Home Sweet Home

Theme: **Cultural & Historical**

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*Adapted from **From Whence We've Come,**
a book about the history of Cumberland County*

Subject Areas
Social Studies and New Jersey/Local History

Duration
One class period

Setting
Indoors/classroom

Skills
Comparing, inferring, describing, matching

Charting the Course
The names of the many small towns and villages throughout the Delaware Bay Shore of Southern New Jersey, and specifically throughout Cumberland, Salem, and Cape May counties, provide a look to the past and the connectedness of people in the region to the resources. This activity, while written specifically for Cumberland County, can be easily adapted to other counties and areas.
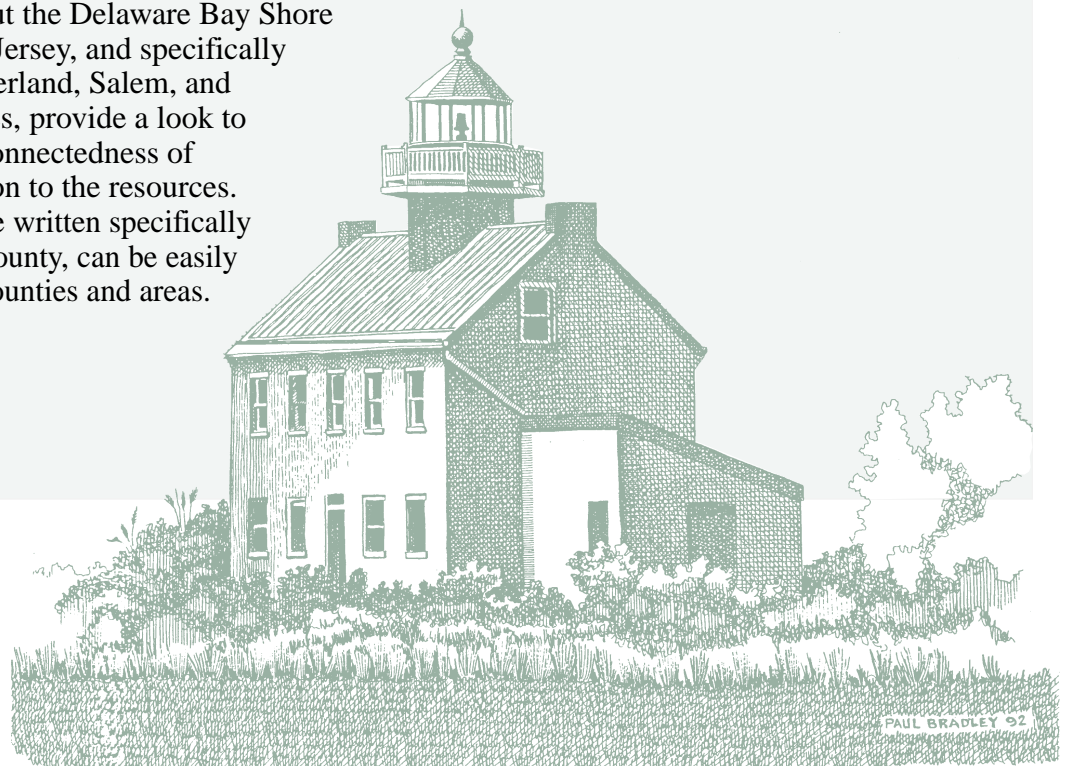
Vocabulary
Town names

Correlation to NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards
Social Studies
6.7 (1, 2, 5, 9)
6.8 (2, 3, 5)
6.9 (2, 5)

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■ Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Investigate the past and present names of towns in Cumberland County

2. Relate and infer the reasons for specific town names

■ Materials

Worksheets

Map of Cumberland County

Copies of name cards and description cards for matching game

■ Making Connections

Cumberland County has a long history rich with interesting settlements, businesses and industries, and people from all over the world and from all walks of life. The film **Down Jersey** addresses some of the people and places that make this region so unique. Naming of places — towns, cities, and villages is often done by association and physical features of an area, as well as significant events that occurred in a particular place. This activity explores some of the town names of today and compares them to their former names. This knowledge would be especially critical if you were examining historical papers or books. As you will see, many of the towns' names have been changed throughout history — some more than once!

■ Background

Almost the entire *Historic Themes and Resources* book addresses the name(s) of places/towns that once were part of the region Down Jersey and played a role in developing its unique character and ambiance.

By Don Keen, author of *From Whence We've Come.*

Some of the former names refer to areas within the present boundaries of a town while others were the actual name that preceded its present name. The clues I have provided often refer to the history of the town or county, thereby becoming a teaching tool in and of themselves. It is hoped this will pique the interest of the student to want to learn more. For instance, there are references to two skirmishes in Cumberland County during the Revolutionary War. Perhaps a student would do further research to learn the specifics of these and other ways in which we contributed to the war.

There are many references to find the information contained in this lesson. One I used would be reasonably easy reading for fourth through sixth graders. It is "The Cumberland Story" and can be found for research or purchase at the W. E. Lumus Library of the Cumberland County Historical Society on Ye Greate Street in Greenwich. The clues and how they relate to each town can also be found in my book, *From Whence We've Come.*

■ Procedure

Warm Up

Have students name the town(s) that they live in. Was that always the name of their town(s)? What is their town named after? Do they know?

The Activity

1. Distribute the worksheet that lists the current names of Cumberland County towns.

2. Using the Cumberland County map, have each student locate and label each of the towns (there are 22). Assign each student (or team) a town name. Based on the location of each town (and/or the name) have students write a guess about where the name originated. Each student should have his/her "own" town to guess and locate.

3. Next, divide the class into teams of five students (depending on the size of the class). Give each team a stack of previous (historical) town name cards and a stack of description cards and place them face down on the desk. Then, the town name cards are dealt to the team members. (Each player should have five cards.) Players take turns picking a card from the deck, and trying to match it with a town name card. If they get a match, they place the pair on the desk in front of them. The player to match all five town names with their correct description/explanation wins the game.

down Jersey

If the player picks a card that doesn't match one of the town names in his/her hand, then the card is discarded, face down. When the original deck is gone through, the discarded pile becomes the new deck, and players continue playing until all names are matched with description/explanations and former names. The team to win is the one that matches all town names correctly first.

4. Utilizing the list of current town names and the map, have students in their teams try to match the previous town names with the present names. This can also be done as a group (class) exercise.

Wrap Up

Have each team read one set of five matches that they have. The teacher checks for correct answers. Discussion as a class.

■ Assessment

Students complete the worksheet and match all of the towns' current names with their former names.

■ Extensions

Each student is assigned a town to write a short report about its history. These could then be assembled into a class newspaper and shared with others in the school and community.

A classroom bulletin board/ map could be made showing the Cumberland County from the past, with the former names used in place of the current town names.

This activity could be easily adapted to either Salem or Cape May Counties, or any other.

Students choose one town and create a possible "folktale" about how it got its name.

■ Resources

Historic Themes and Resources — *Especially Chapter Two: Urban Development, pages 9-39*

From Whence We've Come by Don Keen contains many interesting facts and photographs about the history of Cumberland County. This activity was adapted directly from this book.

Your local library and historical society can provide much of the needed background information for this activity.

See also the activity "Where Are You? The County."

Town Names in Cumberland County
Student Worksheet

Current Name	Former Name (s)
Bayside	
Bivalve	
Bridgeton*	
Cedarville	
Dividing Creek	
East Point	
Egg Island	
Fairton*	
Gouldtown	
Greenwich	
Haleyville	
Head of Greenwick	
Heislerville	
Mauricetown	
Millville*	
Newport*	
North Port Norris	
Port Elizabeth*	
Port Norris	
Roadstown*	
Shiloh	
Vineland	

Indicates more than one former name

Town Names in Cumberland County
Answer Key

Current Name	Former Name(s)*
	The # indicates the # on the clue cards.
Bayside	Caviar #11 (1872)
Bivalve	Long Reach #30
Bridgeton*	Cohansey Bridge #24 (early 1700's) & Bridge Town #9 (1765)
Cedarville	Cedar Creek #23
Dividing Creek	Half Way #34
East Point	Maurice River Neck #14
Egg Island	Fogelsland #26
Fairton*	New England Town #1 (1693) & Bumbridge #22
Gouldtown	Piercetown #4
Greenwich	Cohanzick #13 (1680)
Haleyville	Underwood #16
Head of Greenwich	Othello #3
Heislerville	Vanaman's #18
Mauricetown	Maddox' Landing #31
Millville*	New Bridge #9 (1754) & Shingle Landing # 10& Schetterville # 7 & Union Mills #28 (1790) & The Furnace # 27 & Glasstown #25
Newport*	Antuxit/Autuxit # 21 & Agreement Creek # 8 & Ogden's Creek #2
North Port Norris	Centerville # 12
Port Elizabeth*	The Dam & The Store # 17 & Maurice River Town (Township) # 32 (1771)
Port Norris	Dallas' Ferry # 20
Roadstown*	Sayre's Crossroads # 6 (1770) & Kingstown # 29
Shiloh	Cohansey Corners # 15
Vineland	Richard Wood's Place # 5

Indicates more than one former name

C48a

Clue Cards for Matching Game

#1 This name came from the fact that its earliest inhabitants came from New England. The present name is the name of the city in Connecticut from which they came.

#2 The first Presbyterian and Baptist curches in our county were begun here.

(1)

#1 Many people have the same last name as the former and present names of this town.

#2 This town was begun by either descendants of the Delaware Moor Indians and/or John Fenwick, founder of Salem.

(4)

#1 An oil well was constructed near here.

#2 Another former name used the word "creek."

(2)

#1 U.S. Grant, Frederick Douglas and Horace Greeley all gave speeches here.

#2 It is the largest city in New Jersey geographically.

(5)

#1 This very small town is near a town which was a major port in our early history.

#2 The present name of this town is similar to the name of a nearby town.

(3)

#1 Hires root beer was developed here by Charles Hires in 1876.

#2 This town still consists of one main crossroads.

(6)

#1 This is now the second largest city in New Jersey geographically.

#2 A large mural commemorating the World War II airfield here graces its city hall.

(7)

#1 The present name of this town gives a clue to its location.

#2 This town is just a small cluster of houses.

(11)

#1 This early name is for one of our early coastal towns.

#2 This small town is near a town presently known for its fishing marina.

(8)

#1 Centerville is really north of a town; the present names of both of these towns are very similar.

#2 As many of our early towns were, this town is near a river.

(12)

#1 The only way, then and now, to get from one end of our county to the other is over the bridge in this city.

#2 A tavern made famous during the Revolutionary War is still in this city.

(9)

#1 This town was an important port in its history but is now noted for its many historic homes.

#2 This town expected to be the county seat when Cumberland County was formed from Salem County in 1748, but a more centrally located town was named.

(13)

#1 This name refers to an area now used by pleasure boats instead of boats taking shingles for shipment.

#2 "The Island," "Yellow Hell," City Hall and Babe Ruth all are clues to the location of this city.

(10)

#1 This is not really a town but an area on the Maurice River.

#2 A lighthouse there is a local landmark.

(14)

C50a

#1 Like other towns with a form of the name of this Indian Chief, Cohansey, it is located in the southwestern area of the county.

#2 The present name means peace.

(15)

#1 Tories were killed here in 1781.

#2 This town was once noted for its oysters and the number of millionaires who lived there.

(20)

#1 A bell which may have been from one of Columbus' ships was in a church which burned down in this town.

#2 A still existing church and cemetery with mounuments to area sailors who never returned from sea is in this town.

(16)

#1 An encounter with the British in the Revolutionary War occurred near here.

#2 This is the first of at least four names for this small town.

(21)

#1 The covered bridge used to be in this town.

#2 This town was a major port but is now a quaint little village.

(17)

#1 This town is over three hundred years old.

#2 This town was once considered a possibility to become the county seat.

(22)

#1 This town is near an area where Indians held their sacred Elder Councils, which is how this area got its current name.

#2 It is also near a presentday Fish and Wildlife Management area named after its present name.

(18)

#1 The present name of this town is similar to this former name.

#2 This town continues to be one of our smaller towns in size and population.

(23)

#1 The first post office in the county began in this city in 1793.

#2 This was the first city, in 1857, in our county to light homes and businesses with gas.

(24)

#1 Two large man-made lakes are in this city.

#2 Holly from this town has hung in the White House.

(28)

#1 Glass continues to be a major industry in this city.

#2 A building located where the present police station is was built by a local glasshouse to keep employees occupied after work. It contained a library, theater and gym.

(25)

#1 This town was a stop on the stagecoach route from Greenwich to Camden.

#2 The present name of this town has a more commonplace name than the high-sounding kingly one.

(29)

#1 An island now permanently underwater where locals outwitted British ships of war.

#2 A lighthouse used to be here.

(26)

#1 This town is a long reach to most areas of the county.

#2 The present name of this town is the same as certain water creature for which it was famous.

(30)

#1 The house owned by Richard Wood, where Charles Landis bought the land which became Vineland, is now the regional headquarters for Wawa.

#2 Lunar Park was an amusement park here in the first half of the 1900's.

(27)

#1 This town used to be noted for the many sea captains who lived there.

#2 It is now noted for its many fine antique shops.

(31)

C52a

#1 The words "Maurice" and "River" are not part of the present name.

#2 The first Catholic church in the county was formed in this town.

(32)

#1 A covered bridge used to be in this town.

#2 Union Hall, believed to be the oldest public building (non-church, non-municipal) in New Jersey, is in this town.

(34)

#1 A glasshouse once stood where the library now stands.

#2 Soldiers practiced their maneuvers near the bridge here during the Revolutionary War.

(33)

NOTE TO TEACHER:

The number on the Clue Cards corresponds to the name number on the answer sheet.

Name Cards for Matching Game

New England Town

The Dam & The Store

Othello

Underwood

Richard Wood's Place

Union Mills

Schetterville

Bumbridge

Cedar Creek

Piercetown

Cohansey Bridge

Sayre's Crossroad

Cohansey Corners

Shingle Landing

Ogden's Creek

Vanaman's

C55a

Dallas' Ferry

Maurice River Town
(or Township)

Fogelsland

New Bridge

Long Reach

The "Furnace"

Maurice River Neck

Glasstown

C56a

Agreement Creek

Antuxit /Autuxit

Bridge Town

Cohanzick

Caviar

Kingstown

Centerville

Halfway

C57a