History of the
Russell-Colbath Homestead
Swift River Railroad
and
Bartlett & Albany Railroad
1830-1930

Educational
Activity Book

White Mountains Interpretive Association
Rail and River Trail Walk
1830-1887
Life in the Valley

Head down the trail to the right and read the interpretive signs to answer these questions.

Families like the Russell-Colbath family would cut trees during the summer months and skid them out in the __________ when the ground was frozen.

Farming was a way of life and hay was grown for their draft horses that they used for logging.

What is slabwood? _______________________

______________________________

Slabwood is used for _______________________

______________________________

What were “sawmills to go”? _______________________

______________________________
The Bartlett Land and Lumber Company
owned and operated
Bartlett & Albany Railroad
1887-1894

The B&A Railroad went from Bartlett to Albany. This railroad was around for 7 years and when logging they left slash behind. There is a picture of slash below.

What do you think slash is?

__________________________

Swift River Railroad
1906-1916

The Swift River Railroad also cut everything and left slash behind causing a big fire in 1912 on Mt. Paugus.

How do you think this fire could have been prevented?
Scavenger Hunt?
Look at kiosks and inside the Russell-Colbath house for clues to the answers.

_________________________ bought 500 acres for $5.25 in 1831.
In 1832 ____________________ built this house with his sons.
Who lived here their whole life from 1850-1930? ________________________________
How many sisters did Ruth-Priscilla have? __________
What job did her father (Amzi) have that helped the family make money? ______

_________________________
What was the shelf on the kitchen door used for? ________________________________
Ruth Priscilla married Thomas Colbath in 1887 and what did he say in 1891 upon coming in from the Barn? ________________________________
What did Ruth Priscilla do when he didn’t return that night? ________________________

_________________________
How many hours did it take to heat the oven? ________________________________
How many days a week did the women cook? ______
What was their timer when they cooked? ________________________________
How old was Ruth-Priscilla when she passed? ________________________________
For how long was the Russell-Colbath house in the family? ________________________

White Mountains Interpretive Association
Settling in the White Mountains

Think about the Russell-Colbath family, and what might have encouraged them to settle here in 1831. What was here that provided work for them? Make a small list of what they could have done for work.

What was needed to live?

Do you think other people settled in this area and the Russell-Colbath family had neighbors during 1830’s-1887 or do you think they were the only ones out here?
ANSWER KEY

Rail and River Trail Walk:

1. Winter
2. Slabwood is the bark of trees.
3. Slabwood is used for fires in homes.
4. “Sawmills to go” were sawmills that were portable and men were hired from Europe and Canada to run the sawmills.

Bartlett Land and Lumber Company:

1. Slash is the slivers of bark and small wood left behind by loggers.

Swift River Railroad:

1. Example: If the lumber companies select cut and didn’t leave the slash behind there would be less to catch on fire and less erosion would take place.

Scavenger Hunt:

1. Thomas Russell
2. Thomas Russell
3. Ruth Priscilla
4. Worked their sawmill on the Olivarian Brook
5. Mail for a post office
6. “I’m going for a walk, I’ll be back in a while”
7. Lit a light in the window
8. 4 hours
9. Once a week
10. 80/81
11. About 100 years

Settling in the White Mountains:

Examples:

1. Farming and logging
2. Shelter, water and food
3. Varied answers
Big Pine Activity
Materials needed: Plastic measuring tape

Did you know that during colonial days it was forbidden by law to cut any pine over 23 inches in diameter? These big pines were used for masts of ships and were marked with a King's arrow. Colonists cut huge pines to 23 inches to avoid being caught and fined. On this path you will find a sign that tells about a big pine that was measured in 2003. When they measured its base it’s diameter was 20.3 inches. Work together to measure this tree’s diameter now. Write your findings below.

Big Pine Diameter: ________________ inches

Farther down the trail you will see a big pine cut close to the trail. Measure its diameter to see if it was bigger or smaller than the one by the sign. Give a prediction and circle whether you think it will be bigger or same than the previous one you measured.

Prediction: bigger or same

Cut Big Pine Diameter: ________________ inches
NH CURRICULUM

Rail and River Trail Walk

NH Social Studies Framework: Geography:

5.3.4.5 Investigate how humans interact with ecosystems, e.g., forest management or impacting wetlands.

Standard 5.5 Environment and Society: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the connections and consequences of the interactions between Earth’s physical and human systems.

5.5.4.2 Examine the ways in which the physical environment provides opportunities or limitations, e.g., natural resources that first attracted settlers or natural hazards that threaten life.

5.5.4.3 Examine the effects of the use of renewable and nonrenewable resources on human systems, e.g., climate change or fluctuating oil prices.

5.5.4.4 Describe the role of natural resources in daily life, e.g., food, clothing, or shelter.

The Bartlett Land and Lumber Company

Swift River Railroad

Railroads:

NH and United States History:

Standard 6.4: Economic Systems & Technology: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the changing forms of production, distribution and consumption of goods and services over time.

6.4.4.2 Explore the impact of important inventions, e.g., new forms of transportation.

6.4.4.3 Investigate the evolution of the United States economy, e.g., the transition from farms to factories or the trend from logging with horse to logging by railroad.
Scavenger Hunt:

Settling in the White Mountains:

Geography: Standard 5.1 The World in Spatial Terms: Knowing why people settle in an area, how they make their living and the resources they use and why they dress the way they do.

Students will demonstrate the ability to use maps, mental maps, globes and other graphical tools and technologies to acquire, process, report, and analyze geographic information.

5.1.4.5 Recognize the causes and consequences of spatial interaction on Earth's surface.