



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



2017 CVNHP Corridor of Commerce Grant

Historic Commercial Heritage of Orwell, Vermont

Project Summary

The Heritage of Orwell project was part of an integrated study for middle schoolers in grades 6-8 in Orwell Village School in Orwell, Vermont. The goal the Corridor of Commerce Grant was for students to delve deeply into their community and develop a new perspective of their sense of place. The lens used was an analysis of various time periods throughout Orwell's commercial heritage and to establish partnerships to enhance student learning.

Over the course of one month, students chose time periods of interest to them to research in small groups. The research involved in this study required them to be technical historians and dig through Orwell archives at the bank and town library as opposed to a quick google search. Additionally, students had the opportunity to meet with a UVM archaeologist in his research room at the university where he discussed native people discoveries in the Champlain Valley. The lecture was followed up with an exploration of the native people exhibit at the Flynn Center. Students also learned from a guest presenter from Mount Independence Coalition to discover the commercial impact of Mount Independence during the Revolutionary War. Each research group extracted the most important pieces of their research and compiled them onto a digital timeline excel spreadsheet.

During these rich learning experiences, students worked weekly with dance professor and choreographer, Maya Kraus, from Castleton University to become comfortable with the idea of movement as a

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form of artistic expression. After research was completed, Maya worked with small groups as they created movement to demonstrate the commercial heritage for their topic. After multiple practices to combine all the groups' movements into a dance demonstrating the commercial heritage of Orwell from native peoples to present day and a dress re-



The Orwell Village School visited the UVM Archeology Department to learn more about their town.

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