

Great Bay Discovery Center Cultural History Program Vocabulary Key

Staddle (stad-dle): A platform supporting a stack, like hay.

Thatch (THaCH): A roof covering of straw, reeds or a similar material like salt grass.

Bog Shoe (bog shoo): Special wooden shoes horses wore to keep their hoofs from sinking in the mud.

Switchel (switch-el): A Colonial drink made of water, apple cider vinegar and a sweet substance such as molasses, often with other spices and flavorings like ginger.

Salt hay (salt hay): Grass growing on tidal marshes that has been dried.

Molasses (mo-las-ses): Thick, dark brown syrup made from raw sugar during the refining process.

Artifact (ar-ti-fact): An object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural interest.

Scythe (sah-yth): An agricultural tool with a long curving blade fastened at an angle to the handle, used for cutting grass by hand.

Colonist (kol-uh-nist): A person living in a country or area controlled politically by a more powerful country

Gundalow (gun-duh-low): Flat-bottom wooden boat powered by a single sail that moved around Great Bay.

Clipper Ship (clip-per SHip): A sailing vessel made to facilitate faster transportation of cargo throughout the ocean.

Cotton (cot-ton): A soft-white fiber substance surrounding the seeds of a cotton plant and used for sewing.

Clay (kla): An earthy material that is hard when fired and used for brick and pottery.

Estuary (es-tu-ary): Where fresh water from the rivers and salt water from the ocean mix.

Sugarcane (sug-ar cane): A perennial grass grown in warm climates that is the source of sugar.

Gristmill (grist-mill): A mill for grinding grains like wheat into flour.

Manufacture (man-u-fac-ture): To make something from raw materials by hand or machinery.

Export (ex-port): Carrying materials or goods out or away to other places.

Import (im-port): Bringing merchandise into a place or country from another country.

Conservation (con-ser-va-tion): the protection of a natural resource.

Bob house (bob-house): A small shack used for ice fishing on ice.

Shellfish (shell-fish): An aquatic invertebrate with a shell.

Waterfowl (wa-ter-fowl): Ducks, geese, or other large aquatic birds.

Smelt (smelt): A small bony fish that was caught and eaten by the colonists.

Migratory (mi-gra-to-ry): Animals that move seasonally from one place to another.

Regulate (reg-u-late): Controlling or monitoring certain standards with rules.

Blind (blind): A hiding place for hunting.

Trapping (trap-ing): Using manmade devices to capture animals.

Sneak boat (sneak-boat): A small boat concealed in salt grasses to stay hidden, and used to hunt waterfowl.

Western Abenaki (Ab-eh-na-key): Native Americans living in New England.

Wigwam (wig-wam): A hut made from birch bark and sinew that Native Americans used as their winter shelter.

Wampum (wam-pum): Beads from quahog shells.

Salmon (salm-on): A large fish found in rivers, oceans and estuaries, caught and eaten by Native Americans.

Leister (leis-ter): A fishing spear.

Pelt (pelt): Animal skin with fur or wool.

Bow drill (bow-drill): A tool used by Native Americans to make wampum.

Sinew (si-new): Tissue connecting muscle to bone or bone to bone; ligament or tendon.

Sassafras (sas-sa-fras): A tree with three distinct leaf shapes that was used by the Native Americans for medicinal purposes.

Decoy (de-coy): An imitation of a bird or mammal used by hunters to attract animals.