

Civic Engagement in Any Subject

About our TPS Regional Grant project in 2024-5

Our Current Work - Spring 2024 Mohawk Trail School District

About the Mohawk Trail Region & the Pioneer Valley

Pioneer Valley listed as one of the “most underrated destinations in the USA,” according to CNN Travel




The Overall Plan

Spring 2024: in District 4 session PD Series; Intro to Primary Sources & Local History; places to find them, ways to use them. Creating/modifying lessons for fall 2024/spring 2025
Fall 2024 - Spring 2025: Regional PD series, Full day with ongoing support & cohort through 1 credit course.

Making Historical Connections Across Subjects

- Started with department and building-level brainstorming
- Community & Local History Inventories
- Local History Timelines
- Conversations with local historians & community partners (historical societies & orgs)



Whales in New England

-  Collaboration between Marine Science and US History
-  Thinking broadly about “local” to state level
-  Lessons on the importance of whales to indigenous cultures, early New Englanders, impact of hunting & environmental issues, modern conservation & tourism





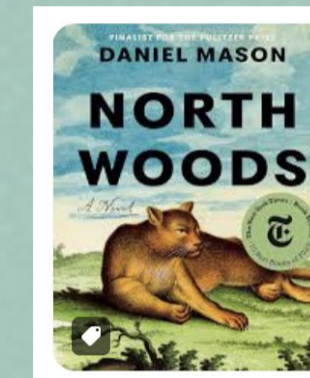
Primary sources from the Library of Congress & MA Dept of Tourism

A Library of Landmarks



-  Elementary librarian at Colrain Central School researching particular local landmarks
-  4th grade students create miniature replicas for a semi-permanent exhibit of in the school library

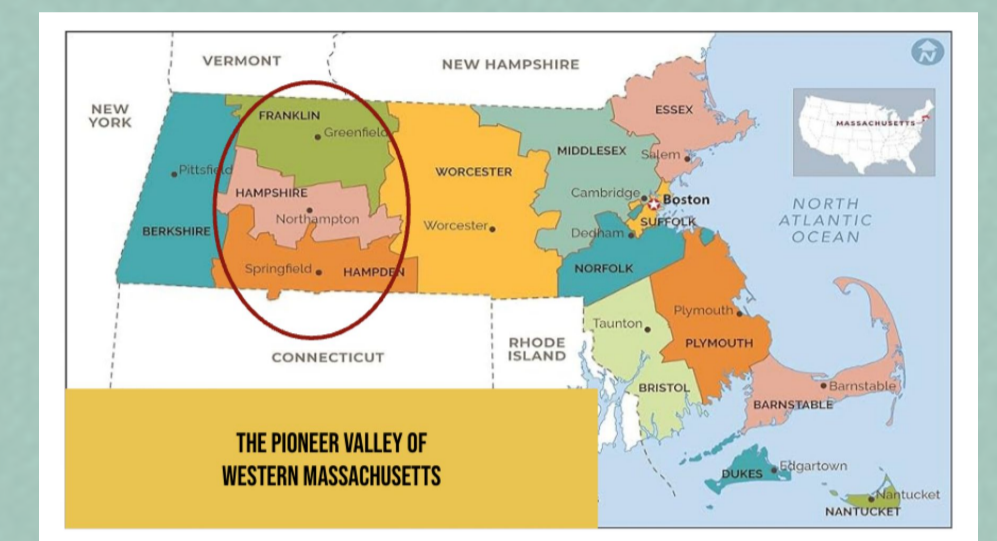
A Study of Place

-  Collaboration between ELA, US History & APUSH, inspired by the 2023 novel North Woods, by Daniel Mason, set in our region
-  Student projects: one place over time, using real and fictional primary sources to tell stories of living things in different eras



The History & Impact of Flooding & Dams in the Pioneer Valley

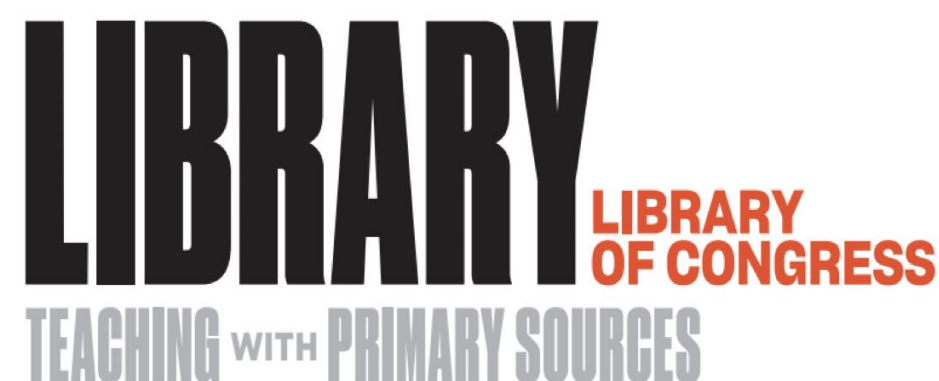
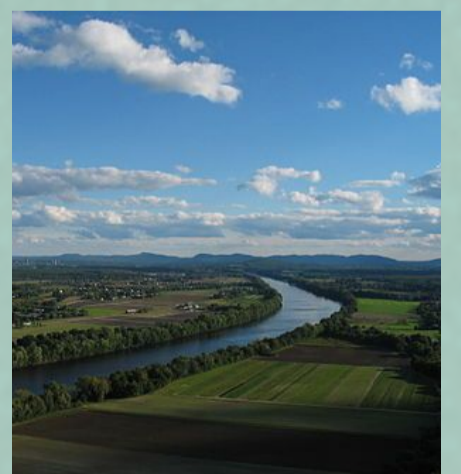
-  **7th Grade:** How are Ecosystem Dynamics impacted by severe weather events like floods? Finding local stories and evidence to use with students
-  **8th Grade:** The History & Impact of Dams in the Pioneer Valley; investigating the local historic use, some disasters, and current controversies over the impact of dams on ecosystems



What's in the Pioneer Valley?

- ENVIRONMENT:** Rivers (Connecticut, Deerfield, Millers), mountains, valleys, dinosaur tracks!
- AGRICULTURE:** Vibrant & creative small, local family farming community
- RECREATION:** Skiing, rafting, hiking, hunting
- HISTORY:** colonial, Shays' Rebellion, Industrial Revolution, Underground Railroad
- CULTURE:** Strong local arts, music, activism communities

According to UMASS, "The Pioneer Valley is a diverse patchwork of urban centers, unspoiled forest, farmland, and great natural beauty."



Project Contact

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