

# Connecticut

## Alliance Created State Giant Traveling Map Lesson

**Title:** Native American Connections to Connecticut

**Recommended Grades:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Time Needed:** Two 45-minute lessons

**Objectives: Students will:**

- Students will learn the connection between names of places in CT and the tribes that lived here.

**Materials:**

- Handout
- Computers, books about CT Native Americans
- Possibly a list of locations for students to choose from

**Preparation:**

- Students should have completed a unit on CT Native Americans
- Students should have an understanding that Native Americans chose names that described the location.

**Rules:**

- Shoes are not allowed on the map. Please have students remove shoes before walking on the map.
- No writing utensils on the map.
- No running on the map.

**Directions:**

1. Explain that many places in CT, especially lakes and rivers, still have the name given to them by the Native Americans.
2. Let students select a town or body of water from the map or from a list.
3. Give the students time to research the name online or in an encyclopedia completing the handout as they go.
4. When finished doing research, students present their findings to the rest of the class.

**Extensions:**

- Ask students why there are more bodies of water with Native American names than towns or cities.
- Students can look at maps from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and describe the changes made to the state over time.

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- History: Native American Tribes; European Explorers; Colonial America
- English Language Arts: short research to answer a question; reading for information
- Follow up with students creating posters or presentation about the area they researched.

### Tips:

- Ask your librarian for student appropriate websites and books to use for research.
- You can print information for students if you don't have the technology for everyone to do research at the same time.
- Have students do the research before introducing the map.
- Search for images of different locations so students can see how the name applies to the location.

### Vocabulary: