



Portland Headlight, Maine

Unit 1

New England:

Maine and New Hampshire

Lesson 1: Maine



Climb on the rocks along the coast of Maine and feel the salty spray of the ocean. Pick an island to explore. There are plenty to choose from. Maine has over 4,600! Keep your eyes open as you travel the countryside. You might see a moose. Drink in the beautiful sight of lupines blooming along the roadsides. Find Maine on the map at the beginning of this book. (As you read each lesson, find the locations **written in green** on the green state map at the beginning of the lesson.)



Moose



Lupine

Trees

Almost all of Maine is covered with trees. The Wabanaki people once used the trees of Maine to make tools, build houses, and create birch bark canoes. Europeans who came to the area used the tall, straight trees to make masts for ships.



Maine woods

Maine's first paper mill opened in **Westbrook** in the early 1700s. The mill used old cloth rags to make paper. In the 1800s, people developed a way to make paper using wood. Paper manufacturers grind up the wood and turn it into wet pulp. They spread out the pulp on a mesh screen, where it dries and becomes paper. Since Maine has so many trees, many companies have built paper mills in the state.



Maine paper mill in the 1990s



Potato field in Maine

Potatoes

In the 1940s, Maine grew more potatoes than any other state. Other states now grow more, but potatoes are still an important part of farming in Maine. Almost half of Maine's potatoes become french fries.

Fort Fairfield celebrates potatoes each summer with the Maine Potato Blossom Festival. Would you rather participate in the festival's potato picking race or let people watch you wrestle your friend in a pool of mashed potatoes?

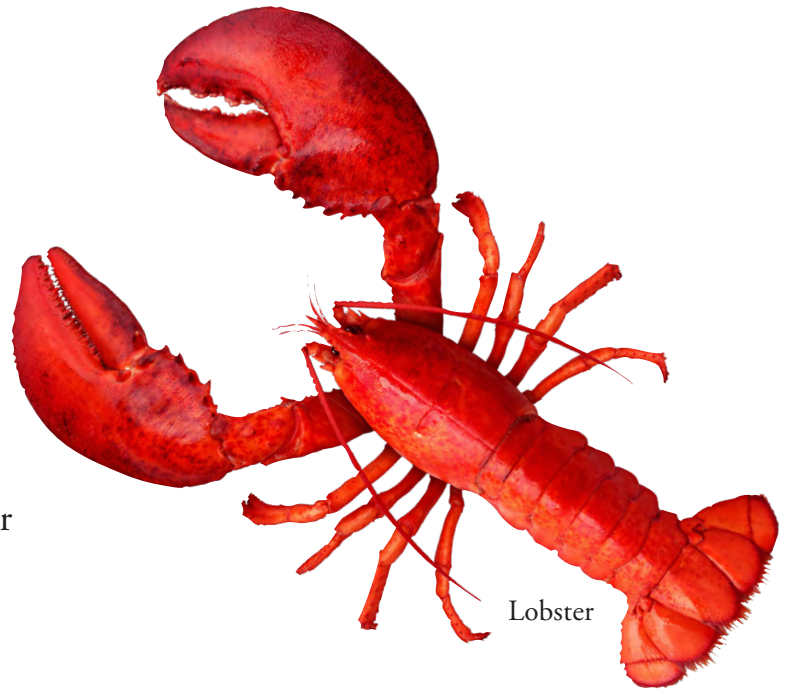
Wild Blueberries

The soil and climate in Maine are perfect for growing wild blueberries. Maine has over 44,000 acres where wild blueberries grow. Since the berries grow wild, they require little maintenance from farmers. Many farms allow people to come and pick their own.

Wild blueberries

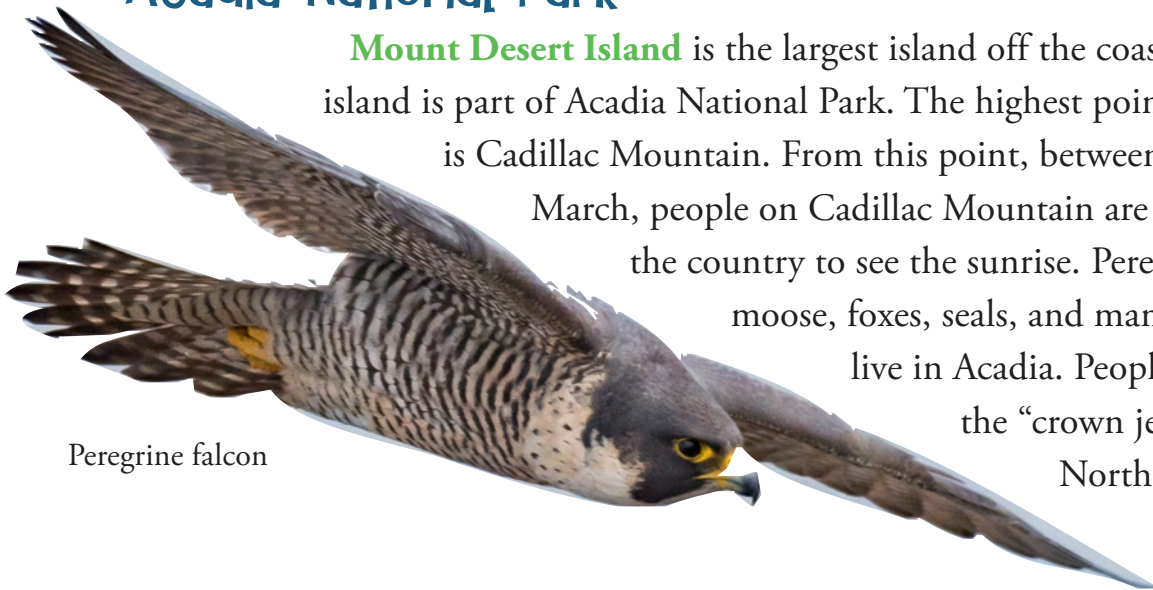
Lobsters

People catch more lobsters in Maine than in any other state. In fact, Maine has more lobsters than anywhere else in the world. Every year thousands of people enjoy the Maine Lobster Festival in **Rockland**. When the festival began in 1947, people could buy all the lobster they could eat for \$1!



Acadia National Park

Mount Desert Island is the largest island off the coast of Maine. The island is part of Acadia National Park. The highest point on the island is Cadillac Mountain. From this point, between October and March, people on Cadillac Mountain are the first ones in the country to see the sunrise. Peregrine falcons, moose, foxes, seals, and many other animals live in Acadia. People call the park the “crown jewel of the North Atlantic coast.”



Cadillac Mountain

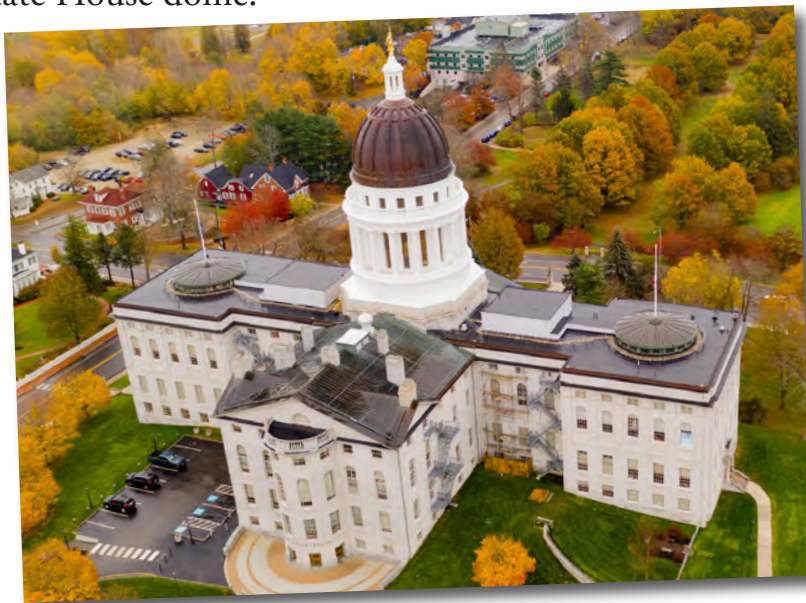
Capital: Augusta

The Maine State House stands in **Augusta**. Workers completed the original building in 1832. In the early 1900s, the state made the building larger. During that construction project, William Clark Noble heard that there wasn't enough money to pay for a nice statue to go on top of the dome. Mr. Noble couldn't bear the thought of that. He wanted Maine's state house to have the best.

As a boy, William Noble had enjoyed making clay figures using mud from a creek near his Maine home. When he grew up, he became a famous sculptor. Mr. Noble donated his time and talents to design *Lady of Wisdom*, a beautiful statue that now stands on the Maine State House dome.



Lady of Wisdom



Maine State House

Make your ear
attentive to wisdom,
Incline your heart
to understanding.
Proverbs 2:2

Activities

- Illustrate the geographic term for Maine in the *Atlas Workbook* (page 4).
- If you are using the *Lesson Review*, answer the questions for Maine (page 1).
- Read chapter 1 in *Rabbit Hill*. (Parents, please refer to page 15 in the *Answer Key and Literature Guide* for comments about this book.)
- Hands-On Idea: Pretend to be statues. Who or what do your statues represent?
- Family Activity: Make Blueberry Muffins (recipe on page 18).

Lesson 2: A Song and Story of Maine

A Trip to the Grand Banks

*Amos Hanson of **Penobscot**, Maine, worked as a fisherman all his life. In this song, which he wrote some time before 1890, he celebrates the fishermen of New England who traveled to the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, Canada, to fish each summer. (notgrass.com/50songs, Track 1)*

Early in the spring when the snow is all gone,
The Penobscot boys are anxious their money for to earn;
They'll fit out a fisherman a hundred tons or nigh,
For the Grand Banks of Newfoundland their luck for to try.

Sailing down the river, the weather being fine,
Our families and friends we leave far behind;
We pass the Sable Island as we have done before,
Where the waves dash tremendous on a storm-beaten shore.

We make for the shoals and we make for the rocks,
The hagduls and careys surround us in flocks;
We drop our best anchor where the waves run so high,
On the Grand Banks of Newfoundland for snakeyes to try.

Early in the morning before the break of day,
We jump into our dories and saw, saw away;
The snakeyes steal our bait and we shout and we rave,
And we say if we get home again we'll give up the trade.

Our salt is all wet but one half a pen,
Our colors we will show and the mainsail we will bend;
Wash her down, scrub the decks, and the dories we will stow,
Then it's haul up the anchor, to the westward we go.

Mary on Boon Island

Maine has 65 historic lighthouses along its rugged coast. Workers completed Maine's first lighthouse in 1791. Lighthouses have been an important part of Maine's culture ever since. Today lighthouses have automatic lights, but in their early days dedicated lighthouse keepers worked hard to keep the lights burning.

Ka-chunk, ka-chunk, ka-chunk, ka-chunk. Mary's roller skates made a rhythmic sound as she glided down the boardwalk on **Boon Island**, where she had come for the summer. The stone lighthouse that towered above her cast a shadow on her path. Inside that tower, 168 steps spiraled to the top. It was a long, hard climb, but the view was magnificent.



The waves of the Atlantic Ocean crashed against the rocks as Mary skated. During the worst storms, the crashing waves sometimes reached halfway up the tower. There was no sand for sand castles on Boon Island—only rocks. There were no trees—only rocks.

Mary's grandfather, William Williams, and his assistants worked hard to keep the lights burning in the top of the lighthouse. Otherwise, ships might not see the island in time. They might dash to pieces on the rocky shore. It had happened before. Mary's grandfather worked in all kinds of weather to try to keep it from happening again.

Boon Island could be a gloomy place. Mary's grandfather knew that flowers would brighten it up. Every spring he brought boxes and barrels of dirt from the mainland, seven miles away.



Boon Island

Mary helped plant and tend flowers and vegetables in the dirt Grandfather brought. She earned a penny for each caterpillar she picked off the plants. It



Caterpillar

made Mary sad when the winter storms washed all the dirt away, but she always looked forward to new gardens the next summer.

At lunchtime, Mary ka-chunked and rolled her way back toward the house for lunch with her grandparents.

They enjoyed eating their lunch on the rocks when the weather was nice. They ate lobsters and drank lemonade. Sometimes when they had guests from the mainland, Mary's grandmother made a delicious fish chowder.



Thrift



Lemons

After lunch, Mary's grandfather took her to check on the lobster traps. Grandfather kept a trap for each of his grandchildren. The money they earned from the lobsters went directly into their bank accounts.

Mary's family had many stories of life on the island. There was the time one January when the temperature dipped to two degrees below zero. Ice became thick on the lighthouse and the other buildings on the island. Ice even blocked up the chimneys, and for a time they could not build a fire to keep warm. "It was the hardest night we ever passed," Grandfather said, "and no one slept on the island the entire night." Even though it was miserable, Grandfather said the sight of the island completely covered with ice was "one of the grandest sights" he had ever seen.



Icicles

One November, the food on the island was dwindling. Mary's grandfather didn't know what he and his assistants were going to eat on Thanksgiving. The stormy weather was sure to keep him from being able to spend the holiday with his family who was on the mainland.

The evening before Thanksgiving, Grandfather heard a terrific thud. Something had hit the lighthouse tower! He hurried outside. There on the ground lay eight ducks. The birds had all flown into the tower and fallen to the ground dead. Those ducks became their Thanksgiving dinner. Grandfather and his assistants thanked God for remembering them and sending them a Thanksgiving feast.

Faith was an important part of life for the Williams family. When the family was together on the island, they gathered every evening for a family worship service.

Mary learned about dedication from her grandfather. For 27 years Grandfather Williams was dedicated to his work on Boon Island, saving many lives as he kept the light burning.

O Lord God of hosts,
who is like You, O mighty Lord?
Your faithfulness also surrounds You.
You rule the swelling of the sea;
When its waves rise, You still them.
Psalm 89:8-9

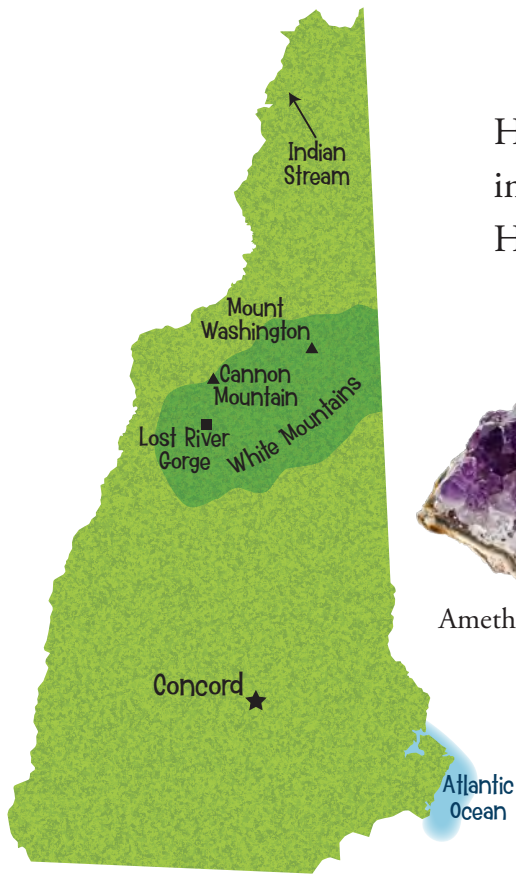
Boon Island Light



Activities

- Complete the map activities for Maine in the *Atlas Workbook* (page 5).
- Read chapter 2 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Now that you have read what it was like for Mary to visit her grandparents on Boon Island many years ago, think about what it is like when you visit your grandparents or other relatives. What do you eat? What do you play? How is the place where they live different from where you live? If you are keeping a creative writing notebook, write a detailed description of what it is like to visit those relatives.

Lesson 3: New Hampshire



When God created the land we call New Hampshire, He put many rocks and minerals below the ground, including amethyst, garnet, and beryl. Find New Hampshire on the map at the beginning of this book.



Amethyst



Garnet



Beryl

Granite

New Hampshire is the Granite State. Granite is a type of stone. God put an abundant supply of granite in the **White Mountains** of New Hampshire. Workers at granite quarries cut slabs of granite out of the ground. People use New Hampshire granite to build walls and buildings and to make monuments, benches, and other objects. In the 1890s, workers used 30,000 tons of New Hampshire granite to build a Library of Congress building in Washington, D.C.



White Mountains

Republic of Indian Stream

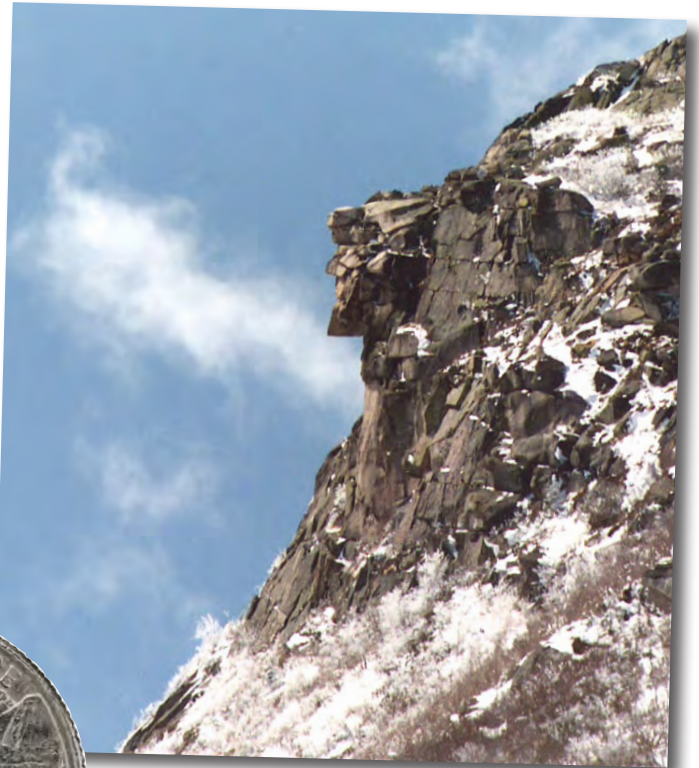
When the United States was a young nation, we had a disagreement with Canada. Both countries claimed to own a small section of land near **Indian Stream** along our national border. The settlers in the area decided to take care of the issue themselves. In the summer of 1832, around sixty men from the community met in the local schoolhouse. They wrote a constitution, created laws, and declared themselves an independent nation: The Republic of Indian Stream. After about ten years, the United States and Canada finally came to an agreement about the land and signed a treaty. The treaty declared the land around Indian Stream to be part of the United States.



Old barn in former Indian Stream

Old Man of the Mountain

New Hampshire's **Cannon Mountain** was once home to the Old Man of the Mountain, the rock formation pictured at right. People once came from far and wide to see the Old Man. The outline is on New Hampshire licence plates and on the New Hampshire state quarter. The shape is on road signs throughout the state. Sadly, the formation tumbled down the mountainside in 2003. Even though it is gone, the Old Man of the Mountain will always be part of New Hampshire.



Old Man of the Mountain



State quarter

Lost River Gorge

In 1852 two brothers, Royal and Lyman Jackman, went fishing in New Hampshire's Lost River. Suddenly Lyman disappeared into the ground below! The boy had fallen through a moss-covered hole and accidentally discovered a cave. He landed in a pool of water that came nearly to his waist. The two brothers quickly set out to explore the area and discovered several more caves together.

As the Lost River flows through New Hampshire, it disappears into a gorge that is partially filled with boulders. The river flows along, hidden beneath the rocks, until it emerges again and joins with another river.

Today adventurous visitors can tour the boulder caves along the **Lost River Gorge**. To get through they have to be ready to crawl and scoot and waddle their way along. One of the caves has such a tight spot it's called the Lemon Squeezer.



Lost River Gorge



Concord Coach

Capital: Concord

The city of **Concord** was once famous for making stagecoaches. The Concord Coach Company built fancy, top-of-the-line stagecoaches, such as the one at left. The coaches rumbled down the streets in Concord and across the roads of New England. Some of the coaches even took passengers and mail to the far away western part of the country. Back in the 1800s, a Concord Coach cost more than \$1,000. That was a lot of money at a time when many people earned only \$1 for a day's work.



Mount Washington

Mount Washington in New Hampshire is the tallest mountain in New England. It rises 6,288 feet higher than sea level (which is the level of the ocean). When people built a railroad through the White Mountains in the 1800s, businessmen saw it as a chance to make money. Once the railroad came in, tourists could easily reach the area by train to enjoy the beauty of the White Mountains. Getting those tourists to the top of Mount Washington was quite a job. In the next lesson, you will learn how crews took on the challenge of reaching the top.

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;
From where shall my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.
Psalm 121:1-2

Activities

- Illustrate the geographic term for New Hampshire in the *Atlas Workbook* (page 6).
- If you are using the *Lesson Review*, answer the questions for New Hampshire (page 1).
- Read chapter 3 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Hands-On Idea: Gather up some change at your house and see how many different state quarters you can find.

Lesson 4: A Song and Story of New Hampshire

New Hampshire Hills

Susan F. Colby Colgate was born in New Hampshire in 1817. When she was a child, her father served in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. He later served as governor. Susan became a teacher and a poet. She wrote these words about her beloved state. (notgrass.com/50songs, Track 2)

New Hampshire hills! New Hampshire hills!
Ye homes of rocks and purling rills,
Of fir-trees, huge and high,
Rugged and rough against the sky,
With joy I greet your forms, once more
My native hills, beloved of yore.

New Hampshire hills! New Hampshire hills!
Sweet peace and health your air distills,
As fresh as when the earth was new,
And all the world was good and true;
Emblems ye are of royal state;
Majestic hills, bold, grand and great.

New Hampshire hills! New Hampshire hills!
Your presence every passion stills,
And hushed to peace I long to press
Far up your heights of loveliness,
And stand, the world beneath my feet,
Where earth and heaven enraptured meet.

Swift River

Reaching the Top

General David O. Macomber had ideas. He had grand ideas. He had the grand idea of building a road to take visitors to the top of Mount Washington in New Hampshire. Building the road would be a challenge. It would be expensive, but General Macomber wanted to do it.

By the mid-1800s, tourists traveling through New Hampshire were already visiting Mount Washington. However, they only had two choices for how they could reach the top. They could climb the mountain on foot, or they could ride a horse up the Glen Bridle Path. General Macomber wanted visitors to be able to reach the top more easily.

In 1853 the government of New Hampshire gave General Macomber permission to build a road. The Mount Washington Road Company got to work.

Before they could start building the road, workers had to measure how high the mountain was. Engineers had to figure out the best way to cut into the mountain to make the road. It took a great deal of planning, but finally the building crew got to work.

It was a big job just to get the supplies the crew needed to the work site. They used horses, oxen, and their own strong backs to haul the building supplies from eight miles away.



Work crew camping at Mount Washington



New road



The crew drilled blasting holes into the mountainside by hand. With black powder they blasted away portions of the mountain to make the road flat and smooth. They hauled away tons of blasted rock and gravel.

The road crew worked ten or twelve hours a day, even in cold temperatures and harsh wind. The crew spent their nights in tents and shacks on the mountainside. It took them a year to complete two miles of the road. They still had six miles to go.

General Macomber knew it would be expensive to build the road, but he didn't know just how expensive. Long before the road reached the top, his company ran out of money. Work on the road had to stop. Soon another company took over the project.

Finally, on August 8, 1861, the Mount Washington Carriage Road officially opened for travel. The first vehicle to reach the top that day was a Concord Coach pulled by eight horses. After people started driving cars on the road, the name changed to Mount Washington Auto Road.

In 1869 visitors had another way to travel up Mount Washington with the world's first cog railway. A cog railway is a special kind of railway that is designed for going up steep slopes. Today there are 30 cog railways in the world. Only one of them—a railway in Switzerland—is steeper than the railway that goes up Mount Washington.

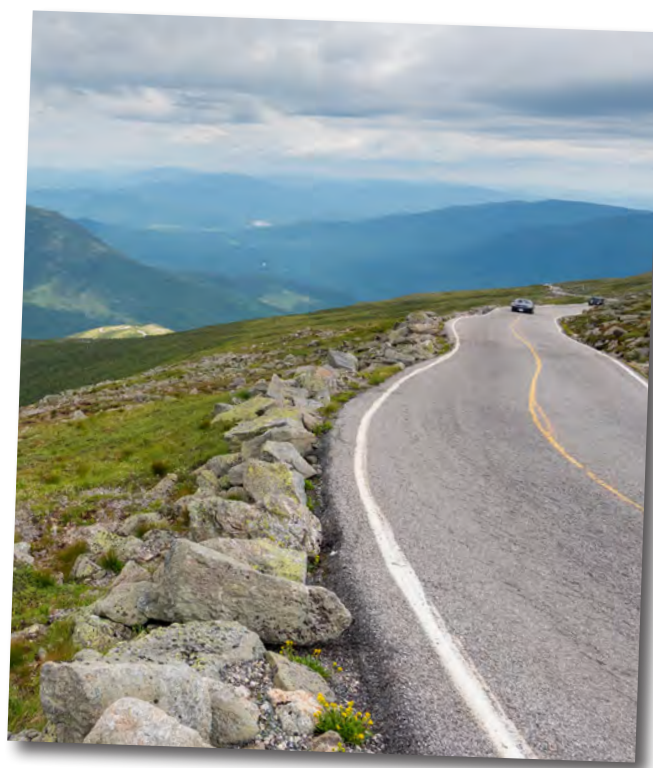


Mount Washington Carriage Road



Would you rather drive up Mount Washington, take a hike, or ride the cog railway? Before you decide, you should check the weather forecast. Some say Mount Washington has the worst weather in the world. Sometimes the wind is as powerful as a hurricane. The strongest wind ever recorded anywhere in the world was recorded on Mount Washington in 1934. Some companies that make tents test their designs on Mount Washington. If a tent can stand up to the wind on Mount Washington, it can probably stand up to winds anywhere!

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
Praise Him in the heights!
Psalm 148:1



Mount Washington Auto Road

Activities

- Complete the map activities for New Hampshire in the *Atlas Workbook* (page 7).
- Read chapter 4 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Companies that manufacture tents test their designs on Mount Washington. Invent a new tent design. What special features are in your tent? Does it come in different colors? Why should people buy it? In your creative writing notebook, write the script for a commercial encouraging people to buy your new type of tent. **or** Build a tent with blankets and other objects in your house (as long as your parents say it's okay).

Family Activity: Blueberry Muffins

Wild blueberries are the official fruit of Maine. Enjoy some blueberry muffins!

Ingredients (makes 12 muffins):

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 stick unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup buttermilk
- 2 ¼ cups fresh or frozen blueberries
- 1-2 tablespoons turbinado sugar (for optional topping)



Directions:

- Position the oven rack in the middle of the oven. Preheat oven to 375°
- Grease 12 cups of a muffin tin or line with cupcake papers.
- In a large bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, baking soda, nutmeg, and salt.
- In another bowl, whisk the melted butter and sugar together. Whisk in the eggs, one at a time. Combine well. Stir in the vanilla and buttermilk.
- Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix well.
- Fold in the blueberries.
- Spoon the batter into muffin cups. Sprinkle evenly with turbinado sugar, if desired.
- Carefully place the muffin tin in the oven.
- Bake 20-25 minutes, until the tops are golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.
- Carefully remove from the oven.
- Let the muffins sit until they are cool enough to touch.
- Serve warm or at room temperature.

Be safe with knives and the hot oven. Children must have adult supervision in the kitchen.



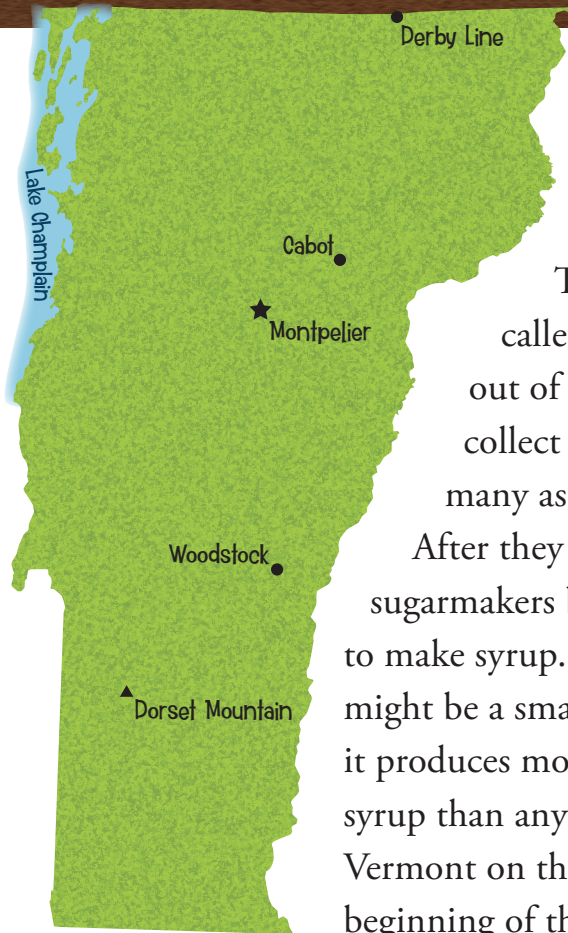
Stowe, Vermont

Unit 2

New England:

Vermont and Massachusetts

Lesson 5: Vermont



Imagine a pile of pancakes with maple syrup running down the sides. Yum! Maple syrup comes from maple trees. Vermont is full of maple trees.

To make the syrup, sugarmakers drill little holes called taps into the trunks of maple trees. The sap drips out of the taps and collects in buckets. Some sugarmakers collect from as many as 60,000 taps!

After they collect it, sugarmakers boil the sap to make syrup. Vermont might be a small state, but it produces more maple syrup than any other. Find Vermont on the map at the beginning of this book.



Tapping a maple in Vermont

Cabot Creamery

In 1919 dairy farmers in **Cabot**, Vermont, needed a way to use their extra milk. Ninety-four farmers joined together and started a business. They used the extra milk from their cows to make butter. They sold the butter throughout New England. In 1930 the company began making cheese as well.



Cabot cheese

Today around 800 dairy farm families from all over the northeast work together to supply the milk for Cabot Creamery. In addition to cheese, the creamery in Cabot makes Greek-style yogurt, cottage cheese, and sour cream. Cabot won the World's Best Cheddar award at the 2006 World Champion Cheese Contest.

Near Cabot, Vermont



Capital: Montpelier

Montpelier is our country's smallest state capital. Less than 8,000 people live in the city. (Compare that to Indiana's capital city with over 800,000 people and Arizona's capital with over 1,600,000!)

In 1805 the government of Vermont decided that Montpelier would be the state capital if the citizens of Montpelier could build the state house. The people wanted to help, but not everyone had money to donate. Some donated building materials instead. Some donated vegetables, grain, butter, and cheese. These items could be sold to buy wood, glass, and nails. People donated their time and carpentry skills. Residents agreed for the town to raise taxes to cover the rest of the cost of the building.

Montpelier finished the first state house in 1808. In 1836 the government moved into a new, larger state house. A fire broke out in that state house on a January night in 1857. The people of Montpelier rushed to throw chunks of frozen snow into the burning building. Sadly, they could not put out the fire and it destroyed the state house.

While they waited for a new state house, Vermont's government met in a county courthouse and a local church building. Workers completed a third state house two years later. The government of Vermont has used their third state house ever since. Today's senators sit in the same chairs at the same desks the senators used in 1857.

Vermont State House





Inside the Danby Quarry

Danby Quarry

Vermont is home to the largest underground marble quarry in the world. Workers have been cutting marble out of the Danby Quarry under **Dorset Mountain** since 1903. Workers also operate an underground factory at the quarry. There they prepare slabs of marble for people to use in building projects around the world.

Vermont Fossils

Lake Champlain lies between Vermont and New York. The lake has abundant fish, attracting fishermen from far and wide. The area around the lake fascinates geologists (scientists who study the earth). They come to the lake to study the fossilized coral reef there. Coral reefs form in the ocean, so apparently Vermont was once under the ocean.

In 1848 railroad workers were laying a track south of Lake Champlain. As they worked along, they dug up part of a fossilized mammoth. The next year, while working on the same railroad, workers discovered the fossilized bones of a beluga whale. It is obvious that long ago, Vermont was a very different place from what it is now!



Haskell Free Library and Opera House

Martha Stewart Haskell was Canadian. She married a man from Vermont. In 1901, after her husband's death, Mrs. Haskell decided to build a center for learning and culture in his honor. She and her son built the Haskell Free Public Library and Opera House. They had the building constructed on the border between Vermont and Quebec, Canada. The front door of the building is in **Derby Line**, Vermont, and the library books are in Rock Island, Quebec! The opera stage is in Canada, but most of the audience sits in the U.S.

Usually when someone in Canada wants to enter the United States, they have to go through an official port of entry. If a Canadian wants to visit the Haskell building, however, they are allowed to simply cross over the border on the sidewalk to get to the front door. The building continues to be a center for learning and culture, just as its founder hoped.

The mind of the prudent
acquires knowledge,
And the ear of the wise
seeks knowledge.
Proverbs 18:15



Haskell Free Library and Opera House

Activities

- Illustrate the geographic term for Vermont in the *Atlas Workbook* (page 8).
- If you are using the *Lesson Review*, answer the questions for Vermont (page 2).
- Read chapter 5 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Hands-On Idea: Use building bricks or blocks to design a building for the good of your community. Decide what will be the purpose of your building.
- Family Activity: Paint Autumn in New England pictures (instructions on page 36).

Lesson 6: A Song and Story of Vermont

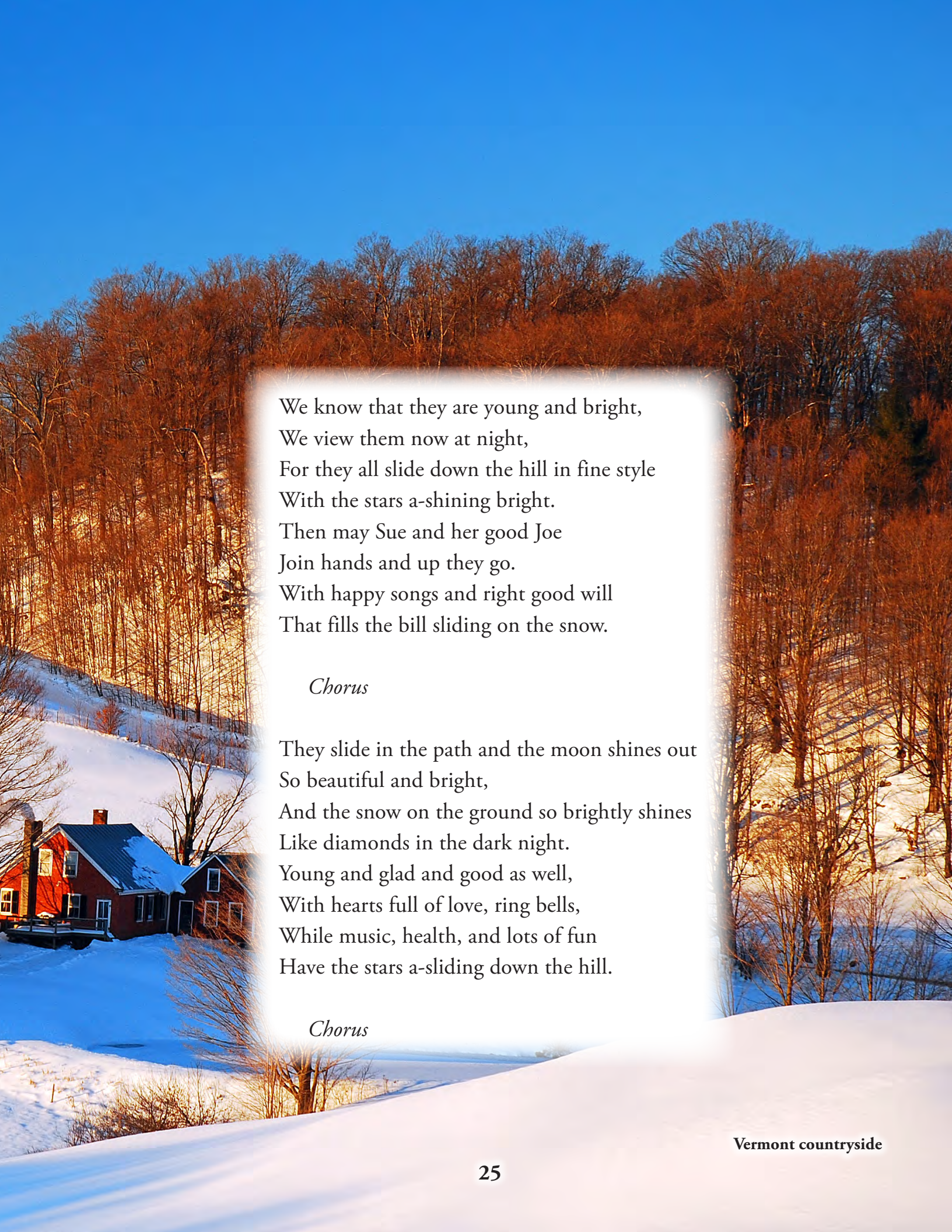
Sliding Down the Hill

This sledding song by M. A. Everest was published in Vermont in 1896. (Track 3)

The stars are coming out tonight
And you ought all to know
How the young ones all play on the hill
A-sliding o'er the snow.
Come and go with me tonight
Let the stars shine as they will,
For pleasure now we must not fail
To join our friends on the sliding hill.

Chorus:

Then they go over the snow sitting on a sled,
Down the hill, bumpety-bump, leader on ahead.
Many voices shout, pull up the sled, and turn about.
Ring the bells, blow the horn, sliding down the hill.
Ring the bells, blow the horn, sliding down the hill.



We know that they are young and bright,
We view them now at night,
For they all slide down the hill in fine style
With the stars a-shining bright.
Then may Sue and her good Joe
Join hands and up they go.
With happy songs and right good will
That fills the bill sliding on the snow.

Chorus

They slide in the path and the moon shines out
So beautiful and bright,
And the snow on the ground so brightly shines
Like diamonds in the dark night.
Young and glad and good as well,
With hearts full of love, ring bells,
While music, health, and lots of fun
Have the stars a-sliding down the hill.

Chorus

Hitting the Slopes

It's time to bundle up in your warmest clothes. Put on your gloves, and make sure you grab a hat. Step into a pair of skis. Grab two poles and you're off! Feel the fresh mountain air as you glide down over the hard-packed snow. Bend your knees, shift your weight, and watch the trees whizz by!

By the 1930s, Americans were discovering the thrill of flying down mountainsides and across hills on skis. Skiing was becoming a pleasure sport, instead of just a useful way to travel in the snow. It was fun, but skiers had a problem. They needed an easy way to get back up to the top once they got down.

Robert and Elizabeth Royce owned an inn near **Woodstock**, Vermont. In 1934 they decided to work on a solution to this skiing problem. They rented a former sheep pasture. They purchased pulleys, a Model T Ford engine, and a rope that was 1,800 feet long. They set up a tow rope with one pulley at the top of the hill and another at the bottom.

The Royces' first ski season with their new tow rope was a success. The engine kept the rope moving between the pulleys—except when it broke down, which happened often. Still, skiers loved it. They paid \$1 each for a day of skiing on the slope. Once they reached the bottom, they grabbed onto the tow rope and held on tight as it pulled them back to the top. Now they could ski down again . . . and again!



Skier on a tow rope around 1940



Chair lift in Vermont

The tow rope idea caught on across New England. Farmers installed them and set up places where visitors could stay on their farms. It was a new way to earn money during the long Vermont winters.

As skiing became more popular, people continued to think of new ways to get skiers back up the hill. One person tried attaching shovel handles to an overhead cable that ran up the mountainside. Someone else rigged up a harness attached to a rope that a horse pulled up the hill.

Over time people developed the chair lift style that skiers use today. One early lift designer got his ideas from a machine he had created to move bales of bananas in Honduras. The machine lifted the bananas off loading docks and loaded them onto boats. With chairs instead of banana hooks, the machine worked great for skiers.

Today millions of people from around the world hit the slopes of Vermont each year to ski—and then catch an easy ride back to the top in a chair lift.

God thunders with His voice wondrously,
Doing great things which we cannot comprehend.
For to the snow He says, "Fall on the earth,"
And to the downpour and the rain, "Be strong."
He seals the hand of every man,
That all men may know His work.
Job 37:5-7

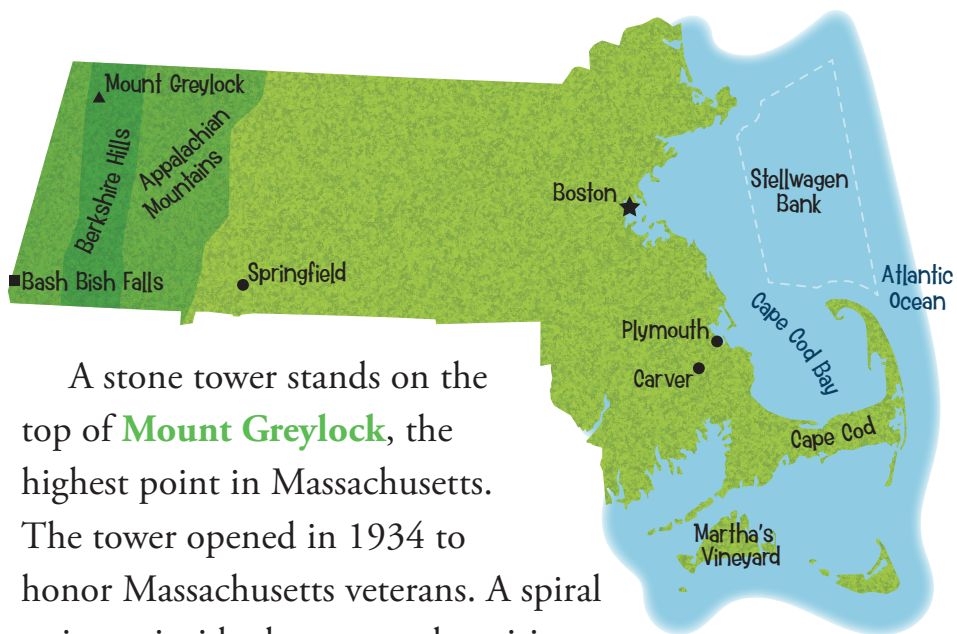


Vintage skis

Activities

- Complete the map activities for Vermont in the *Atlas Workbook* (page 9).
- Read chapter 6 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Skiers have been using chair lifts for many years. It's time for a new invention. Come up with a new idea for how skiers can get back to the top of the mountain. Use your imagination (your invention doesn't have to be practical or realistic). If you are keeping a creative writing notebook, write a detailed description of your invention.

Lesson 7: Massachusetts



A stone tower stands on the top of **Mount Greylock**, the highest point in Massachusetts. The tower opened in 1934 to honor Massachusetts veterans. A spiral staircase inside the tower takes visitors to the observation level, where they can look out and see five states. Mount Greylock is in the **Berkshire Hills**, which are part of the **Appalachian Mountains**. Find Massachusetts on the map at the beginning of this book.



Mount Greylock

Bash Bish Falls

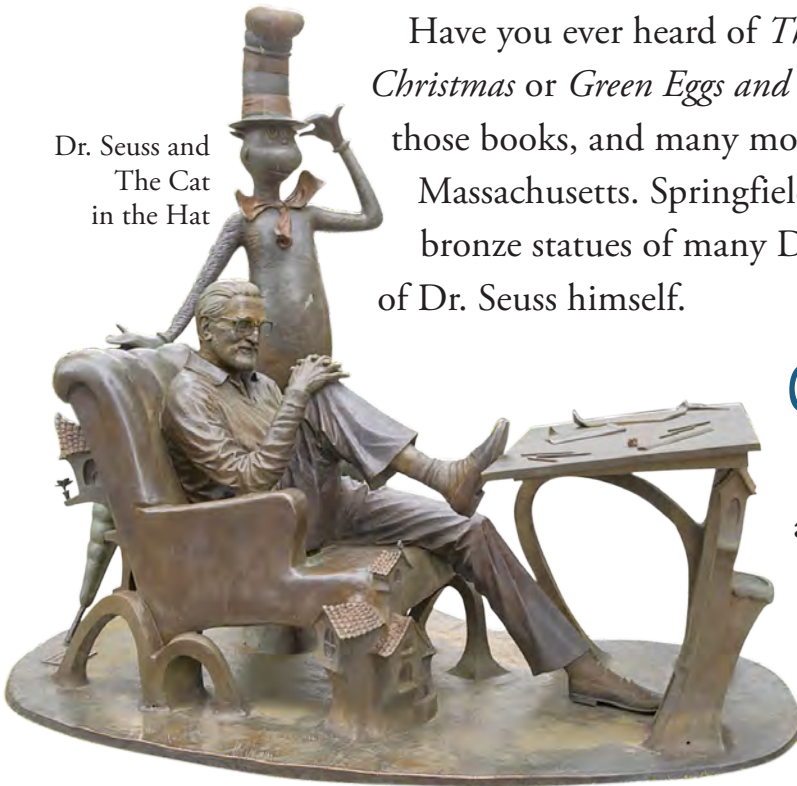
Bash Bish Falls tumbles down the Berkshire Hills into Bash Bish Brook. (Can you say that ten times fast?) As the water flows down, it hits a large triangular rock. Here the water divides and crashes down both sides of the rock into the brook below. The story goes that the falls and brook got their name from a Mohican woman named Bash Bish.



Bash Bish Falls

Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden

Dr. Seuss and
The Cat
in the Hat



Have you ever heard of *The Cat in the Hat* or *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* or *Green Eggs and Ham*? Dr. Seuss wrote and illustrated those books, and many more. Dr. Seuss was born in **Springfield**, Massachusetts. Springfield has a delightful sculpture garden with bronze statues of many Dr. Seuss characters. There is also a statue of Dr. Seuss himself.

Capital: Boston

Boston is the capital of Massachusetts and the largest city in New England. This city has been around since 1630, long before the United States even became a country.

Boston Common is the oldest public park in the United States. The Freedom Trail winds through Boston and leads visitors to sites that were important in the early days of our country. The state government has met in the Massachusetts State House in Boston since 1798.

Robert Paget began offering swan boat rides in Boston's Public Garden in 1877. His descendants still offer swan boat rides today. The boat drivers use their feet to pedal the boats along. Large swan figures hide the boats' pedals. The swan boats have become a beloved symbol of Boston.



Swan boats in Boston

Plimoth Plantation

Plimoth Plantation in **Plymouth** shows what life was like for the Pilgrims who landed here in 1620. Men, women, and children wearing Pilgrim costumes work in the gardens, tend the livestock, and cook meals over fires. Near the recreated village stands a Wampanoag homesite where visitors learn about the lives of the Pilgrims' neighbors.



Plimoth Plantation

Martha's Vineyard

When English settlers first came to Plymouth, the Wampanoag helped them learn how to survive here. Today some of the descendants of those Wampanoag live on **Martha's Vineyard**, an island off the coast of Massachusetts. Their town of Aquinnah is near the towering clay cliffs on the southern coast of Martha's Vineyard. The Wampanoag work together to preserve their tribe's history and culture through singing, dancing, storytelling, and traditional crafts.



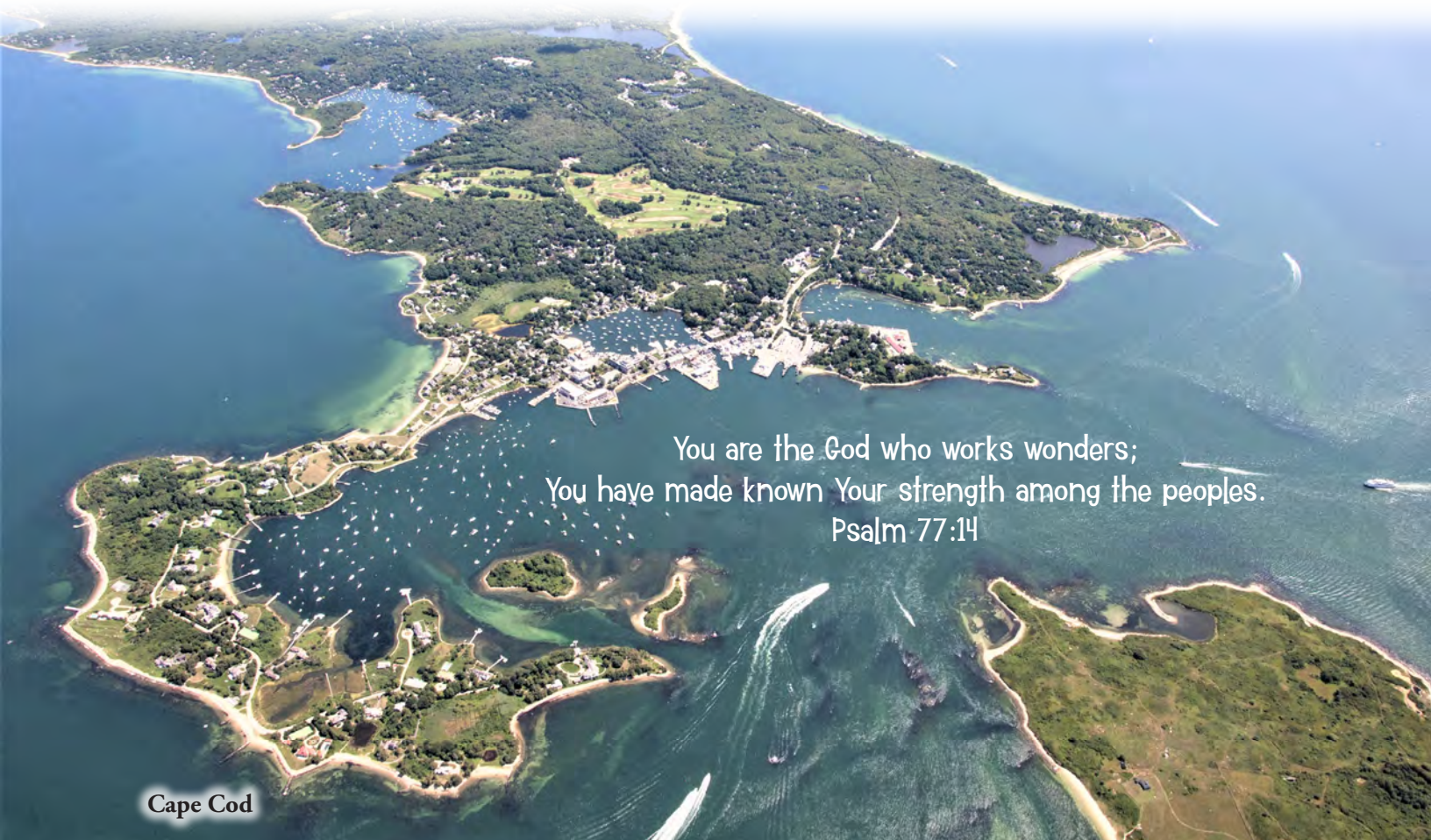
Cottages on Martha's Vineyard

Visitors to Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard love to stroll down the street and see the rows of brightly-colored cottages from the 1800s. Many cottages are decorated with fancy woodwork called gingerbread. The Oak Bluffs community began as a site for summertime camp meetings for Christians.

Cape Cod and Stellwagen Bank

Cape Cod extends east from the mainland of Massachusetts into the Atlantic Ocean around **Cape Cod Bay**. A cape is a narrow strip of land that juts into a body of water.

Cape Cod is near **Stellwagen Bank**, one of the best places in the world to go whale watching. An ocean bank is an area of water that is more shallow than the waters around it. Stellwagen Bank is teeming with life. Porpoises, seals, and dolphins love to play in these waters. Whales come here to feast on creatures such as sand eels. Fishermen come to catch cod, flounder, and tuna. The spectacular beauty and the abundant sea life here remind us of the mighty God who made it all.



You are the God who works wonders;
You have made known Your strength among the peoples.
Psalm 77:14

Activities

- Illustrate the geographic term for Massachusetts in the *Atlas Workbook* (page 10).
- If you are using the *Lesson Review*, answer the questions for Massachusetts (page 2).
- Read chapter 7 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Hands-On Idea: If you have any Dr. Seuss books at your house, look closely at the illustrations. Draw your own whimsical picture in the style of Dr. Seuss.

Lesson 8: A Song and Story of Massachusetts

The Popcorn Man

Edward King was a Massachusetts poet. While living in Springfield in the late 1800s he wrote a poem about George S. Page, the town's well-known Popcorn Man. (Track 4)

Hobble, hobble, up and down
Thro' the streets of Springfield Town;
Round the corner, up the street,
Caring naught for cold or heat,
Caring naught for passing jeer
Goes the jolly popcorn man,
Crying loudly as he can
"Sugared, fresh, and salt popcorn!
POPcorn!"

Careful goes he on his way
All the long and weary day;
In his basket huge supply
Of his shapely bundles lie.
Parchen corn in paper bags;
And his courage never flags
While, with voice like dinner horn,
Cries he lustily, "Popcorn!
Sugared, fresh, and salt popcorn!
POPcorn!"

When to lecture or to ball
Crowds approach the City Hall,
By the stairs the old man stands,
With a parcel in his hands
And his basket at his feet,
While these words he doth repeat—
"Here's your corn—your nice popcorn!
Sugared, fresh, and salt popcorn!
POPcorn!"

Morn and eve and eve and morn
Loud the old man cries "Popcorn!"
Long and joyful be his life
Free from care and weary strife.
Courage! old friend! Never fret!
You may be the mayor yet;
Stranger things have chanced before;
Courage! Hobble, work and roar
"Sugared, fresh and salt popcorn!
POPcorn!"



Cranberry Family



James, Jarrod, and Patrick Rhodes grew up surrounded by cranberries. Their parents, Matthew and Cindy, have owned cranberry bogs for as long as the boys can remember. The ground in a bog is wet and muddy. Bogs are a great place for growing cranberries. They are also a great place for kids to catch turtles, tadpoles, and frogs. A cranberry farm was a great place for the boys to grow up. Their cousins liked to join in the fun, too. James, Jarrod, and Patrick loved to ride with their dad as he drove the tractor around the bogs. Some days, when they were very young, their mom planted cranberries while carrying one of the boys in a carrier on her back.

As James, Jarrod, and Patrick grew up, they learned how to care for cranberries. They learned that sometimes their parents had to stay up all night to protect the berries from frost. If it got too cold, their parents had to turn on sprinklers to protect the plants. They learned that one frost can ruin a whole crop.

The Rhodes boys learned how to harvest cranberries using the dry method with a machine that looks like a lawn mower.

They watched their dad walk behind the machine as it combed the berries into bags. They learned to manage the machine themselves. They also learned how to harvest cranberries using the wet picking method. As their parents flooded the bogs with water,



Patrick using the dry method to harvest in 2007

the boys watched a machine knock the cranberries off the vines. They watched as one by one all the little red berries floated to the top of the water. They saw the floating berries get pumped from the bogs into a waiting truck.



Now James, Jarrod, and Patrick Rhodes are grown up. They are the fourth generation in their family to work as cranberry farmers. They work with their parents at Edgewood Bogs, their family's cranberry operation in **Carver**, Massachusetts.



Edgewood Bogs after a frosty night

During harvest time, the Rhodes hire around 50 people to help bring in the crop. They even hire a helicopter to lift huge bins full of cranberries off the bogs. Sometimes members of the family get to go for a ride in the helicopter. Employees and customers enjoy taking a turn in the helicopter, too. Everyone loves to see the spectacular view of the cranberry bogs from the air. Edgewood Bogs produces between four and five million pounds of cranberries every year!

Some people think cranberries are just to eat at Thanksgiving, but the Rhodes family doesn't agree. Over 4,000 grocery stores across the country carry their Cape Cod Select frozen cranberries. The Rhodes want people to be able to enjoy cranberries all year long.

Cindy Rhodes loves to cook with cranberries. She puts cranberries in bread and oatmeal. Her cranberry turkey chili won a first place award in a contest on the nearby



Edgewood Bogs full of cranberries

island of Martha's Vineyard. In the Rhodes family, cranberries go with pasta, shrimp, and even Brussels sprouts. Their cranberry squares are a delicious dessert. In the Rhodes family, cranberries make their way into a breakfast smoothie almost every morning.



Harvesting cranberries

Edgewood Bogs is all about cranberries. It is also all about family. Cindy Rhodes says that, “Family is about love and respect for one another. It is also about supporting each other when times call for it. Farming can be a lot of fun, but it can also be very stressful when something goes wrong in the field or in the processing plant. Watching my boys work together and also with non-family employees to solve problems brings me special joy. I also love to see their excitement during harvest season as they work twelve-hour days, seven days per week, to get the crop in!”

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!
Psalm 133:1

Activities

- Complete the map activities for Massachusetts in the *Atlas Workbook* (page 11).
- Read chapter 8 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Imagine that you are riding in a helicopter over a cranberry bog. Look closely at the pictures in this lesson. Notice little details. If you are keeping a creative writing notebook, write a description of what you might see from a helicopter window. How do you feel being in the helicopter? Do you see any animals? What are the people below doing? If you are not keeping a notebook, pretend a couch or a couple of chairs is your helicopter. Climb in with a family member and describe the view of the cranberry bog below.

Family Activity: Autumn in New England

Autumn in New England is especially beautiful. Every autumn, leaf peepers come to New England to drive through the countryside and enjoy the spectacular colors. (“Leaf peepers” is just a fun term for people who like to peep at leaves.) Follow these instructions to create a beautiful painting of autumn in New England.

Supplies:

- cardstock or other heavy paper
- pencil
- acrylic paints (blue, white, red, yellow, orange, green)
- paper plate
- artist sponge and/or wide circular paintbrush with coarse bristles
- water for cleaning the sponge or paintbrush
- paper towels for drying the sponge or paintbrush

Directions:

- Use a pencil to draw a faint line across your paper about 1/3 of the way up from the bottom. Now draw faint hills above the line.
- Squirt some blue paint on the paper plate. Paint the sky blue and let it dry.
- After the blue is dry, squirt some white paint on the paper plate. Use a clean and dry sponge or paintbrush to dab wispy clouds in the sky.
- Squirt some red, yellow, and orange paint on the paper plate. Do not mix the colors. Use a clean and dry sponge or paintbrush to lightly dab small amounts of autumn colors on the hills. You do not need to clean your brush or sponge between colors. Dab the colors here and there on the hills to cover them with autumn trees.
- Squirt some green paint on the paper plate. Use a clean paintbrush to apply the green to your painting using short, upward strokes to look like grass.





Hartford, Connecticut

Unit 3

New England:

Rhode Island and Connecticut

Lesson 9: Rhode Island



The carousel in **Watch Hill**, Rhode Island, built in 1867, is one of the oldest you will find anywhere. The horses are only attached at the top, which makes them appear to fly as the carousel spins around. In the 1800s, a real horse hitched to the carousel walked in circles to make it turn. Find Rhode Island, the smallest state of all, on the map at the beginning of this book.



Watch Hill Flying Horse Carousel

A Place for All

Roger Williams established the colony of Rhode Island in 1636. At that time, the people in some colonies did not want members of certain religious groups to live in their colonies. Roger Williams decided that Rhode Island would welcome people of all religions. Many people who were persecuted in other places moved to Rhode Island. Quakers, Baptists, Jews, and other groups came to live and worship in peace.

Rhode Island coast



Touro Synagogue stands in **Newport**. A synagogue is a building where Jews gather for worship and learning. Workers completed the Touro Synagogue in 1763. It is the oldest synagogue in the United States.

Salt Marshes

Salt marshes lie along the Rhode Island shoreline. A marsh is an area of low land that stays wet all or most of the time. Fish, shellfish, birds, and mammals find food, lay their eggs, and raise their young in the marshes of Rhode Island.

Marshes are an important ecosystem. An ecosystem is a system in a particular area where certain plants, animals, weather, and landscapes work together. Salt marshes naturally filter pollution out of water before the water reaches the ocean. They also absorb water during floods. This helps prevent flooding of nearby homes and businesses.



Outside and inside of Touro Synagogue



Salt marsh in Newport

Capital: Providence

Roger Williams established **Providence** in 1636 on land he purchased from the Narragansett people. He chose the name Providence because he was thankful for God's merciful providence to him. Roger Williams wanted the city to be a shelter for people in distress. It is one of the oldest cities in the United States.



Illustration of Narragansetts with Roger Williams

The Ocean State

Rhode Island is the Ocean State. No matter where a person is in Rhode Island, he is not more than 30 minutes from the coast. Rhode Island might be small, but it has plenty of sandy beaches.

Narragansett Bay is the largest estuary in New England. An estuary is an area where rivers and streams meet the ocean. In an estuary, fresh water from rivers or streams mixes with the salt water of the ocean. God created some animals and plants to live only in fresh water. He designed others to live only in salt water. The animals and plants He created for estuaries thrive on a mixture of these waters.



Beavertail Lighthouse at the entrance to Narragansett Bay

Rhode Island Mansions

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, several wealthy families built summer homes in Newport. They called these homes “cottages,” though they were really quite large. The Breakers is the most famous house in Rhode Island. The Vanderbilt family had it built in the late 1800s.

The Breakers features shimmering crystal chandeliers and shiny blue marble. It contains 70 rooms. The ceiling in the pantry is two stories high so it could hold all the Vanderbilts’ dishes. French workers built part of The Breakers in Paris, France. When they finished that part of the house, they took it apart, shipped it across the ocean, and put it back together in Rhode Island.

People build great things, but we must remember that they are small compared to the greatness of God.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!
O Lord my God, You are very great;
You are clothed with splendor and majesty.
Psalm 104:1



The Breakers



Marble House



Rosecliff

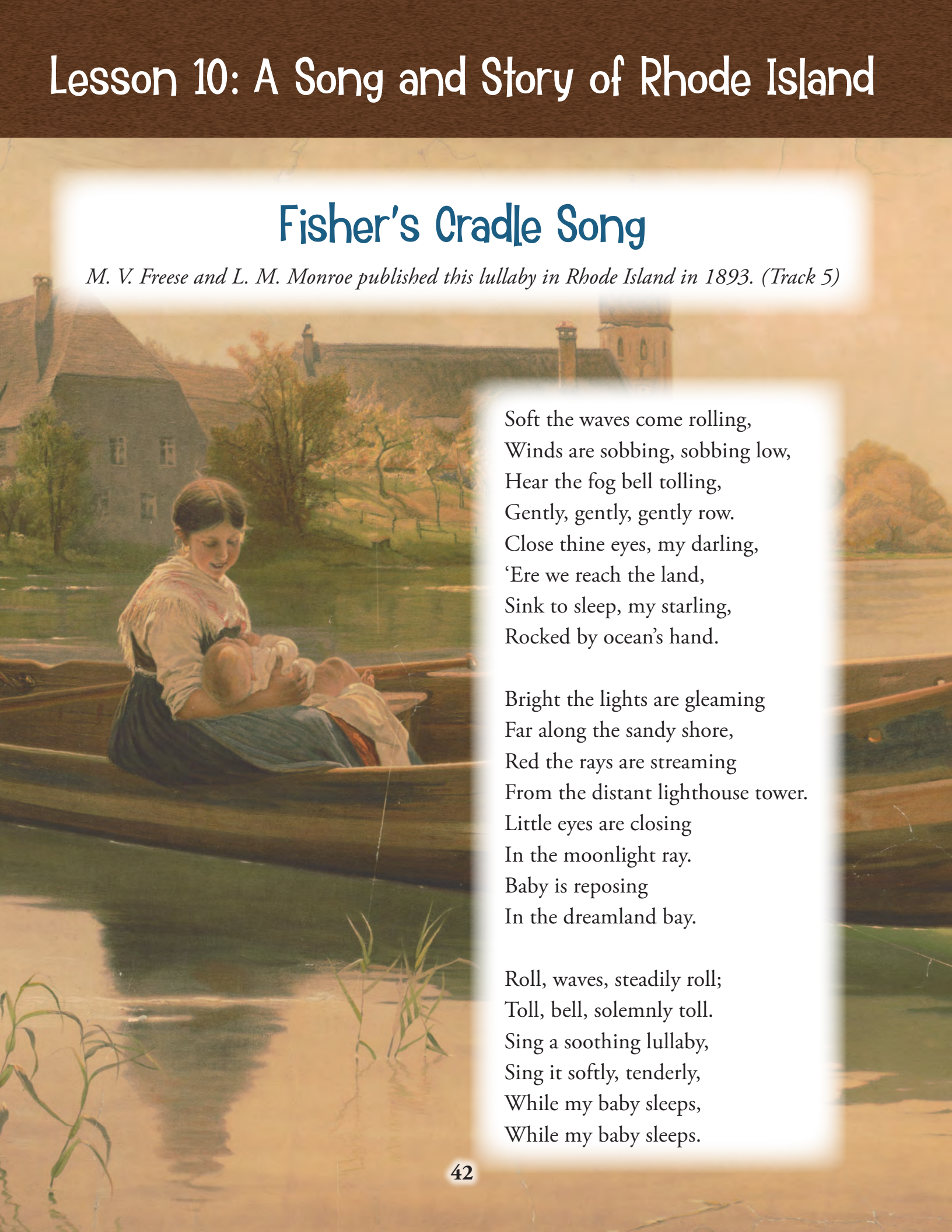
Activities

- Illustrate the geographic term for Rhode Island in the *Atlas Workbook* (pages 12).
- If you are using the *Lesson Review*, answer the questions for Rhode Island (page 3).
- Read chapter 9 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Hands-On Idea: Use building bricks or blocks to build a grand mansion. Build gardens and fountains around the outside.

Lesson 10: A Song and Story of Rhode Island

Fisher's Cradle Song

M. V. Freese and L. M. Monroe published this lullaby in Rhode Island in 1893. (Track 5)



Soft the waves come rolling,
Winds are sobbing, sobbing low,
Hear the fog bell tolling,
Gently, gently, gently row.
Close thine eyes, my darling,
'Ere we reach the land,
Sink to sleep, my starling,
Rocked by ocean's hand.

Bright the lights are gleaming
Far along the sandy shore,
Red the rays are streaming
From the distant lighthouse tower.
Little eyes are closing
In the moonlight ray.
Baby is reposing
In the dreamland bay.

Roll, waves, steadily roll;
Toll, bell, solemnly toll.
Sing a soothing lullaby,
Sing it softly, tenderly,
While my baby sleeps,
While my baby sleeps.



Grandfather's Chickens

A dozen hens scratched at the ground around David's feet. A rooster crowed nearby. David Patten loved to be up early. He gazed off across the water. In the distance he could see the Vanderbilts' new home, The Breakers. He could see other grand homes in Newport, owned by other grand and important families.

David turned around and looked at his grandfather's farmhouse. He smiled. His grandfather, Isaac Wilbour, was grand and important, too. Isaac Wilbour had the biggest poultry farm in the whole country! Magazine reporters from big cities came to Grandfather's farm in **Little Compton**, Rhode Island. They wrote articles about Grandfather's chicken business. Farmers having chickens was nothing new, but Americans were fascinated with the new idea of a farmer actually earning a living from chickens and geese.

David watched one of Grandfather's hired hands come up from the cookhouse in the feed wagon. He was a Portuguese immigrant, as were most of the farmhands. David jumped on the wagon. He knew the morning rounds would take two hours, but he didn't mind that. He loved this part of the day.

The horse pulled the feed wagon up to the first white hen house. Nobody had to drive the horse. She knew just when and where to stop.

Near Little Compton



The hired hand jumped out. From the largest bin on the wagon he scooped out a shovelful of dough. He had mixed up the dough the night before. He dumped the dough in the chickens' feed trough. He threw in some oyster shells. When the chickens had oyster shells to eat, their eggs were stronger. The Portuguese man filled the chickens' water keg from the barrel on the wagon. When he was finished, the horse knew to pull the wagon on to the next hen house. One hen house down, seventy-four more to go.

All day the chickens wandered about the farm. David loved to watch and listen to three or four thousand chickens busily scratching and clucking their day away. Every night, the horse pulled the feed wagon back around to each hen house. David and the hired hand gave the chickens their ration of corn and gathered the day's eggs. Each day they gathered an average of 5,000 eggs! Grandfather's chickens laid close to two million eggs a year.

Once a week, David got to ride on the egg wagon with Clarence, the farm foreman. This wagon, with its yellow wheels and bright red sides, pulled up to one nearby farm after another. Clarence paid the farmers for their eggs. Clarence and Grandfather took these eggs, plus all the eggs from their own farm, to market in Providence. Merchants carried the best eggs on to Boston.



Rhode Island Reds

The chickens around Little Compton were famous. Before David was born, one of Grandfather's neighbors had bred his own chickens with chickens that came on a ship all the way from Asia. Grandfather liked his neighbor's chickens. He bought some and bred them with his own chickens. Grandfather's flock became healthier and stronger. They laid large brown eggs. They were good meat birds, too.

One day someone told Grandfather he should come up with a name for this new breed of chickens. Grandfather replied, "Why, wouldn't Rhode Island Reds do?"

When he was a boy, David watched some men on Grandfather's farm load 50 Rhode Island Reds into crates. The birds went to David's uncle in Iowa. Before long, other farmers in Iowa had Rhode Island Reds pecking around their farms, too. Grandfather's new chicken breed kept spreading.

In 1954 the Rhode Island legislature voted to make the Rhode Island Red the state bird of Rhode Island. Today Rhode Island Reds cluck and scratch on farms across America and around the world.

... O Lord, it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them.

Acts 4:24



Crate



Rhode Island Red monument in Little Compton

Activities

- Complete the map activities for Rhode Island in the *Atlas Workbook* (page 13).
- Read chapter 10 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Ask an adult in your family to share a memory they have of visiting their grandparents when they were young. If you are keeping a creative writing notebook, write down their story in your own words.

Lesson 11: Connecticut

The water of **Long Island Sound** separates Connecticut and New York. A sound is a narrow part of an ocean or sea with land on both sides. Jellyfish, sea turtles, and sharks swim in these waters. Some ocean creatures lay their eggs in the sound and on the sandy beaches that surround it. Find Connecticut on the map at the beginning of this book.



Long Island Sound

Mystic Seaport Museum

The Mystic River is one of the many rivers that flow into Long Island Sound. The Mystic Seaport Museum stands at the river's edge in **Mystic**, Connecticut. Here visitors experience what life was like in a New England fishing village in the 1800s. They watch workers build wooden ships the old-fashioned way. The museum is home to an 1841 wooden whaling ship, the *Charles W. Morgan*. This ship once hunted whales around the world.



The *Charles W. Morgan*

Thimble Islands

Hundreds of small islands lie clustered off the coast of Connecticut. The Mattabasek people who once lived in this area called them *Kuttomquosh*, which means “the beautiful sea rocks.” Today they are known as the **Thimble Islands**.

Some of the Thimble Islands are large enough for several houses; others are just a small rocky place you can only see during low tide. Tides are the rising and falling of a body of water. In most coastal places, there are two high tides and two low tides each day. When the tide is high, the water comes up. When the tide is low, the water goes down. The moon’s gravity makes the tides rise and fall.



Thimble Islands



Sleeping Giant State Park

Would you like to go for a walk on a sleeping giant? Connecticut’s sleeping giant is a natural land form that looks like, well, a sleeping giant! In the early 1900s, people started blowing this giant to bits. The owner of the giant’s head leased his land to a company that quarried rocks out of the ground. People who lived nearby complained about all the blasting from the quarry. They also complained that the giant was going to lose his shape.



Sleeping Giant

People worked together and organized the Sleeping Giant Park Association and **Sleeping Giant State Park**. Members of the association still volunteer to help keep the trails in good shape. Thanks to the work of many people, visitors continue to enjoy walking on Connecticut's sleeping giant.

Mountain laurel, the state flower of Connecticut, grows abundantly around the state park. Captain John Smith wrote about these flowers when he explored New England in the 1600s.

Mountain Laurel



Dinosaur State Park

Imagine footprints up to 16 inches long. Imagine footprints up to four and a half feet apart. Imagine dinosaurs walking across Connecticut!

In 1966 a construction worker used a bulldozer to turn over a slab of sandstone. Underneath it he saw a large footprint with three toes. Soon people discovered more footprints. They decided to put a stop to the construction project. They turned the area

into **Dinosaur State Park**. Today 500 tracks are on display in the park. The footprints are protected from the weather so that people can continue marveling at this part of God's creation for years to come.



Dinosaur footprints at Dinosaur State Park

Capital: Hartford

For many years, Connecticut had two capital cities. Citizens took care of some government business in **Hartford**, and other business in **New Haven**. Each city had its own state house. The Old State House in Hartford has been around since 1796. It is the oldest state house in the country. In addition to seeing where the senate and house of representatives once met, visitors can see a two-headed calf!

Connecticut State Capitol



Joseph Steward opened a portrait gallery in the state house in 1797. Not many people visited his gallery, so he created a museum to try to draw larger crowds. It worked. Steward's Museum of Natural and Other Curiosities certainly made people curious. Visitors paid 20 cents each to come inside and see a variety of curious items, including a stuffed two-headed calf. Steward's museum closed in the mid-1800s. In the 1990s, the director of the Old State House worked hard to recreate it. Now visitors to the Old State House can see a museum similar to the one that was here 200 years ago.

In 1873 the people of Connecticut voted to make Hartford their one and only capital city. They built a new capitol building, which is where the state senators and representatives meet today.

The Bible teaches us to pray for our government leaders.

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

Activities

- Illustrate the geographic term for Connecticut in the *Atlas Workbook* (pages 14).
- If you are using the *Lesson Review*, answer the questions for Connecticut (page 3).
- Read chapter 11 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Hands-On Idea: Lay out blankets or pillows on the floor to represent the Thimble Islands. Pick one island to live on. Perhaps other family members can live on other islands. How will you travel from one to another?
- Family Activity: Go on a Shape Walk (instructions on page 54).

Lesson 12: A Story and Song of Connecticut

The Connecticut Peddler

Peddlers once traveled across the countryside selling a variety of items to farm families along the way. Imagine a peddler coming up your road singing this song. The “tracts upon popular sins” were brochures about common sins and how to overcome them. (Track 6)

I'm a peddler, I'm a peddler,
I'm a peddler from Connecticut,
I'm a peddler, I'm a peddler,
And don't you want to buy?

Many goods have I in store,
So listen while I name them o'er,
So many goods you never saw before,
So very many goods you never saw before,
So listen while I name them o'er,

Here are pins,
Papers and needles and pins,
Tracts upon popular sins,
Any of which I will sell you.

And here are the seeds of asparagus,
Lettuce, beets, onions, and peppergrass
From the Limited Sodety,
Seeds of all kinds and variety.

Da, da, da, tiddle-dum, tiddle-dum,
Rum, turn tiddle-dum, tiddle-dee,
Rinktum, te-tiddle-dee, rinktum te-tiddle-dee
Tiddle-dum, tiddle-dum, faddle whee.



Peddler

Connecticut countryside

A Good Neighbor

Little George Laurence Nelson loved to hold a pencil in his hand. He loved to watch animals take shape on the paper in front of him. He loved to look at his mother's beautiful face and sketch her features. He drew other people, too, but mostly he drew his mother.

George's parents were both artists. They met in Paris, France, while studying art. They moved to New York and became an art team. They painted. They designed fashions. They created calendars. The Nelson family loved art.

When George Nelson was ten years old, he started writing and illustrating his own magazine. In 1904 George was excited to use a new drawing tool—crayons! Crayola Crayons were a brand new invention. The company held a drawing contest, and George won first prize for his drawing of a cow. His prize was a pair of skates.

George studied art and became an art teacher. He also had a wonderful voice and learned to play five instruments. After his mother died, he and his father moved together to **Kent**, Connecticut, on the **Housatonic River**. They organized a summer art school, the Nelson Outdoor Painting Class.



Crayola crayons box
from the early 1900s



Housatonic River



Painting of Helen by George Laurence Nelson



Self-portrait by George Laurence Nelson

In 1915 Helen Redgrave came to interview George Nelson. Instead of interviewing him, she sat while Mr. Nelson painted her portrait. He thought that she was the most beautiful girl in the world. They married the next year.

George Nelson spent the rest of his life in Kent. A minister in Kent once described him as having a shy smile, a twinkling eye, and a warm handshake. Even though he was famous, he was gentle and humble. The minister said he was a good neighbor with many friends. He said that Mr. Nelson was “always interested in the welfare of his house, his district, his community.”

Like George Nelson, each of us has the opportunity to take an interest in the place where we live. We can each be a good neighbor in our own community.

Each of us is to please his neighbor
for his good, to his edification.
Romans 15:2

Activities

- Complete the map activities for Connecticut in the *Atlas Workbook* (page 15).
- Read chapter 12 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Who is someone you know who is interested in the welfare of their community as George Nelson was? If you are keeping a creative writing notebook, describe that person and what he or she does.
- If you are using the *Lesson Review*, take the New England Test (page 29). (Note: If you want to study for the test, look over the questions in the *Lesson Review* for Units 1-3 and look at the New England region on the map at the beginning of this book. This is the best method to prepare for all tests in *Our 50 States*.)

Family Activity: Shape Walk

God's world is full of fun and interesting shapes, such as the Sleeping Giant in Connecticut. Go on a shape walk with your family. Take a walk around your yard or around your neighborhood. Look for fun shapes in the forks of trees, in the clouds, in the lay of the land, and in your neighbor's flower bed. You might like to see if you can find shapes of all the letters of the alphabet. You could look for simple shapes, such as squares, rectangles, and diamonds. You could let your imaginations run wild and find shapes that remind you of dinosaurs or unicorns. You might like to take photographs or draw pictures of what you find and create a book. You might rather simply go for a walk and enjoy the search. Either way, have fun.

X



Z



Y