

Native American Artifact Inquiry



Grades: 4-8

Time: 50 minutes

Rationale and Context:

This program focuses on the Native American culture in the Lake Champlain Basin prior to Samuel de Champlain's "discovery" of the area. Using inquiry science methods, students will observe and manipulate artifacts and reproductions in order to draw conclusions about their uses. Students will be introduced to the idea that Native American tribes were the first engineers in the area.

Teacher Background Information:

The Paleo-Indian culture of Vermont is believed to have established itself some 11,000 years ago when the glaciers of the last ice age had finally receded from the area. These were the early ancestors of the tribe that flourished on the Vermont shores of Lake Champlain and across most of the northern and central regions of the state as well as areas in New Hampshire and Maine. The Abenaki probably numbered more than 20,000 people before first contact. After European contact many Abenaki fled to Canada. Today Abenaki live on two reservations in Quebec and scattered throughout New England.

Vermont Standard(s): Next Generation Science Standards

Standard	K-8
ESS3.A	Natural Resources
ESS3.C	Human Impacts on Earth Systems
ESS1.C	History of the Planet Earth
Cross Cutting Concepts	Patterns Scale, Proportion and Quantity Structure and Function Stability and Change

Learning/Behavioral Objective(s):

- Students will be introduced to the history of the Abenaki people in the Lake Champlain Basin including information about the modern day presence of the tribe.
- Students will understand the difference between an artifact and a reproduction.
- Through discussion, observation and handling of native artifacts and reproductions, students will think about origin, innovation, and sophistication of design and imagine the intended use of the objects