



NEW YORK archives

Educator Guide

Summer 2019

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Forest Fires

An increase in forest fires in the early twentieth century led New York State to implement a fire detection system in the Adirondack Mountains. Peter Slocum's article, [*View from Hurricane Mountain*](#), details the development of this early detection system and its impact on the Adirondack Region. By reading this article, students will learn about the ways people attempted to minimize the destruction of these fires and control their environment.

Compelling Question

In what ways do people attempt to control the environment?

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- create meaningful and persuasive understandings of the past by fusing disparate and relevant evidence from primary and secondary sources and drawing connections to the present

Link to the full article:

<https://www.nysarchivestrust.org/new-york-archives-magazine/magazine-highlights/summer-2019-volume-19-number-1>

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Selection

View from Hurricane Mountain

By Peter Slocum



Courtesy: New York State Archives

This guide includes supporting questions to guide students in the reading of the article and analysis questions for understanding the primary sources. All educational materials are aligned to the New York State Social Studies Framework. The learning objectives are taken directly from the Social Studies Practices and the content fits within the framework.

VIEW FROM HURRICANE MOUNTAIN

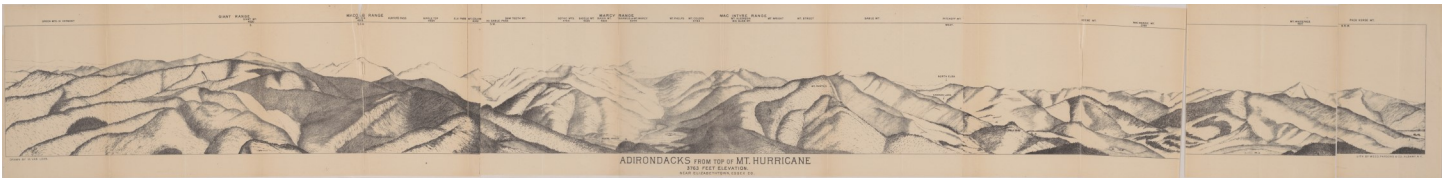
Setting the Stage

Show one of these videos from pbslearningmedia.org and discuss the role of fire in the ecosystem of a forest

Grades 6-12 <https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/384080e7-c69e-4f0b-90d9-4bd65bf0d852/384080e7-c69e-4f0b-90d9-4bd65bf0d852/>

Grades 3-8 <https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/5d07636f-f075-4544-b396-0f53549c3186/prescribed-fire-georgia-forests/>

Grades K-6 <https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/idptv11.sci.ess.earthsys.d4kwfir/wildfire/>



Courtesy: New York State Archives

Guided Reading Questions

1. What was Milo Bronson's job?
2. What happened to Milo Bronson in August of 1919?
3. Why was fire a threat in the early 1900s?
4. How were forest fires detected in the early 1900s?
5. What effect did this detection system have?
6. Why were towers built on the mountains?
7. What efforts were required to place the towers on the mountains?
8. How did the job of fire spotter change throughout the 20th century?
9. Why were many of the fire towers removed?
10. Why did the fire tower on Hurricane Mountain become a topic of controversy?
11. How was the controversy resolved?
12. How has the continued presence of the tower on Hurricane Mountain presented a new challenge for the Adirondacks?

Document Analysis



Courtesy: New York State Archives

Analysis Questions

1. What materials were needed to build this structure?

2. Why was this structure built?

3. In what type of environment was this structure built?

4. How might this structure affect the surrounding environment?
