A Trail To Every Classroom (TTEC)  
Curriculum Development Tool  

UNIT DESIGN COVER SHEET  

Author contact: Maine Woods Team  

School name, state and town: Unspecified  

Title: Northern Maine Woods Quest  

Abstract/Vignette: “A Quest for Our Maine -- A unique place to live”: The goal is for the collaboration to branch out into the communities of the AT and create individual themed Maine Quests and to then create a booklet that will highlight the region through exploration, creating a sense of place for residents and visitors.  

Grade level(s): Please check all that apply.  
☐ K-2  ☑ 3-5  ☐ 6-8  ☐ 9-12  ☐ College and Lifelong Learning  

Discipline: Please check all that apply.  
☑ Art and Music  ☑ Health and PE  ☐ Foreign Language  
☑ Literature and Language Arts  ☐ Mathematics  ☑ Science  ☐ Technology  
☑ Social Studies and Geography  ☐ History  ☐ Technology  

Year Developed: 2008  

Period (month, week, year): Unspecified  

Teaching environment:  
☑ In the Classroom (indoors)  ☐ On the Trail  
☐ In the Community  ☐ Online/Virtual
CO-SEED—Following a Trail to Place-Based Learning

9/12/2007 Final Revision

Start Here!

Big Idea
What is the main idea you want your students to come away from the unit knowing?

The North Maine Woods
“A Quest for Our Maine”
“A unique place to live”

State Standards/Outcomes
Which elements of the state framework of standards does this unit address? What are the skills and outcomes you are working towards?

Will not be using standards and outcomes as we begin this project, the proposed Maine Quest is collaboration between the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Natural Resource Education Center, and the Life Jackets outreach program of the Charlotte White Center. It may develop into a school program and then we will revisit the standards and outcomes. Partners will introduce Quest idea to teachers to solicit interest.

Essential Questions
What are the essential questions that will help guide students toward understanding the Big Idea?

*Why/when was logging important to the Maine Woods?
*What was/is the importance of Fire towers?
*How has the history and use of sporting camps changed over the years?
*Where is the AT? Why is it important?
*How has Mt. Katahdin formed traditions & cultures over the years for the region?
*What is the flora & fauna of the region?
*Favorite place to explore?
*How has Moosehead Lake support industry & tourism?

Skills and Habits of Mind
What are the academic or life skills students will gain from this unit? What habits of mind do you expect them to demonstrate? Think all disciplines.

*History & heritage
*Enhance critical thinking
*mapping & compass reading
*stewardship & community
*biology
*geography & geology
*legends & myths
*philosophy
*reading & curiosity
*survival skills
*bridging the generation gap

Vocabulary
What vocabulary do you expect children to learn through the unit?

*Native American names and current translations
*comparison of regional names then & now
*place based language
*Botanical and scientific vocabulary

Proposed Unit Project(s)
What project(s) could your class undertake that would actively engage your students in learning about this theme?

The goal is for the collaboration to branch out into the communities of the AT and create individual themed Maine Quests. To then create a booklet that will highlight the region through exploration, creating a sense of place for residents and visitors.

Community-Based Learning Opportunity
What opportunities exist in the school or community that could serve as an experiential and integrating focus for your students’ learning? Also include any opportunities for interdisciplinary learning.

*Exploring historical, natural & cultural resources within Quest communities
*Historical societies
*Library & librarian research
*Native American contacts
*Forestry Department
*Going on a canoe trip
*Taking a hike on the AT
*Contacting community planners
*Networking with existing non profits
*Chamber of Commerce contacts
Name: Northern Maine Woods Quest

Teacher/s Maine Woods Team
Grade Level: All ages, explorers
Time Frame: end of May 2008
This is a pre plan

Related Texts
Which books or local source readings will you use to support this unit?
*Questing by Delia Clark & Steven Glazer
*AT trail maps, Baxter State Forest Maps
*Maine Woods by Thoreau
*Waysides & interpretive panels in towns & region
*identification guides

Analysis & Interpretation of Literature
What will you ask your students to write as a response to the literature?
*comment cards for feedback on the Quest they participated in.
*postcards to comments on reflections of creating their Quest
*pre/post content test

Models
How will students understand where they’re supposed to get? What exemplars of student work will they see? What opportunities will there be for them to critique each other’s work?
*Pre presentation on what a Quest is
*Take them on an introduction Quest, (penny quest)
*Using the book Valley Quest book for samples
*Testing out the draft of the Quest in the works

Activities
What steps and individual elements or activities will your unit include?
*Research
*Story, Quest Themes
*Select start & finish
*Write clues
*Create Quest maps
*Draft publication
*Test Quest for accuracy
*Publication printed
**Press release, media interviews
**Quest Fest during “Moose Mania” the month of June
*Evaluation of project
*Distribution of booklets
*

Product
What will be the final class product(s) for this unit? How will you share it with the community?
*Final product will be a collection of regional Quests, a minimum of three to initially be created
*Presented in a booklet form
*Thematic stamps for each Quest, “stamp of approval”
*Distributed to local vendors, outreach to residents & tourists.

Assessment
How will you assess student learning? How will you know if they have met the goals for the established outcomes?
*Generate press about Quest project, read overall reporting
*Create a comment card for those who participated
*Do a survey of local vendors who have the booklets on hand, determine who is using the product.
*Feedback from those who actually took the time to do the Quest.
*pre/post test

Final Celebration
How will you celebrate the success of your unit and share its results with the school and community?
The final celebration will be to hold a Quest Fest in partnership with the month long Moose Mania” celebration.

Evaluation of Unit
How will you evaluate the unit and make note of what worked well and what could be improved?
We will hold a wrap up meeting to thank partners for support and to ask for input the success of the program.