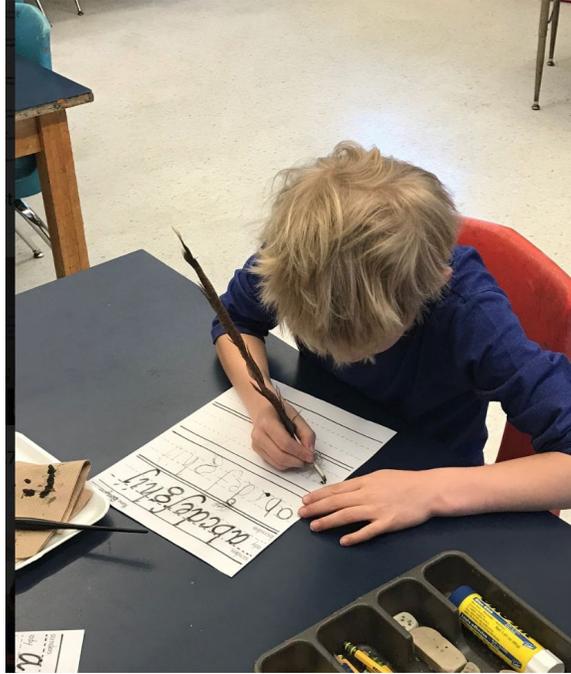


# Prosper Valley History

*Fostering a sense of place through an understanding of the past*



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## Essential Question

How does knowing the history of our towns help develop a sense of place?

## Standards Addressed (adapted from the 3C's)

- ❖ Draw maps of special places in their community
- ❖ Use maps to identify cultural and environmental characteristics of places.
- ❖ Describe how human activities affect the cultural and environmental characteristics of Bridgewater & Pomfret.
- ❖ Describe how people in Bridgewater & Pomfret used their environments to meet their daily needs
- ❖ Create a chronological sequence of multiple events.

- ❖ Compare life in the past to life today.
- ❖ Generate questions for individual experts from Bridgewater & Pomfret.
- ❖ Compare life in the past to life in the present.

### Community Connection:

- ❖ Presenters came into our classroom from Bridgewater & Pomfret
- ❖ Students wrote & sang a song about our two towns
- ❖ Students conducted interviews which were shared through an online portal

### Big Ideas (That students discovered throughout our unit)

- ❖ Life in the past was difficult
- ❖ People used the environment to help them survive
- ❖ Water was very important!
- ❖ People had to work hard for what they wanted and needed
- ❖ Building stonewalls took a lot of time
- ❖ People used natural resources to survive
- ❖ Transportation was different
- ❖ Communication was different

### Performance Tasks:

March:

- ❖ An introduction to mapping
  - Read mapping books
  - Students created maps of their own special places in Art & Technology
- ❖ Investigate historical maps & images
  - Pete Fellows helped to supply large maps
  - Explore 1760's map of Bridgewater & Pomfret using protocol outlined on Flow of History Website *Teaching with Local Maps*
    - How did the landscape impact where people settled?
  - Discuss Thomas Cole's painting: A Home in the Woods. Follow protocol on



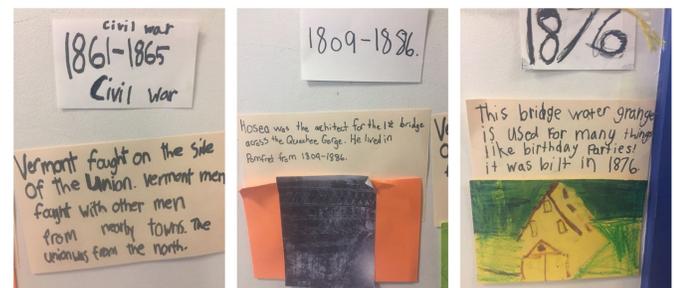
## Flow of History site: Using Maps to Investigate Early Village Life

April

- ❖ What is a town?
  - Why did people decide to settle in a particular place?
  - What do towns need?
  - How did people go about settling in Bridgewater & Pomfret?
    - Read Asa Jones' diary (Bridgewater's first settler) & draw pictures of his experience
    - How did nature & the landscape impact Asa Jones?
- ❖ Presentations about our towns of Bridgewater & Pomfret
  - Life in a one-room schoolhouse
  - Hosea Doten (Architect, teacher, mathematician, engineer, etc.. circa 1870)
  - The Bridgewater Grange
  - Gold mining in Bridgewater
  - Writing! Quills, calligraphy & diaries
  - Asa Jones: Bridgewater's First Settler
  - The Harringtons: One Family's History
  - The Bridgewater Woolen Mill
  - Stonewalls
- ❖ Build a timeline of important events
- ❖ Investigation of stone walls - what they represent from our state's history
- ❖ Song-writing 🎵
- ❖ 7 minute writes linked to our presentations
  - Imagine yourself going to school in a one-room schoolhouse
  - What would it have been like to build a stonewall? Why did you build the wall?
  - Imagine yourself as a gold miner in Bridgewater
  - Imagine yourself as Asa Jones. What would you have felt? Seen? Wanted?
  - Would you rather have lived in the past or in present day?



### Building A Timeline



May

- ❖ Reading the Landscape

- Hike on the Appalachian Trail to Old King's Highway
  - Discussion about:
    - Wolf trees
    - Stone walls
    - Barbed wire
    - White pine trees
    - Apple trees
    - Hawthorn Trees
    - Milk Can
    - Cellar Holes
    - Old tools
    - Daylilies
  - Draw what you see at the old homestead & what you think it once looked like
- ❖ Interviews
  - Students chose a 'real' person or a fictional/possible person to interview.
    - Students planned, researched & filmed themselves conducting their interviews

## Assessment

(Assessment for this unit was formative, on-going & summative)

- ❖ Formative assessment through observation of discussions during our 'expert' presentations & classroom conversations
- ❖ The interviews were scored and reflected in the social studies portion of students report cards
- ❖ 7-minute writes & paragraph writing about stonewalls were reflected in the writing section of student report cards

## Materials

- ❖ Books! I chose books that would engage students & link them to the topics we touched upon during this unit.
  - Here Comes Darrell!
  - The Lumber Camp Library
  - The Bear That Heard Crying
  - Tricking the Tallyman
  - Nora's Ark

- Daisy & the Doll
  - As the Crow Flies
  - ❖ Historical maps
- 

## *This Town is Your Town, This Town is My Town*

To the tune of: This Land is Your Land

This town is your town, this town is my town  
From Bridgewater School to The Prosper Valley  
From the Ottauquechee, to the banks of the White River  
These towns are loved by you and me!

Asa went to Bridgewater  
He started clearing  
that forest around him  
He built a log home  
Of pegs and timber  
for his brave family.  
These towns are loved by you and me!

This town is your town, this town is my town  
From Bridgewater School to The Prosper Valley  
From the Ottauquechee, to the banks of the White River  
These towns are loved by you and me!

The sun came shining,  
And Hosea was planning  
To design a bridge

across the gorge!  
Made of wood and iron  
For all to travel  
That bridge was made for you & me.

This town is your town, this town is my town  
From Bridgewater School to The Prosper Valley  
From the Ottawaquechee, to the banks of the White River  
These towns are loved by you and me!

I left my farm in Pomfret  
And I followed a stone wall  
Past the town of Woodstock  
To the Woolen Mill  
And all around me the looms were  
Banging  
These towns are loved by you & me

This town is your town, this town is my town  
From Bridgewater School to The Prosper Valley  
From the Ottawaquechee, to the banks of the White River  
These towns are loved by you and me!

As I went fishing,  
I saw some gold chunks  
In the shining river  
I got excited!  
Other people found out

And tried to take my gold.

This gold was made for me NOT you, Shoo!!

This town is your town, this town is my town

From Bridgewater School to The Prosper Valley

From the Ottaquechee, to the banks of the White River

These towns are loved by you and me!