SETTLING THE MAINE WILDERNESS



Moses Greenleaf, Maine's First Mapmaker

LESSON 1

Population Growth in Maine

SUBJECT

Population growth prior to Maine Statehood in 1820

STUDENTS WILL

- Learn about the rapid population growth that occurred in Maine between the American Revolution and statehood
- Identify population growth patterns

PREPARATION

- 1. Copy the 1829 map by Moses Greenleaf, "Map of the Inhabited part of the State of Maine" and the worksheet for each student.
- 2. Read and review the information in "The Times."

BODY OF LESSON

Activity

Present the material in the "The Times" as background. Explain to students that they will learn about how Maine grew in the years before it became a state. Students will analyze population growth by looking at a Moses Greenleaf map that shows population

density during and after the American Revolution, until Maine became a state (**Knowledge**).

Hand out the 1829 Greenleaf map and worksheet. Give the students time to analyze the map and answer the worksheet questions. Share answers as a class discussing how and why population did not spread evenly across the state. (Comprehension, Evaluation, Analysis)

ASSESSMENT

Worksheet and discussion performance

EXTENSIONS

Look at the population and property values of your town and surrounding towns and compare the information. (Analysis) Discuss possible reasons for the differences such as ease of access and available natural resources. (Synthesis)

Maine Map Worksheet

"Map of the inhabited part of the state of Maine" by Moses Greenleaf, 1829

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Maine Map Worksheet Answer Key

The key to the left of the map title shows data for counties in which population and taxable property are not represented on the map. The key on the far right denotes "A" as the center of taxable property in the year 1778, "B" as the center of population in 1778, "C" as the center of taxable property in 1790, "D" as the center of population in 1790 and "E" as the center of taxable property in 1820.

"Map of the inhabited part of the state of Maine" by Moses Greenleaf, 1829

1. This map shows the outline of towns. Within the borders of each town are three pieces of information. The name of the town is listed first and the value of all the property in the town is listed last. What does the middle number represent?

population of the town

2. There are three different colored areas on the map. Each represents an area that was settled before a certain date. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate color (blue, pink, yellow):

The blue area was settled before 1778.

The *pink* area was settled between 1778 and 1800.

The yellow area was settled between 1800 and 1820.

3. Which areas of Maine were settled first? Why?

The coastal areas and areas along the rivers were settled first because transportation of people and products was easier along waterways. Rivers also provided mill sites.

4. Find the compass rose-like symbol. What does its location indicate?

The symbol shows the center of the territory of the state, indicating that the vast majority of the northern lands not shown on the map were unsettled/unpopulated in 1820.

