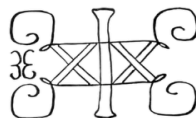


Grades 6-8 Civics & Government Wabanaki Studies Educator Guide





Clarissa Sabattis
Chief of Wolastiqiyik Nation
at Littleton

Introduction: These lessons are designed to align with an introduction to types of government units for grades 6-8, and/or support students while using the MOOSE online Wabanaki Studies modules. These lessons cover the term sovereignty, the modern nations of the Wabanaki confederacy, and provide context and resources to help students define and understand issues related to tribal sovereignty in alignment with the Maine Learning Results. Lessons created as a part of this module can be used individually or as a group.

Other Helpful Resources:








- Spend time with all of the online modules: [MOOSE Wabanaki Studies Learning Progression | Department of Education](#)
- Spend time with the DOE Wabanaki Studies website: [Wabanaki Studies | Department of Education](#)
-  Wabanaki Studies Framework
-  Cultural Appropriation Resources

Table of Contents:

- [Introduction](#)
- [Guiding Questions](#)
- [Learning Objectives](#)
- [Module Materials](#)
- [Vocabulary](#)
- [Vocabulary work](#)
- [Lesson One: Intergalactic Diplomacy](#)
-  Who are the Wabanaki and What Does Sovereignty Mean
-  Lesson Three: Wabanaki Diplomacy: : Primary Sources
-  Lesson Four: Secondary Source:
-  Lesson Five: Building Historical Context:
-  Lesson Six: Examining Contemporary Wabanaki

- [Lesson Seven: Wabanaki Activism](#)
- [Land Loss Intro Lesson: Timeline and Map](#)

Introduction:

Wabanaki Nations have a long history of advocating for sovereignty, or self government by negotiating with what is now known as Maine, the United States and historical European governments. This educator's guide is designed to be used as a supplement for students who are studying government and the Nations of the Wabanaki Confederacy. These lessons focus specifically on issues related to historical and contemporary sovereignty for Wabanaki Nations. These lessons move through activities that support students in understanding the concepts of sovereignty and purpose of treaties, contemporary Wabanaki Governments, and historical and modern issues of sovereignty. Resources include a slidedeck, videos, worksheets, and a summative assessment that asks students to demonstrate their understanding by taking action.

Guiding Questions:

- What does the term sovereignty mean?
- Who are Wabanaki and how are their communities governed?
- Why is it important to understand and respect the sovereignty of Wabanaki nations?
- How has colonialism affected the sovereignty and well-being of Wabanaki communities?
- What can individuals and governments do to support Wabanaki sovereignty and rights?

Learning Objectives:

- Students will define sovereignty and explain its importance in relation to Wabanaki Nations.
- Students will analyze primary sources related to Wabanaki sovereignty.
- Students will explore the impact of colonization on Wabanaki sovereignty.
- Students will examine contemporary issues related to Wabanaki sovereignty.
- Students will engage in civil discourse by sharing their learning about tribal sovereignty, reflecting on their learning about Wabanaki Sovereignty specifically.

Materials:

- [☰ Intergalactic Diplomacy-What's a Treaty?](#)
- Vocabulary
- [📄 A Study of Wabanaki Diplomacy and Self-Determination](#)
- [☰ Wabanaki Studies Self-Determination student handouts](#)
- [☰ Wabanaki Sovereignty Research Worksheet](#)

Vocabulary

Key Term	Definition
Bureaucracy	A system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives.
Capitalism	An economic system characterized by private ownership of the means of production and the pursuit of profit.
Colonialism	The policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically.
Confederation	A political union of sovereign states or territories that delegate certain powers to a central authority while retaining others.
Democracy	A system of government where power is vested in the people, who rule either directly or through freely elected representatives
Diplomacy	The art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations.
Sovereignty	Self- determination; the authority of a state to govern itself or another state.
Treaty	A formal agreement between two or more countries.

Wabanaki Confederacy	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. Their name translates to the "People of the Dawnland".
Wampum	Small cylindrical beads traditionally made by some North American peoples from shells which are strung together and used as decoration or money.
Wampum Belt	Beaded belts worn by leaders, designed to illustrate important stories. They were often created to commemorate, or remember important events such as treaties.

Updated: March 2026

