

**Plants & Animals of Maine Syllabus**  
**(Fall 2019 / Trimester 1)**  
**Richard Aspinall - Team Katahdin**

As part of our Maine Studies theme, we will focus on the Plants and Animals of Maine. We will learn about Ecology, different habitats & environments, ecosystems, and the plants and animals that live there, as well as the impact that humans have had on them.

Discussions and group & individual projects will explore the various animals and plants that are part of the Maine landscape, endangered and threatened species, and how we can preserve their habitats.

In this indoor (and sometimes outdoor) classroom students will perform various outdoor labs & observations in the field to help them have a better understanding of our natural world.

Students will be graded individually and sometimes as a group (labs & group projects). Students will have a variety of assessments which will include homework assignments, quizzes/tests, labs, presentations, reports & essays, and research web quests.

**Essential Questions:**

1. What are the different ecosystems in Maine, and species variation (number of species) are there in certain areas of Maine?
2. How & why have Maine plant & animals habitats changed?

**Next Generation Science Standards Covered**

LS2 - Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

LS4 - LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

**Additional Standards Covered**

Research W.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question and pose other questions.

Speaking & Listening SL.4 Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development.

**Class Structure and Grading:**

Labs & Assessments 40%

Some of the work for this class will require students to complete individual and/or group assignments and projects. When students work in groups they will receive an individual grade. Quizzes and tests will be given from time to time with adequate opportunity for student preparation and study provided.

#### Homework/Classwork 40%

Homework assignments provide needed background information for activities to follow, and to enhance lab work. Homework is to be turned in on time for credit to be given. Unless due to absence or unforeseen circumstances, late work (24 hours) will only be graded up to a score of 80, afterwards it will not be accepted for credit.

#### Research, Speaking & Listening 20%

Students are expected to research and complete projects that will answer a question and/or pose other questions. They are also required to present their information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development

#### **Class and Work Expectations/HOW Rubric**

Using our HOW (Habits of Work) rubric, students will also be graded on class participation, time management and punctuality, as well as other topics to assist with students' personal growth & learning.

#### **Class and Work Expectations**

Students are expected to arrive on time and prepared each day. They are also expected to turn in work on the day it is due, except in the case of absence. If there are special circumstances that will prevent a student from completing work by the due date, it is the student's responsibility to talk to the teacher before the work is due. If a student misses school, it is his/her responsibility to speak to the teacher immediately upon return to school to find out what was missed and when the missed work will be due.