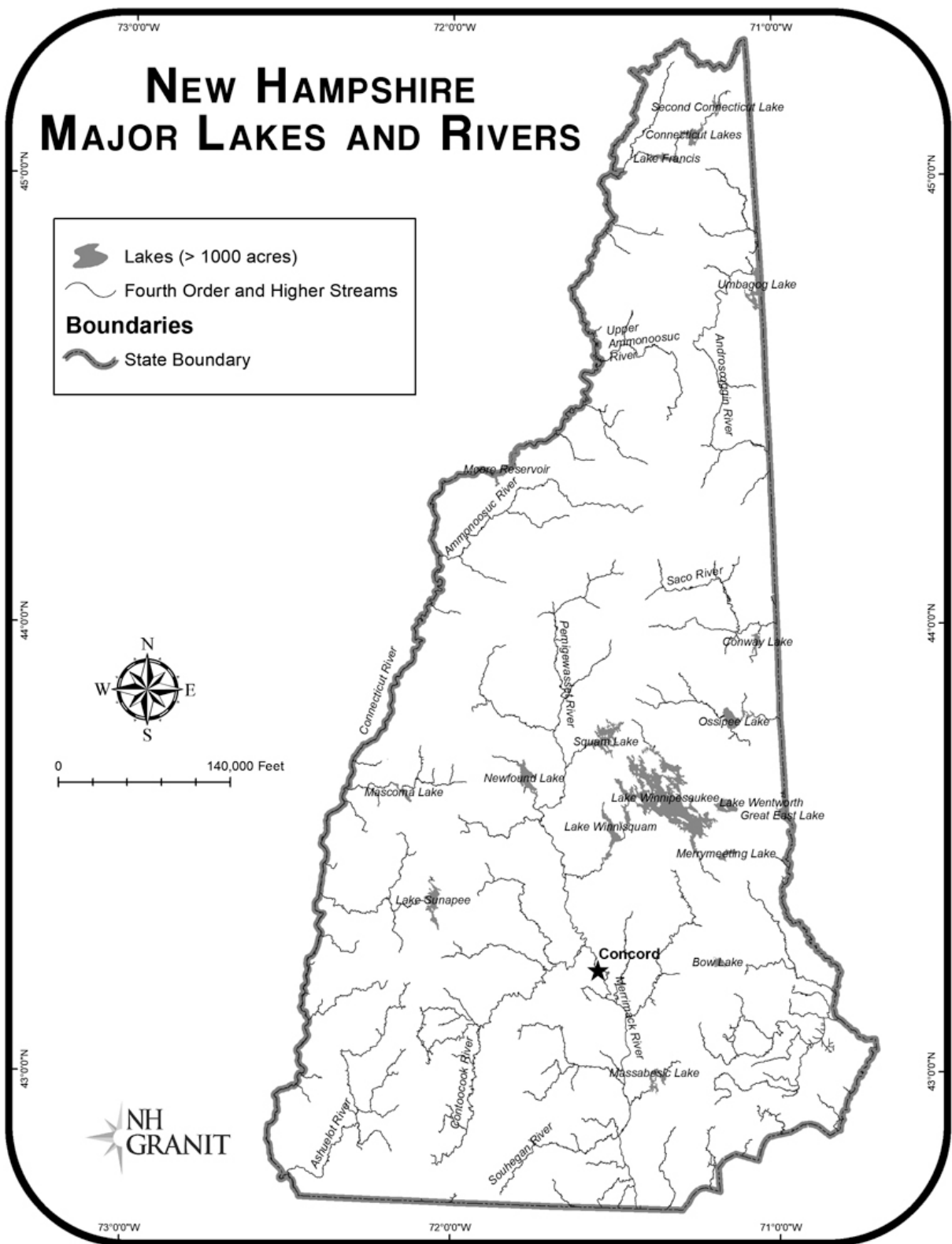
Story Geography: ANSWER KEY

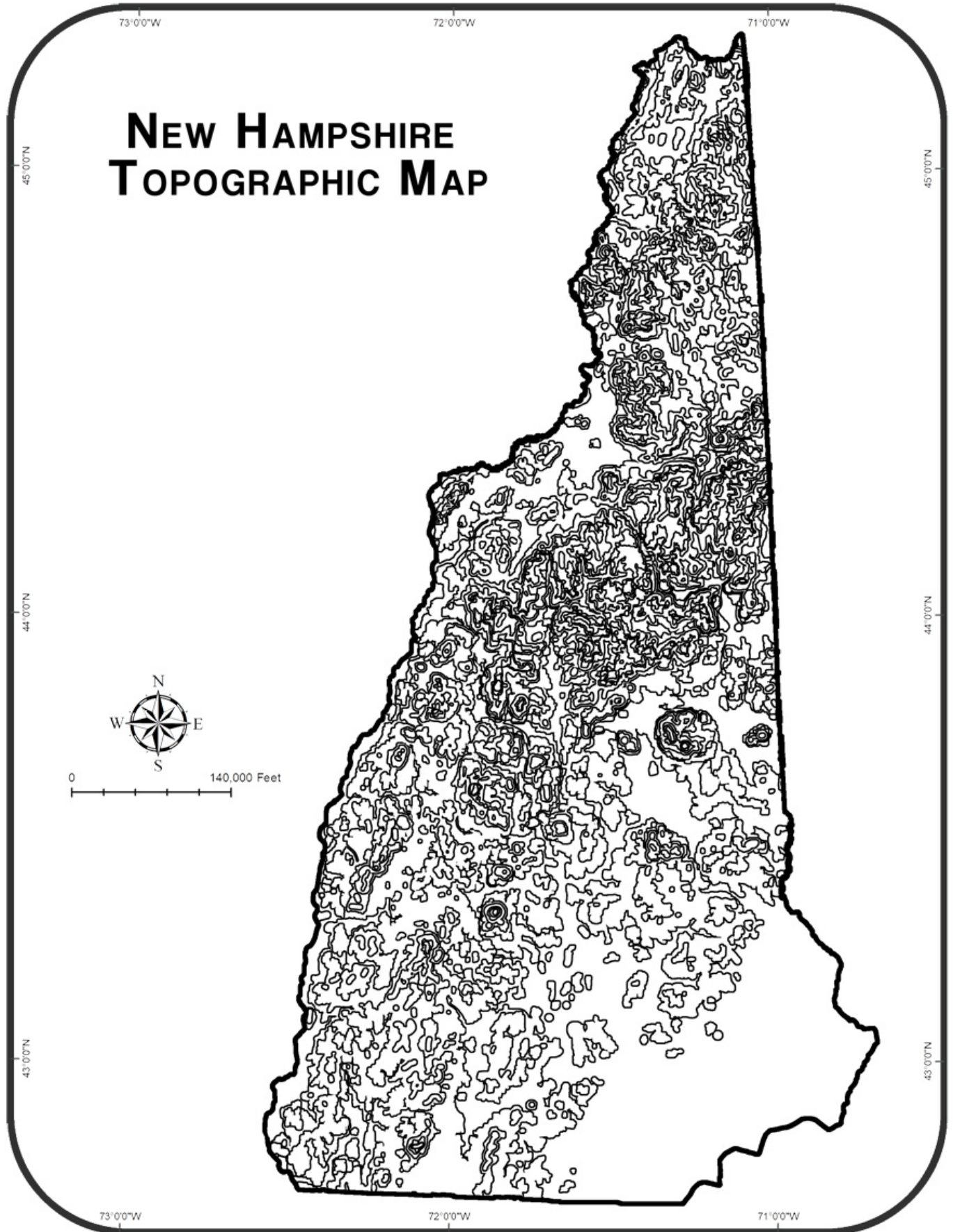
Fill in the chart with details about the different settings in *Ox-Cart Man*.

	Setting 1: farm	Setting 2: travel route	Setting 3: Portsmouth
visual details	wide open space wooden barn wooden house dirt road fence grass and trees stone wall	single narrow dirt road Scattered houses along road trees open fields	lots of people many buildings, close together structure made of brick ships wide streets paved sidewalk
geographical features	hilly terrain, possibly mountains in the distance	valleys hills streams farms villages	flatter land smaller hills outside city harbor

- If an ox can pull a cart for 7 miles a day, and the farmer and his ox traveled for 10 days, how many miles did they travel to Portsmouth? **70 miles**
- Use the scale on one of maps to find a location in New Hampshire about that many miles from Portsmouth. What are some locations? **Answers will vary but examples include Wilmot, Bristol, Meredith, and Peterborough.**
- Use the geographical clues you found in the story and the maps to pick the location that you think is most likely the location of the farm. Which did you choose? **Students should make their decision based on the landscape described. Mountains, lakes, and ocean aren't mentioned, so a location to the west or southwest is most likely.**









Title: _____

Key

