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Lesson 2: Did the Vikings Visit Maine? Lesson Ideas for Alignment

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Lesson Summary: It is likely that the Vikings were responsible for bringing woven cloth to the New World. They had discovered how to spin and weave yarn into cloth hundreds of years before there were farms in the New World raising sheep and flax for the purpose of making cloth. Students will experience carding raw wool and using a drop spindle.

Teacher Note: It would be very helpful for the students to watch the suggested YouTube video before beginning each part of the activity portion of this lesson. Another alternative is to invite a spinner to be a guest speaker/demonstrator to start the activity. This activity may be done in small groups.

Learning Objectives:

The students will:

- Use weaving vocabulary (card, drop spindle, whorl, niddy niddy, rolag and leader) appropriately.
- Describe how the wool changes from the sheared wool through the carding and spinning process.
- Follow oral directions to card, produce a rolag and spin a short length of yarn.
- Write a "thank you" letter to the guest speaker.
- Make a journal entry describing their carding/spinning experience.

Maine Learning Results

ELA

B1e,g Writing - Interconnected Elements

B2a Writing - Narrative

B5a Writing - Practical Application

SCI

D3c The Physical Setting - Matter & Energy

SS

E1a Historical Knowledge, Concepts, Themes, and Patterns

Common Core

ELA

Speaking & Listening: Grade 3: 3

Writing: 3, 4



Process:

- Prior to involving the class in this activity, invite a spinner to class to demonstrate carding and drop spindle spinning techniques.
- Discuss the role of Vikings as producers of woven cloth.
- Have guest demonstrate carding techniques OR show the YouTube carding video.
- Give oral directions while students take turns carding.
- Have guest demonstrate spinning with a drop spindle.
- Orally give spinning directions while students take turns spinning.
- At end of spinning have groups wash the yarn following written directions.
- Have class write a "thank you" letter to the guest speaker.
- Discuss how these carding and spinning activities help us to understand life in early America.

Assessment: Use the sample rubric or have class develop an assessment rubric before starting the activity.

