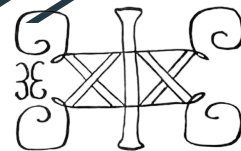


# Wabanaki Studies



Kci Woliwoni to our Wabanaki Advisors: Nolan Altvater, Javier Alicea-Santiago, Esther Anne, Heather Augustine, Carmella Bear, Chris Becker, Keely Becker, Maulian Bryant, Dolores Crofton-Macdonald, Zeke Crofton-Macdonald, Carol Dana, Sikwani Dana, John Dennis, Evelyn Dore, Gen Doughty, Wendy Newell Dyer, Candi Ewer, Alexandra Francis, Cyril Francis, Damon Galipeau, Jennifer Galipeau, Tori Hildreth, Jasmine Lamb, Newell Lewey, Kiwenik (Kyle) Lolar, Kasq (Natalie) Dana Lolar, Donna Loring, John Bear Mitchell, John Neptune, Selena Neptune-Bear, Mali Obomsawin, Keyana Pardia, Gabe Paul, Nicole Paul, Roger Paul, Darren Ranco, Joe Robbins, Minguansis Sapiel, Richard Silliboy, Chris Sockalexis, Jaedan Sockbeson, Donald Soctomah, Lydia Soctomah, Tony Sutton, Jasmine Thompson-Tintor, Dwayne Tomah, and Dena Winslow



<https://www.maine.gov/doe/innovation/wabanakistudies>

# Brianne & Kaya Lolar



Panawahpskek Nation  
Wabanaki Studies Specialist  
(Maine Department of Education)

Panawahpskek Nation  
Policy & Wabanaki Studies Coordinator  
(Maine Environmental Education  
Association)

# Introductions

Name

School

Role

Favorite thing about winter





What connects us?

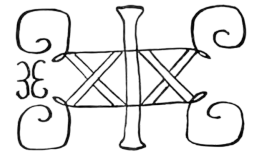
# A Place We All Call Home

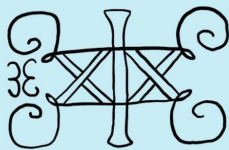


# People of the Dawnland



The Panawahpskek (Penobscot) Nation, Peskotomuhkati (Passamaquoddy) Tribe, Mi'kmaq Nation, (Wolastoqiyik) Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, and Abenaki (collectively known as the Wabanaki Nations) have lived for thousands of years in the land we now call Maine and Canada. They are known collectively as the Wabanaki, "People of the Dawnland."





Mikmaq  
meeg-muck

Wolastogiyik  
Wol-lust-zik-ee-ig

Panawahpskek  
pan-nah-wub-skek

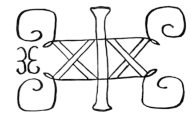
Peskotomukatiyik  
besko-jim-oo-kud-ee-ig








Abenaki  
ah-benak-ee

People of the  
Dawn land  
in what we now think of as  
Maine

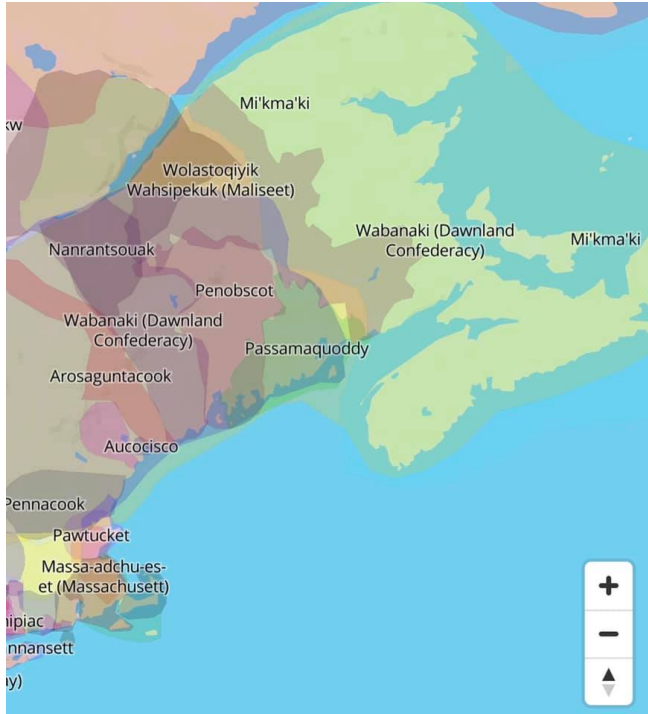
Why do names matter? Why can't we just call Wabanaki Nations by their Colonized Names?





Traditional Name	Pronunciation	Meaning	Westernized Name
Mi'kmaq 	meeg-muck	My kin friends	Micmac
Panawahpskewəyak  Alənapayi-mənəhan 	Buh-na-wuhp-skehweeyug Ahl-nuh-buyee min-n-hun	People of where the rocks widen out "The people's island"	Penobscot Indian Island
Peskotomuhkatiyik 	Beska-d'm-oo-kud-eeyigk	People who hunt pollock	Passamaquoddy
Sipayik 	Z-bye-ig	"At the edge"	Pleasant Point
Motahkomikuk 	moo-dock-me-guhg	"At the sharp, steep land"	Indian Township
Wolastoqiyik 	woh-luhst-tuk-ee-ig	People of the beautiful river	Maliseet
Abənəki Odanak	ah-ben-ahk-ee oh-dun-ahk	People of the East In the village	Abenaki Odanak

# The language that was heard first



## Map Resources

<https://native-land.ca/>

<https://bates.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c6e578016e9541b988a12d4a0a912056>

<https://peopleofthefirstlight.org/maps/map2.html>

The first scientists of the land



# Where do you live?

Take 10 minutes to find where you live. Where is your school? <https://native-land.ca/>

<https://forms.gle/jY5naoRubTjbuX5a8>



# When you know the language, you know the culture

Ikwe or the word for woman is connected to Aki-earth. Both are life givers.

Old Woman, mindimooyehn actually breaks down to “one that holds it all together.”

Old Man - Akiwensii - literally means “earth caretaker”.

Elder - Gichi ayaa’aa - means “great being.”

Child - abinoojii - describes a spirit that was specifically placed here. The values are built into the language.

George Lyndon (Anishinaabe)



# Elders and Youth

<https://youtu.be/0nu0v8oyLqA?si=ufnDzdylS1741UH>



# ELDER TREES AND PLANTS

---

- The bigger, older trees and plants
- Ability to lift water upwards hundreds of feet
- Creates a microclimate under the canopy
- Only takes what it needs and helps the other trees and plants in the community



# Slowing down

Take time to learn from one another

Take the deep breath <3



# EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED IN A COMMUNITY


- We all need to remember that it is about responsibility, not rights
- It is about relationships, not resources in nature
- It is about caring for, not management in nature
- We have a right to manage our natural resources.
- We have a responsibility to care for our natural relationships



# *Earth-Based Learning*


- All teachings should always be rooted in earth-based learning first
- Take advantage of opportunities to experience what you learn
- Time in nature
- Learning about the community in the forest, water, soil, and air
- Learn the responsibility of healthy relationships with all living things
- Seven generation thinking
- Don't look at mistakes as failures but as a learning opportunity
- Learn to give thanks every day






Children must first build  
relationships with the  
land to become its  
stewards





What were your outside experiences as a child? What do you think has changed?





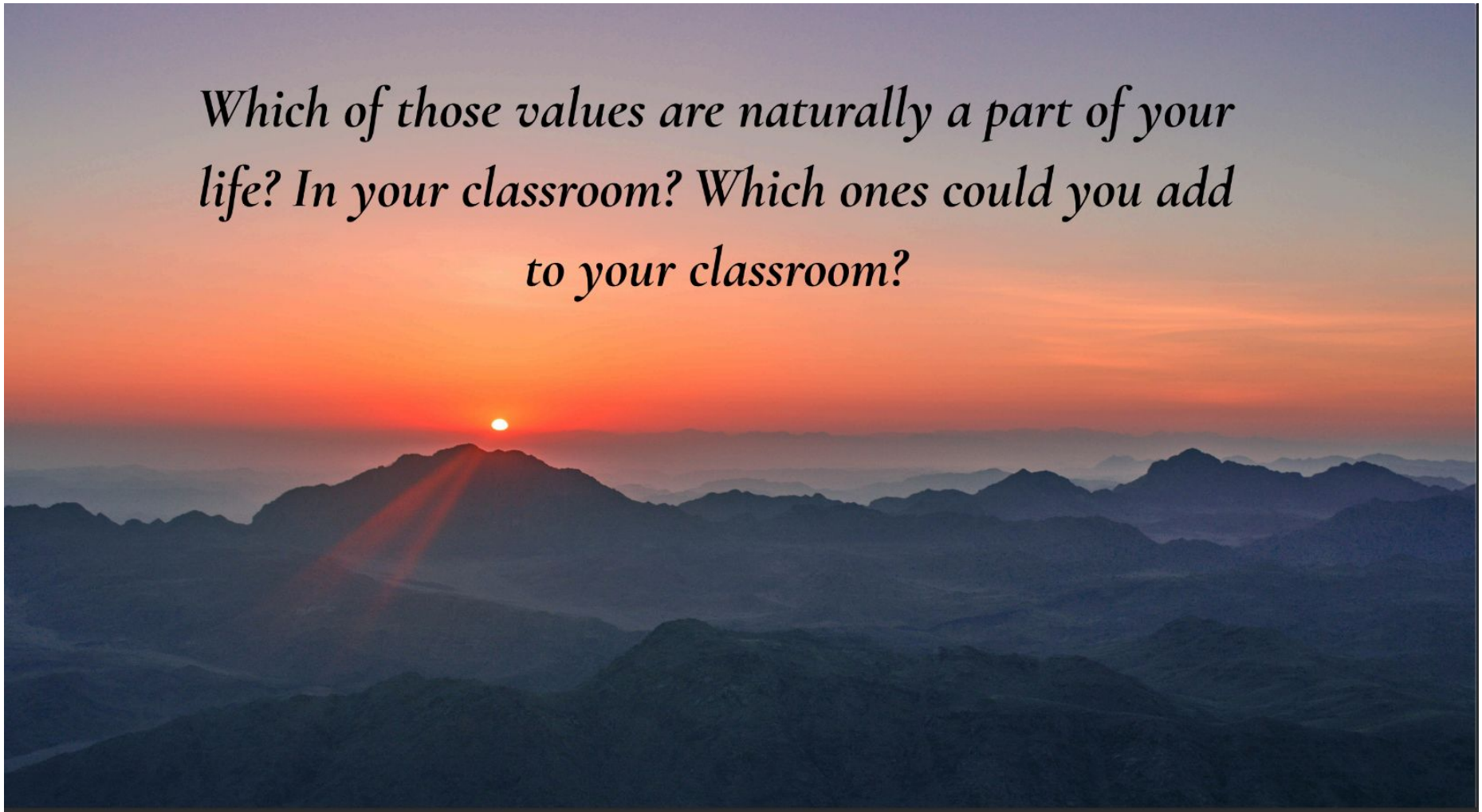
What connects us?

# *Maintaining traditional teachings*

- Outdoor learning
- Hands-on and interactive
- Identify strengths in the circle
- Students have space to challenge the teacher like the teacher challenges the student
- Understanding and respecting the different ways each person learns
- There is more than one way to get goals and objectives accomplished
- There are no wrong answers or failures, just learning moments that strengthen knowledge
- Learning is a lifestyle, not a class



*Which of those values are naturally a part of your life? In your classroom? Which ones could you add to your classroom?*



NATIONAL BESTSELLER

*A hymn of love to the world.*  
—ELIZABETH GILBERT

# BRAIDING SWEETGRASS



Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge,  
and the Teachings of Plants

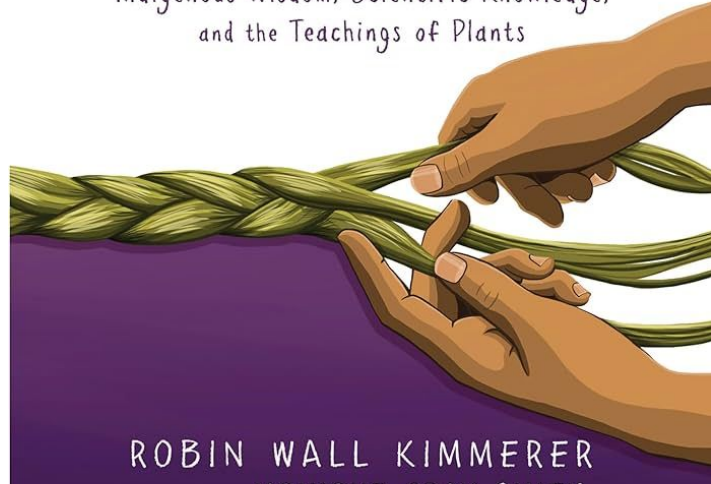
ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

ADAPTED FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

# BRAIDING SWEETGRASS

FOR YOUNG ADULTS

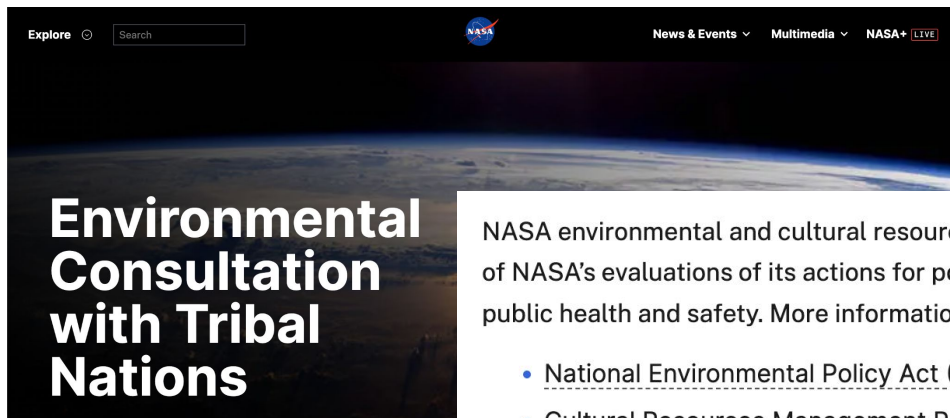
Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge,  
and the Teachings of Plants



ROBIN WALL KIMMERER  
ADAPTED BY MONIQUE GRAY SMITH  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY NICOLE NEIDHARDT

# Multiple ways of knowing

Both help us make sense of the many mysteries about life, the planet we live on, and our place in the universe.



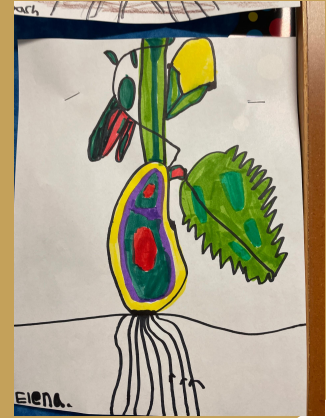
NASA environmental and cultural resources programs ensure consultation with Tribal Nations is an integral part of NASA's evaluations of its actions for potential impacts to the environment, cultural and natural resources, and public health and safety. More information on specific programs can be found at the following websites:

- [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) Program](#)
- [Cultural Resources Management Program](#)
- [Environmental Compliance and Restoration Program](#)

# Community

“I envision a time when the intellectual monoculture of science will be replaced with a polyculture of complementary knowledges.”

– Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass



**Wabanaki Studies**

*vs.*

**Wabanaki Culture  
& History**

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# *Why Wabanaki Studies?*

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## **LD 291, “An Act to Require Teaching of Maine Native American History and Culture in Maine’s Schools”**

- passed in 2001
- mandates that both public and private elementary and secondary schools include comprehensive instruction in American history, Maine studies, and Wabanaki history and culture
- emphasizes that Wabanaki history and culture should be part of the educational curriculum in both elementary and secondary schools. This includes integrating Wabanaki history into multiple subjects, including social studies and languages

# *Why Wabanaki Studies?*

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**Every day, we live and teach  
on Wabanaki homelands.**

# *Wabanaki Studies: Beginning of a New Era*

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## MOOSE Modules

- Opportunity arose post-pandemic to create these open-source and online-accessible modules
- Great for students at home, sub plans, or teachers in need of a pre-planned series of lessons
- Grade-specific... or not?

# *Wabanaki Studies: Beginning of a New Era*

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## MOOSE Modules

- Opportunity arose post-pandemic to create these open-source and online-accessible modules
- Great for students at home, sub plans, or teachers in need of a pre-planned series of lessons
- Grade-specific... or not?

*Take 15 minutes to skim through the modules. Based solely on content and key themes, which one do you feel would fit best for your classroom/teaching? Why?*

# Wabanaki Studies Specialist



[MOOSE Wabanaki Studies Learning Progression | Department of Education](#)

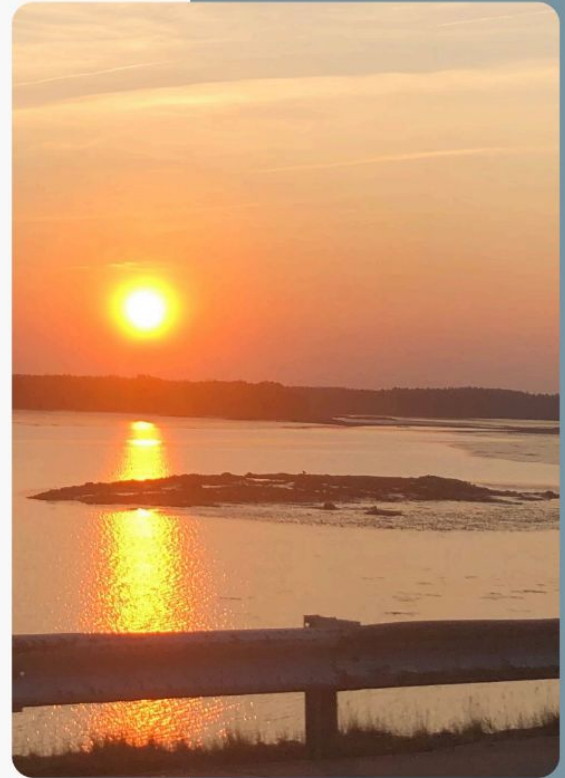
[Wabanaki Studies - Resources | Department of Education](#)

# *Evolution of the Work*

- Modules
- Educator Guides
- Microcourses

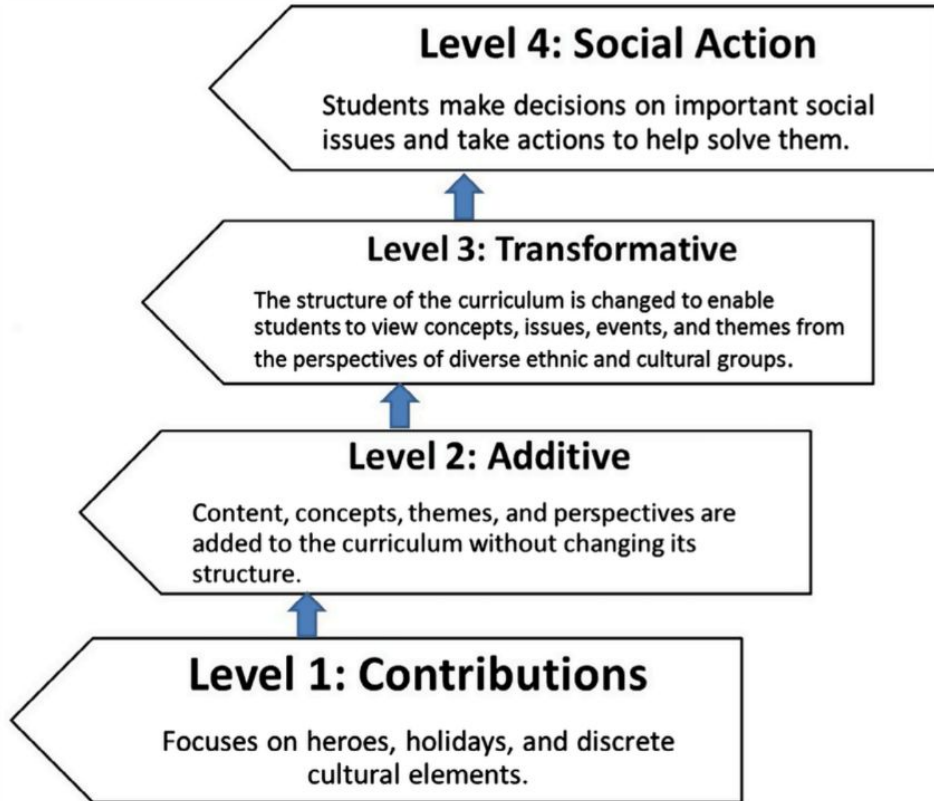
Maine DOE Wabanaki Studies

Maine DOE EnGiNe Wabanaki Studies



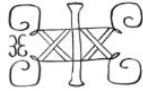
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*James Banks' 4  
Approaches to  
Multicultural  
Education*



# *Grounding Yourself and your work.*

Wabanaki Studies  
Framework



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## Wabanaki Studies Framework

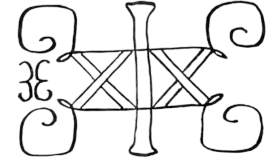
Take 10-15 minutes to scan through the framework. Record any questions or comments you have. Feel free to share in the chat.

# Educator Guides

Take some time to look over one of our educator guides. Spend 10 minutes jotting ideas on how you can use this. What's missing?


[Ed Guide comments](#)

# Microcourses




*Microcourses* are in development to support educators in Wabanaki Studies learning journeys. A mini-microcourse will provide a bite-sized overview of key concepts, offering an accessible entry point before engaging with the more in-depth *Microcourses*, which explore topics in greater detail. All courses in the series will be reviewed by Wabanaki Advisors—just like the MOOSE modules and Wabanaki Studies Educator Guides—to ensure cultural accuracy and integrity.


▼ **Who Are Wabanaki?**  
Prerequisites: Pre-Survey & Welcome

 Who are the Wabanaki Today? Mark as done


▼ **History of Dawnland**  
Prerequisites: Pre-Survey & Welcome

 Getting to know the Wabanaki's Ancestral Homelands Mark as done

▼ **Wabanaki Worldview/Relationships**  
Prerequisites: Pre-Survey & Welcome

 Wabanaki Worldview: Understanding The Implications & Importance of Building Relationships Mark as done

▼ **Empowering Educators: Understanding Maine's Educational Mandates & Wabanaki Studies Legislation**  
Prerequisite: Pre-survey & Welcome

 Empowering Educators: Understanding Maine's Educational Mandates & Wabanaki Studies Legislation Mark as done

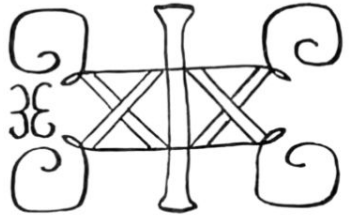
EnGiNE:

<https://engine.maine.gov/>

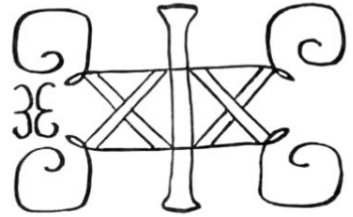


[How to sign up for Wabanaki Studies microcourses](#)

# Elders and Wabanaki Advisors



## Wabanaki Knowledge Sharers Wabanaki Directory



Please read prior to reaching out: [Wabanaki Studies - Considerations for Inviting Indigenous Presenters](#)

Please be  
considerate when  
using AI along side  
Wabanaki Studies  
Curriculum!

# Appreciation vs. Appropriation

## What is cultural appropriation?

"Cultural appropriation is when someone from one culture takes something from another culture without understanding its meaning or significance and uses it in a way that might disrespect or misrepresent that culture. Imagine if you worked really hard on a project and someone else took credit for it without even asking or understanding what it meant to you. That's kind of like what happens with cultural appropriation. It's important to learn about and respect different cultures, and to be thoughtful about how we use and share their traditions, symbols, and practices."



## Lessons Learned



### CULTURAL APPRECIATION VS. APPROPRIATION

We make our moccasins and mukluks for everyone. By purchasing from us, you are participating in cultural appreciation, not cultural appropriation. When you purchase from Manitobah, you are directly supporting Indigenous people and celebrating Indigenous culture in an authentic, meaningful way that supports us in our vision to create positive impact in Indigenous communities.

**MANITOBAH**  
Founded in Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1997

[Gabe Frey- Manitobah](#)



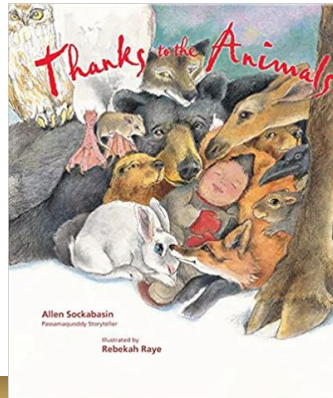
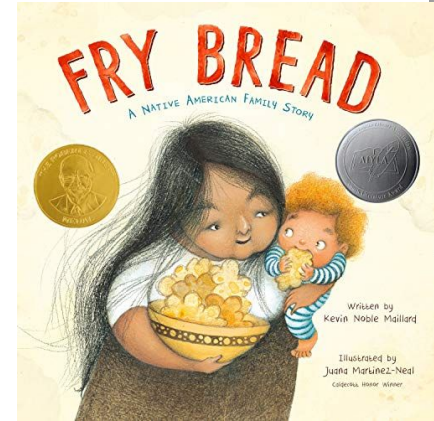
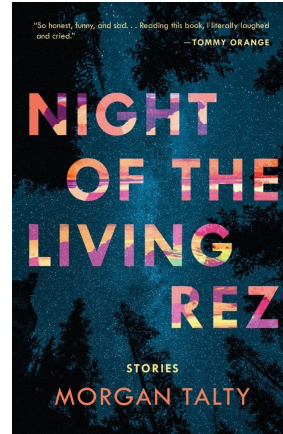
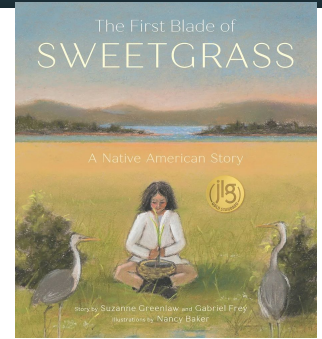
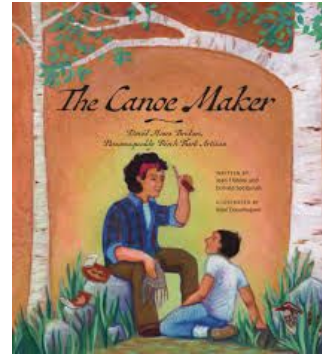
# Where can I find Wabanaki Books? And how do I know if they are a good resource?

Check out this [LIST](#) of recommended and NON recommended books!

Focus on Indigenous Authors!

When in doubt, check Debbie Reese's [Website!](#)

## [Banned/Challenged Books](#)



*Spend some time looking through the list.*

*Do some surprise you? Do you have some of these  
books in your school?*

# Interdisciplinary Kits



## Wabanaki Studies Interdisciplinary Kit Nature

Welcome to your interdisciplinary kit! Below you will find an inventory list regarding the contents of your kit, as well as instructions for viewing important corresponding materials online.

### Kit Contents:

- Dried plants
- Laminated medicinal plant identification cards (+access to printable PDF)
- Laminated info cards (+access to printable PDF)
- Posters and bookmarks with original artwork from Panawahpskek artist, Keely Becker (+ access to printable PDF)

Access lessons and online materials using the QR code or link provided.



### To access your educator guide:



### Or visit:

[bit.ly/ws-nature-kit](http://bit.ly/ws-nature-kit)

Have questions? Contact [wabanakistudieseducation@gmail.com](mailto:wabanakistudieseducation@gmail.com)



## Wabanaki Studies Interdisciplinary Kit

## Ash

Welcome to your interdisciplinary kit! Below you will find an inventory list regarding the contents of your kit, as well as instructions for viewing important corresponding materials online.



### Contents:

- Birch bark (in various stages)
- Birch bark (sinew)
- Laminated info cards (+access to printable PDF)
- Posters with original artwork from Panawahpskek artist, Keely Becker (+ access to printable PDF)
- Posters and online materials using the link provided.



### To access your educator guide:



### Or visit:

Have questions? Contact [wabanakistudieseducation@gmail.com](mailto:wabanakistudieseducation@gmail.com)

Have questions? Contact [wabanakistudieseducation@gmail.com](mailto:wabanakistudieseducation@gmail.com)



## Wabanaki Studies Interdisciplinary Kit Birch

Welcome to your interdisciplinary kit! Below you will find an inventory list regarding the contents of your kit, as well as instructions for viewing important corresponding materials online.

### Kit Contents:

- Birchbark cookie
- Birchbark scraps
- Spruce root (sinew)
- Birch basket
- Laminated info cards (+access to printable PDF)
- Posters with original artwork from Panawahpskek artist, Keely Becker (+ access to printable PDF)

Access lessons and online materials using the QR code or link provided.



### To access your educator guide:



### Or visit:

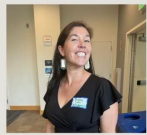
[bit.ly/ws-birch-kit](http://bit.ly/ws-birch-kit)

Have questions? Contact [wabanakistudieseducation@gmail.com](mailto:wabanakistudieseducation@gmail.com)

# Wabanaki Webinars

## Spring Series WABANAKI STUDIES WEBINARS

Introducing the current speaker lineup in our webinar series, beginning January 21st. Join us on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Register for the Zoom link at [bit.ly/WSWspring26](https://bit.ly/WSWspring26)



**BRIANNE LOLAR**  
January 21



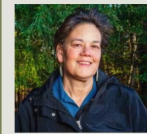
**KAYA LOLAR &  
SAGE PHILLIPS**  
January 28



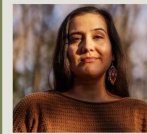
**SUZANNE GREENLAW**  
February 11



**JOHN NEPTUNE**  
March 4



**BONNIE NEWSOM**  
April 1



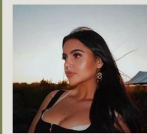
**MAULIAN BRYANT**  
April 8



**DWAYNE TOMAH**  
May 6



**APEMESIM GALIPEAU**  
May 13



**JAYLA ALTWATER**  
Date TBD

Keep an eye out for additional speakers being added throughout the season!

## Wabanaki Webinars:

<https://forms.gle/8zkZb54CzwRiYSEJ6>

# Nominate an Educator!

<https://forms.office.com/g/35vhqsisy0>

**NOMINATE A TEACHER,  
SCHOOL, OR DISTRICT THAT  
IS DOING A PHENOMENAL  
JOB TEACHING WABANAKI  
STUDIES!**

-Nomination window opens **December 21 (Winter Solstice)**

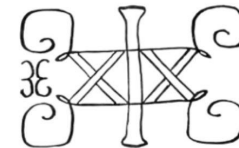
-First winners will be announced on **March 21 (Vernal Equinox)**

-Nominations will be spotlighted throughout the winter

## Prizes Include:

- Books
- Interdisciplinary kits
- PD opportunities
- Visits from Wabanaki advisors

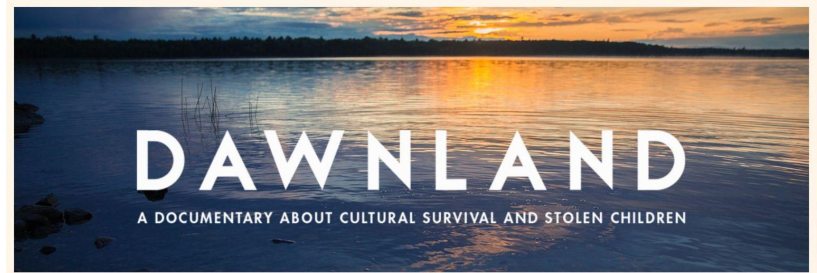
**STAY TUNED FOR MORE  
DETAILS**



# Dawnland Screenings

<https://forms.office.com/g/AwtmRumHvq>

5-8pm



## Documentary Screening Dinner & Discussion

Bethel -Jan 27

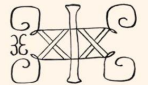
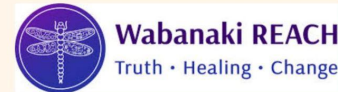
Old Town- Jan 29

Calais- Feb 9

Freeport- March 9

5-8pm FREE with RSVP:

<https://forms.office.com/g/AwtmRumHvq>



# Dawnland Screenings

**Time:** 5 to 8 p.m.

**Audience:** Maine educators, school leaders, and parents

**Contact Hours:** 3 hours awarded

**An RSVP is required!** Space is limited at each site, so please register here: [RSVP LINK](#)

## January 27, 2026

- Bethel , Telstar Middle School  
284 Walkers Mills Road

## January 29, 2026

- Old Town , Old Town High School  
203 Stillwater Ave

## February 12, 2026

- Calais, Wabanaki Culture Center  
39 Union Street

## March 9, 2026

- Freeport , Freeport Performing Arts Center  
30 Holbrook Street

# Wabanaki Policy Youth Initiative

Email [Kaya@meeassociation.org](mailto:Kaya@meeassociation.org)



## WABANAKI POLICY YOUTH INITIATIVE

### CALLING ALL YOUTH INTERESTED IN MAKING CHANGE AT THE STATE LEVEL!

#### ARE YOU...

- Passionate about an equitable Wabanaki Studies education for all students?
- In support of Wabanaki sovereignty?
- Interested in learning about the state lawmaking process?
- Wanting to add to your civic engagement toolbox by learning how to effectively advocate for the issues that matter to you?
- Between the ages of 16 and 24?

**JOIN THE  
WABANAKI  
POLICY  
YOUTH  
INITIATIVE!**

**ATTEND BI-WEEKLY  
MEETINGS WITH  
OTHER YOUTH**

**RECEIVE MENTORING  
FROM LEGISLATORS  
AND OTHER POLICY  
EXPERTS**

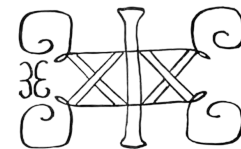
**LEARN HOW YOU  
CAN MAKE CHANGE  
TODAY**



- Commit to roughly 20 hours of participation January-late May
- Would pair well with concurrent involvement in other advocacy groups, but no prior policy experience is necessary
- Aside from bi-weekly meetings, involvement is very flexible and can work around your schedule!
- You will receive a fixed stipend for your time

**IF INTERESTED, EMAIL [KAYA@MEEASSOCIATION.ORG](mailto:kaya@meeassociation.org) BY DEC. 31**

# Journey Through the Dawnland



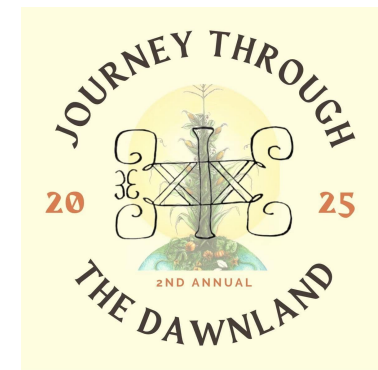
## JOURNEY THROUGH THE DAWNLAND



Print out your booklet  
using the QR code or  
visit any participating  
location/library to pick  
up a printed copy to get  
started! Happy travels!



@wabanakistudieseducation



2025

[2024 Journey Through the Dawnland](#)

Need more resources? <https://www.maine.gov/doe/innovation/wabanakistudies>

Want to host a Wabanaki presenter? [WKS Directory](#)

Feel like you need more pd? [How to sign up for Wabanaki Studies microcourses](#)

Don't know where to start?

[Wabanaki Studies - Framework](#)

Teacher resources:

Standards based, interdisciplinary curriculum: [Educator Guides](#)

Online modules:

[MOOSE Wabanaki Studies Learning Progression | Department of Education](#)

Accompanying module resources: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/innovation/wabanakistudies/resources>

*What's next for you?*



# What is next?

What would you like to learn more about?

What can you do to further this work and your learning journey?

Questions & Feedback Form

[OTL & OI - Attendee Form](#)

# Kci Woliwoni!



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