

**Unit Title:**

# **WHY THE KENNEBEC?**

**Summary:**

Through a variety of activities, students will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of the Kennebec River on the Native American population.

**Goal:**

Students will recognize the geography of the Kennebec River and how it impacted Native Americans.

**Objective:**

Students will discover reasons for Native American settlement along the Kennebec River.

**Maine Learning Results:**

Social Studies: D1b. Geography E1b. History

Science: C1d Scientific and Technological Enterprise

**Activities:**

1. Students will create a visual representation of the Kennebec River.  
Students will plot and label their location in relation to the Kennebec River.
  - a. salt map
  - b. paper map
  - c. internet search
  
2. Arrange a guided tour to explore a region of the Kennebec River.
  - a. scavenger hunt where students have check off list of flora and fauna observed
  - b. sketchbook
  - c. digital camera for follow-up presentation
  - d. create anthology (story, poem, etc.)

3. Visit Maine State Museum
  - a. construct timeline using 10,000 years exhibit
  - b. create mini book about exhibits or condense timeline to 7 key events
  
4. Invite Native American guest speaker
  - a. Prior to visit, students will generate interview questions and predict possible answers
  - b. Follow-up will compare predictions to actual facts as presented by the guest speaker
  - c. Discuss stereotypes

**Materials:**

salt dough - directions at [www.multihobbies.com/saltdough/recipes.htm](http://www.multihobbies.com/saltdough/recipes.htm)

**Resources:**

[www.virtualjamestown.org](http://www.virtualjamestown.org), click on first hand accounts and letters

[The Wabanakis of Maine and the Maritimes p.D4 through D6](#)

[www.classbrain.com](http://www.classbrain.com)

**Assessment**

5 - Distinguished: In depth understanding and insights of exemplary quality

4 - Advanced: solid, complete response of high quality

3 - Intermediate: average response with some strong components

2 - Basic: minimal understanding or effort

1 - Novice: totally incorrect and/or irrelevant response

**Suggested Extensions:**

1. Identify how geographic landmarks impacted European exploration.  
(Seguin Island looks like a turtle, Camden Hills)
- 2 Introduce impact of the European exploration of the Kennebec River.
3. Changes over time that affect the ecological balance of the Kennebec River (ie dams)

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