



www.MaineAgintheClassroom.org

Grades 3-5 Alignment

Common Core

ELA – Reading: RI.3.1, RI.3.4, RI.5.1

Speaking & Listening: SL.3.3

Writing: W.3.2, W.3.4, W.4.2, W.4.4, W.5.2, W.5.4

Language: L.3.2, L.3.4, L.4.2, L.4.4, L.5.2, L.5.4

Maine Learning Results

HEALTH EDUCATION - E2

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS – B3



Wild Blueberries for ME Grades 3-5

Lesson Description: *Wild Blueberries for ME* describes the history, growing and harvesting of this important Maine crop. After reading aloud to the class and discussing the content, students will be involved in English Language Arts and Visual Arts activities. Activities may be written or oral, determined by grade level and skills needed. *The book is available online at www.TeachMEFoodandFarms.org/resources for your computer or smart board if you do not have it in your classroom.

Learning Objectives

The student will:

- Describe how the glaciers affected the growth of wild blueberries,
- Give 4 examples of ways Native Americans used wild blueberries,
- Describe the 2 year cycle for growing wild blueberries,
- Describe how the harvesting of wild blueberries has changed and the major obstacle to that change.
- Become familiar with wild blueberry vocabulary.
- Create a poster to promote blueberries as a healthy food.

Process

1. Read *Wild Blueberries for ME* aloud to the class, sharing the pictures as you go.
2. Have students recall information about the history, growth and harvest from the reading
3. Record their responses on the board, then organize into categories. Students may create categories themselves or categories could be provided, example:

| People | Harvest method | Uses |
|------------------|---|--|
| Native Americans | Hand picked | Eating, flavoring meats & soups, medicines, dyes |
| Settlers | Hand raked & winnowed | Eating, canning |
| Today's growers | Hand raked, machine harvested, winnowed | Eating, freezing, canning, exporting world-wide |

4. Ask questions about the context, examples:
 - On the map of Maine, show where the major wild blueberry barrens are located. What might that tell us about the climate needed to grow blueberries?
 - What do glaciers have to do with growing blueberries in Maine?
 - How did the Native Americans use the wild blueberries?
 - When were the first wild blueberries canned? What were done with those canned blueberries?
 - How do you think the development of the blueberry rake affect blueberry production?
 - How must fields be prepared so that machine harvesting can happen?
 - How can the size of a plant range from the size of a book to a football field?
 - What is Maine's position in the production of blueberries world-wide?
 - Have students do the Wild Blueberry crossword you will find in the Activity Planning Book or on



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- Have students imagine that their family has just settled in the New World. They have eaten blueberries for the first time and are writing to their grandparents back home telling about wild blueberries. Younger students could dictate a class letter.
 - Have students design a poster that contains at least 3 facts to encourage people to eat wild blueberries.
 - Have students play the Wild Blueberry Game and read the facts out loud to each other.



