

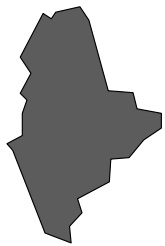


Go Quest!



What's Questing?

Questing is like a treasure hunt and a scavenger hunt in one. To design a Quest, students identify a natural or cultural (or both!) place in their community, pick a theme and set to work creating maps, writing a poem or story with clues to guide Questers through the site, and putting together a treasure box to entice visitors to the end of the Quest. Then, other students and community members grab some maps and head off down the trails of their local Quests.



Quest Maine

The Maine Environmental Educator's Association (MEEA) is just beginning to put Questing on the Maine map, so to speak. This summer, they tested out one of the first Maine Quests at Maine Audubon in Falmouth. The Maine Audubon Quest, called the Gilsland

Farm Heritage Quest, takes Questers on a cultural and natural history tour of the Maine Audubon sanctuary. Maine Audubon is currently in the process of designing more Quests with local schools. Another Quest, the Topsham Recycling Quest (see page 6) was designed by the Kattywampus Trailblazers Cub Scouts and takes Questers on a tour of the Topsham Recycling Center. MEEA hopes that more Quests will begin to pop up around the state as more schools and groups become involved. To get more information on designing Quests, or to add your Quest to the list of Maine Quests call: **Deb Avalone-King at 207-287-2437** or email **deb-orah.j.avalone-king@maine.gov**.

Interview With Peter Zack

Peter is involved with the Healthy Communities Coalition and also happens to be the MEEP director!



GSN: How long have you been involved in Questing?

PZ: I've been involved in creating Quests for about two years, when I set up a Quest at South Hiram Elementary School with Healthy Communities.

GSN: How did you first find out about Questing?

PZ: I read an article by David Sobel in Green Teacher magazine. Sobel works for the Center for Environmental Education in New Hampshire. I loved the notion of educational treasure hunts for kids and adults. The idea of Questing really appealed to me.

GSN: What was your first experience with a Quest?

PZ: Three years ago, my family and I did the Balch Hill Quest in Hanover, NH, which was created by a local girl scout troupe. I found this Quest in the Vital Communities Valley Quest Guide. It was my birthday, and I told my family I wanted to do a Quest! It was about a half hour walk, and the treasure box was hidden in a tree in an old maple grove at the top of the hill. My daughters were skeptical at first, but they ended up having a great time.

GSN: What do you think the value of Questing is?

Why Quest?

PZ: Questing is very interdisciplinary and draws so many things together. It involves people in learning about their community from an environmental, historical, geographical and cultural perspective. I also appreciate the links it makes between generations. It's a wonderful activity for kids to do with their parents. Designing a Quest involves art, mapmaking, science and history, so I think it could be a valuable activity for teachers and students.

Is your school near Topsham? Test out a Quest at the Topsham Recycling Center! See page 5.

Designing a Quest?

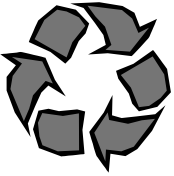
A Few Tips from the Experts:

- Make your Quest in a public place and be sure to get landowner permission!
- Include a map and make sure your clues stay focused on your theme.
- Don't forget the treasure box (which should be waterproof) and include a pen, sign-in book, stamp and stamp pad
- Include some interesting background information
- Test out your Quest with friends before you open it up to the public. Make sure it runs smoothly.
- Be creative!



Get a copy of the Vital Communities Valley Quest book. Email them at vital.communities@valley.net, call them at 802-291-9100 or check out their website (see page 2 Watts on the Web)

To Get To the Topsham Recycling Center:



The Topsham Recycling Quest

Designed by the Kattywumpus Trailblazers Cub Scout Pack 646: Bryan Chonko, Ben Grotton, Rene Heins, Nathan Levesque, Alex Robinson and Lucas Shirland.

Take I-95 to Exit 24 (coming from the North, take the second Exit 24). This takes you to Route 196. Take 196 East straight through 5 sets of lights. At the 6th set of lights, turn LEFT toward Rte. 24 (Middlesex Rd) Turn RIGHT onto Rte 24. Take the next LEFT onto Foreside Rd. Follow Foreside for 2.4 miles. Turn LEFT onto Townsend Way. The Topsham Recycling Center is on this road.

The Quest:

Welcome to Topsham and our recycling Quest, you're sure to learn a lot if you do your best. Drive up the long driveway and turn to the right, the recycling center will come into sight. Park in the lot and get out of your car, walk to the milk jugs, it's not very far.



1. Look in the bin, it's really fantastic
Milk jugs you'll find here are made out of _____
The numbers on the jugs you must review
You'll see they all have a number two!
2. Enter the building, the "returnables" you will pass.
On the right is where they collect _____
Some of the colors are green, brown or clear
If it has a neck, it may be placed here
3. In this Quest you really must toil
To find the spot for _____ foil
If everyone recycled the metal that goes here
America's airplanes could be replaced four times a year!
4. When you receive packages at home
They are often protected by _____ TM
This material forms the cups we hold
That contains our drinks, both hot and cold
5. Corrugated _____ is next on your Quest
When made from recycled paper helps the environment best
Seventeen trees are NOT cut down
For each ton of paper recycled by a town
6. People recycle this plastic in haste
But in Topsham, three through seven are really _____
7. In order to recycle these items with ease
Baling _____ put on the squeeze!
These machines make many a bale
That Topsham Recycling puts up for sale
Now exit the building, go out the side door
Your Quest will continue, you're bound to learn more

Use the stamp in the treasure box to stamp here.



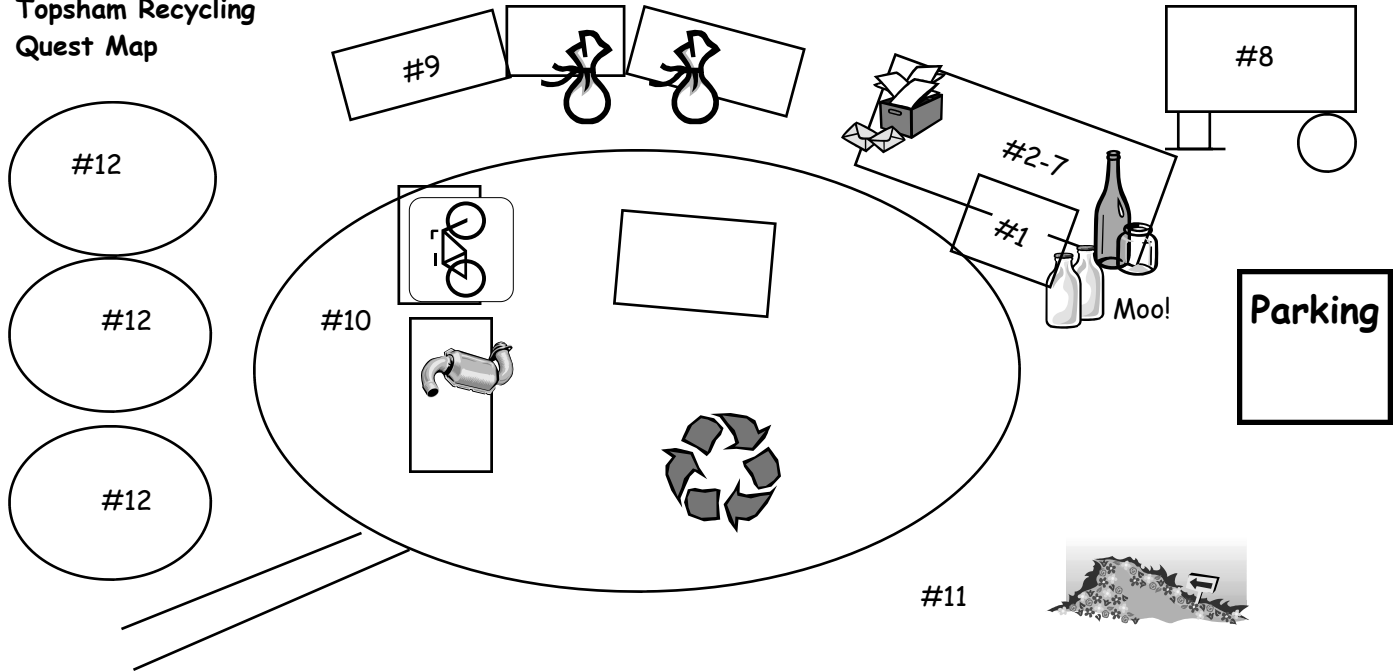
8. Out back in the trailers, the bales you will see
Stored until shipped to their destiny
1,000 pounds weigh paper bales when done
Put two together and you've got a _____!
Plastic bales weigh half as much
You may look, but please don't touch
9. You drop your trash in the _____
Where it gets prepared for incineration
This machine compacts a solid waste hash
Soon to be burned-to make energy from trash!
10. Next on your Quest is the scrap bin
You'll see lots of junk, if you dare to look in
Clothes hangers, old bikes and car parts you'll see
11. Gaze toward the old landfill and see two piles of _____
Be sure to divide "clean" from "demo" as everyone should
Clean wood is ground into chips so small
To spread onto gardens from spring until fall
12. Manure, grass, ferns and leaves
Its temperature may reach 150 degrees
Before it "cooks" in smells really bad
But it will help your garden grow like mad!
If you want this Quest to be worth your while
You have to stop by the _____ pile

Conclusion: Now that your Quest is done and complete, You must finish just one more feat The letters that are circled form a new clue Which will lead to the treasure, yes it is true! But before you go, consider this fact Think about it on your way back Each person in Maine wastes four pounds a day We'll be buried in trash if we go on that way! "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" is the motto you know To protect our environment up high and down low Be sure to take this phrase to heart It is up to YOU to do your part!

See Topsham Recycling Quest Map and Center hours on Page 6

The Topsham Recycling Center hours are Tuesday—Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Sunday & Monday.

**Topsham Recycling
Quest Map**



**The Earth is in Your Hands...Or is it in Your Backpack? Maine Teachers
Discover a New Teaching Tool**



A Climate Change Backpack

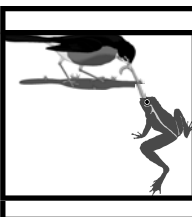
At a standing room only training at the Maine Environmental Educators Conference this past spring, Maine teachers learned about the Climate Change Backpack, a teaching tool that is literally a backpack filled with curriculum ideas, activities, props, experiments and research tools for teaching about global climate change. The teachers learned about the basic science behind this growing problem, watched demonstrations, played games and put on skits using the materials in the backpack.

The Climate Change Backpack was designed by the New England Science Center Collaborative to help educators teach about this challenging topic. The activities in the backpack are designed to be fun and hands-on, and at the same time provide a scientifically accurate learning experience for students.

The Maine DEP has Climate Change Backpacks to loan to teachers at no cost, and supplements the backpacks with extra activities and information about how climate change will effect Maine. To find out more, check out the New England Science Center's Climate Change Backpack pages at: <http://www.nescc.info/programs.php#backpack>. To borrow one of the Maine DEP's Climate Change Backpacks, contact **Deb Avalone-King** at 207-287-2437 or email deborah.j.avalone-king@maine.gov. For more teaching resources on air quality, go to: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/air/outreach.htm>



Maine Conservation Corps Americorps members at the Maine DEP prepare to do a presentation using the Climate Change Backpack.



Sign up early for this year's **Jeepers Peepers Springwatch!** We had such a great response to the climate change theme that we're doing it again this year! Go to: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/doceducation/jeepers/index.htm> to find out more and to check out last year's project!

