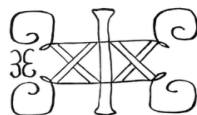
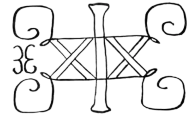



Wabanaki Studies

Grade 5 Educator Guide



Background:

 Wabanaki Studies Framework

[DOE Wabanaki Studies Website](#)

- There is a Grades 3-5 MOOSE module called The [Wabanaki and the Environment](#). The science and social studies lessons below do not require a pre-teaching of the module, but it is available for you to use in its entirety or to pull out specific lessons and teach parts of it.

Introduction: 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. They are known collectively as the Wabanaki, or "People of the Dawnland." How can we learn from the past to help us understand our roles today, respect the rights of others, and maintain a community that works together for the good of all?

Guiding Questions:

How is a Wabanaki government organized?

What does sovereignty mean and why is this important to Wabanaki?

How are laws made and revised to protect freedoms?

What are the names that were given to the land we are on?

How were these places named based on geographic features?

How did colonization impact Wabanaki?

How are Wabanaki working to be part of government decisions in Augusta?

Curriculum Lessons and Suggested Progression:

Please note: *The intro lesson for grade 5 is based on assumed previous knowledge from other grade levels. If your district is in the beginning stages of incorporating Wabanaki studies, it may be helpful to return to earlier grade levels.*

Social Studies

Introduction Lesson 1

[Activating Prior Knowledge & Fact / Opinion](#)

Lesson 2

[Primary vs Secondary Sources & Reliability of Information](#)

[Primary vs Secondary Sources Extension](#)

Lesson 3

[Timeline \(History\)](#)

Lesson 4

[Wabanaki Communities Today \(Geography\)](#)

Lesson 5

[Treaties & Sovereignty \(Civics\)](#)

Lesson 6

[Wabanaki Leadership](#)

Lesson 7

[American Revolution - Perspectives Lesson](#)

Science

Lesson 1

[Wabanaki Stewardship: Our Relationship with Water](#)

Lesson 2

[Stewards of the Land: Caring for Blueberries, Bees, and Traditions](#)

Lesson 3

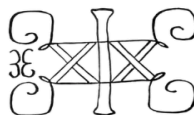
[Exploring Sacred Wabanaki Plants](#)

Lesson 4

[Protecting Our Environment Today & Developing a Relationship with the Natural World Around You](#)

Lesson 5

[How Terminology Impacts Understanding](#)



<p>Additional Resources Grade 5 Resource Guide</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Book list ● BIG Idea Questions ● Labeling and Vocab cards ● PreK-12 Wabanaki Language Resources ● ELA Lessons ● Wabanaki and the Environment Resources
<p>Invite a Knowledge Sharer to Visit</p>
<p>Considerations for inviting Indigenous Presenters</p>
<p>Traditional Knowledge Keeper Directory</p>
<p>Standards:</p>
<p>Social Studies Standards for Grade 5</p>
<p>Science Standards for Grade 5</p>

Updated: March 2026