

Explore Amesbury: ABC's of the Powow River

Hello kids, families, and friends,

This activity guide is the last in a series of five, focusing on the people and places of Amesbury, and centering on our historic Millyard. Today's guide brings you to the center of the Upper Millyard: the Powow River.

Print this brief guide and visit the Amesbury Upper Millyard. Your visit won't take long -- maybe 15 minutes, tops! We also hope that you'll follow up with some at-home activities and further readings we suggest.

Table of Contents

VISIT	2
Investigate the Powow River in the Upper Millyard by going there with this guide.	
THE ABC'S OF THE POWOW RIVER	3
Learn about Amesbury's Powow River.	
AT-HOME ACTIVITY	10
Try some projects at home to apply what you learned.	
GLOSSARY	13
Learn word meanings that may be new to you.	
SOURCES	14

Explore Amesbury: ABC's of the Powow River

VISIT

For today's walking tour, we invite you to enter the Upper Millyard and walk on the paths along the Powow River.

Use your senses to experience the Powow River and its environment.

- See: Be aware today of what you see. Use your fingers. Can you count ten things that are always here but you are noticing today, perhaps for the first time?
- See: Pretend you are a history detective. What do you notice that seems to be from different periods in Amesbury's history?
- Hear: Even though you may have walked on this path before, try to pay attention to what you hear. What sounds can you mention? Can you imagine: What sounds might a worker have heard when this was an active working mill yard?
- Smell: Are there any smells? How would you describe them?
- Touch: Are there sensations on your face and skin?

Depending on the season and weather, your experiences will vary. Likewise, the experience of people who walked here a year, decade, or century ago would have been quite different from yours today.

We hope that this *ABC's of The Powow River* will help you learn a bit more about Amesbury's Powow River today and in the past.

Enjoy!

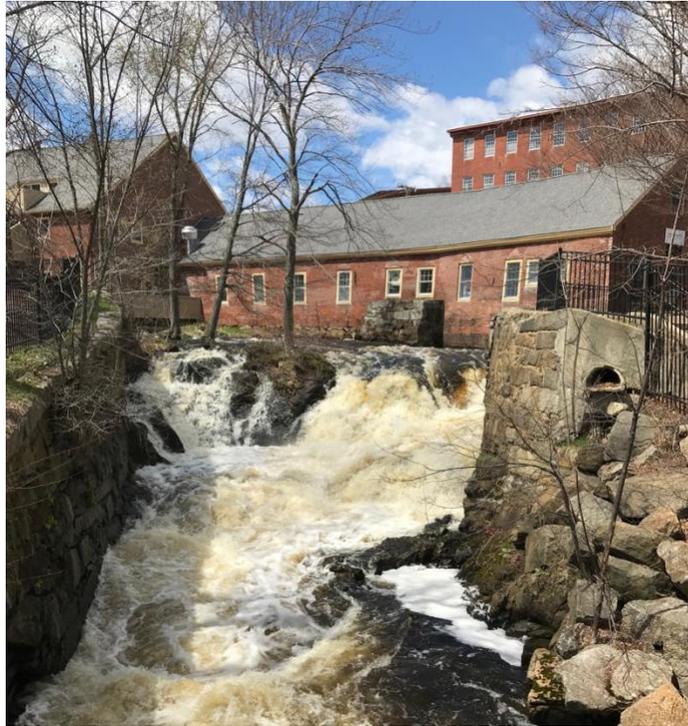


Explore Amesbury: ABC's of the Powow River

The ABC's of the Powow River

A	amphitheater	Amesbury's amphitheater is located in the center of the Upper Millyard. Concerts, movies, picnics, family days, and other events happen here. With the oval open space and tiers of seats, it's easy for you to spot friends and neighbors nearby.
B	bridges	Around 150 years ago there were multiple bridges crossing the Powow River. Busy workers used these walking bridges to cross between mill buildings on opposite sides of the river.
C	change	So much change has happened along the Powow River. For centuries, some Native People of the Pennacook tribe fished, farmed, and lived here. Later, English colonists set up farms, homes, and small businesses along the Powow. Two-hundred years after that, mill workers in massive factories produced textiles and carriages. Today, with further changes, families walk along the river by day and enjoy the brightly-lit falls at night.
D	dams	For thousands of years, humans have put water to work. Amesbury did the same! As of 1825, five dams were built along the Powow River to capture the flow of the water. These dams provided power for waterwheels in Amesbury's early mills.

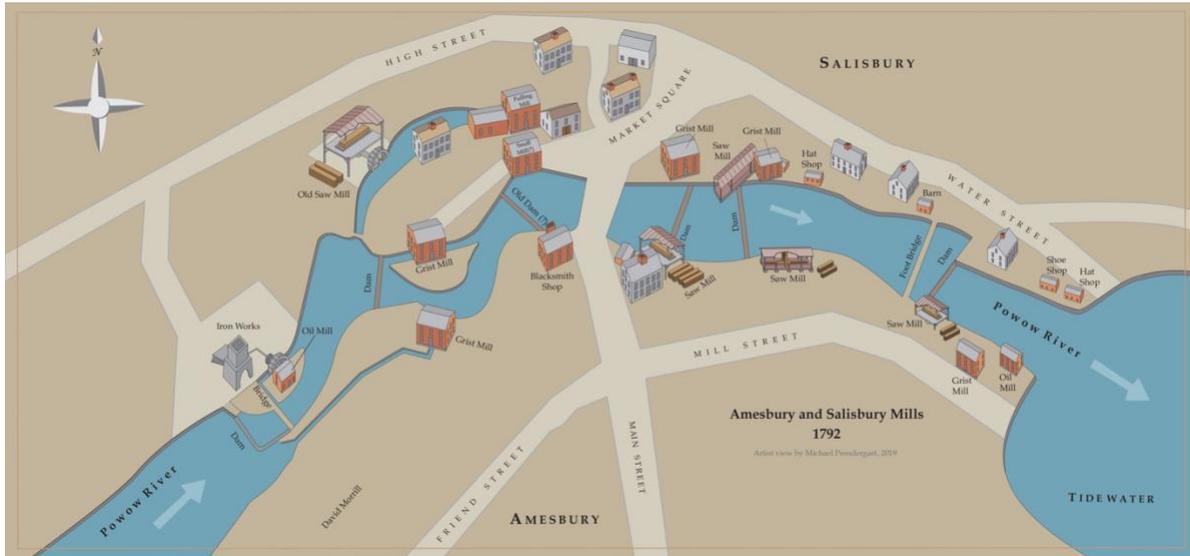
Explore Amesbury: ABC's of the Powow River



E	energy	There's a tremendous amount of kinetic energy in flowing water. Some days, looking at the Powow River it's hard to imagine it as a source of power. But scientists tell us that water moving at a mere 7 miles per hour (that's a slow bike speed) produces the same force as a violent tornado. Isn't that amazing?
F	fire	If you stood in the Upper Millyard 200 years ago, you'd be surrounded by mill buildings. Unfortunately, fire destroyed many mills along the river and in other Amesbury locations. We are lucky that so many buildings remain in Amesbury.

Explore Amesbury: ABC's of the Powow River

G	grist mills	Seven grist mills , five sawmills, an iron foundry , a nail factory, and a fulling mill were built along the Powow by early English settlers in Amesbury.
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H	human impact	<p>Since humans first settled along the Powow, they have impacted (changed) the natural environment here.</p> <p>Fortunately, conservationists in MA and NH are protecting remnants of the past: shallow water wetlands, an Atlantic white cedar swamp, and swamp white oak floodplain forest.</p>
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I	industry	 <p>Water-powered industries rose up along the Powow River for four centuries. Waterwheels powered 17th and 18th century mills (gristmills, sawmills, fulling mills) along the river.</p>
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Explore Amesbury: ABC's of the Powow River

		<p>Waterwheels, as well as steam engines, powered the textile manufacturing of the 19th century. Water-powered turbines produced electricity for carriage making in the early years of the 20th century.</p>
J	jobs	<p>Wage-paying jobs flourished along the Powow River over the years. This work included milling of grain and wood, textile manufacturing, ship building, carriage making, and much more.</p>
K	kids	<p>For generations, kids, families, and friends met along the Powow River to fish, boat, and picnic. Today, on a sunny day you'll pass children and families enjoying themselves.</p>
L	Lake Gardner	<p>After rising in New Hampshire and flowing through wetlands and ponds, the Powow River enters Massachusetts at Lake Gardner. Residents enjoy boating, swimming, and relaxing along this beautiful lake.</p> 

Explore Amesbury: ABC's of the Powow River

M	Merrimack River	The Powow River is a tributary of the Merrimack River . The Powow flows through the center of Amesbury, where it continues to the Merrimack River.
N	nails	Perkins Nail Factory was built in 1796 along the Powow. The factory is important in Amesbury's history because it began water-powered heavy industry in Amesbury.
O	over 350 years...	For over 350 years , industry used waterpower from the Powow River.
P	Powow	 <p>Some people say that the Powow River's name comes from the time period that Native people lived here. For indigenous people, a powow is a group gathering or celebration. As you can see in the picture, Native American children celebrate their culture.</p>
Q	quiet	Today a walk along the Powow is quiet and peaceful. This is very different from 150 years ago when the noise from machinery was deafening. In fact, many mill workers became skilled lip readers in order to communicate over the noise.
R	restoration	In the 1990's, dedicated Amesbury residents restored the area of the Upper Millyard and Powow River to a park-like green space with trees, shrubs, brick footpath, and the amphitheater. These volunteers gave of their time, money, and work to create a space that we can enjoy today.

Explore Amesbury: ABC's of the Powow River

S	ship building	 <p>Point Shore (where the Powow meets the Merrimack) was once crowded with shipyards and ship building. You've probably seen Lowell's Boat Shop in Point Shore. It is famous for being America's oldest operating boat shop.</p>
T	22.8 miles	The Powow River is a 22.8-mile -long river located in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.
U	Upper Dam	As you walk from the Upper Dam to the Lower Millyard, the river drops by 80 feet. This change in elevation allowed dams to be built and to put the river's water to work.



Explore Amesbury: ABC's of the Powow River

V	visitors	V isitors to Amesbury today are attracted by our rich history, green spaces, artists, innovators, restaurants, businesses, and friendly people. A recent visitor said they felt “embraced” by the mill buildings that surround the river, trees, and green space in the Millyard. ...What’s your feeling in the Millyard?
W	wharf	In 18 th century Amesbury there were w harves around the Powow’s tidal waters. (That’s where the Riverwalk rail trail runs today). Farm goods, lumber, flours, and iron goods were shipped from these wharves.
x,y,z	The end	Here ends our ABC’s of the Powow River. But, it’s not t he e nd of the river’s story. In the future, new people will settle here. New children will run and play with friends in the amphitheater. New businesses will open. Change and i nnovation will continue.

Explore Amesbury: ABC's of the Powow River

AT-HOME ACTIVITY

Let's Investigate

1. **Remember:** Test your memory. Can you name five cool facts from the ABC's of the Powow River?

When finished, if you'd like to remember even more, maybe another person can give you a few hints.

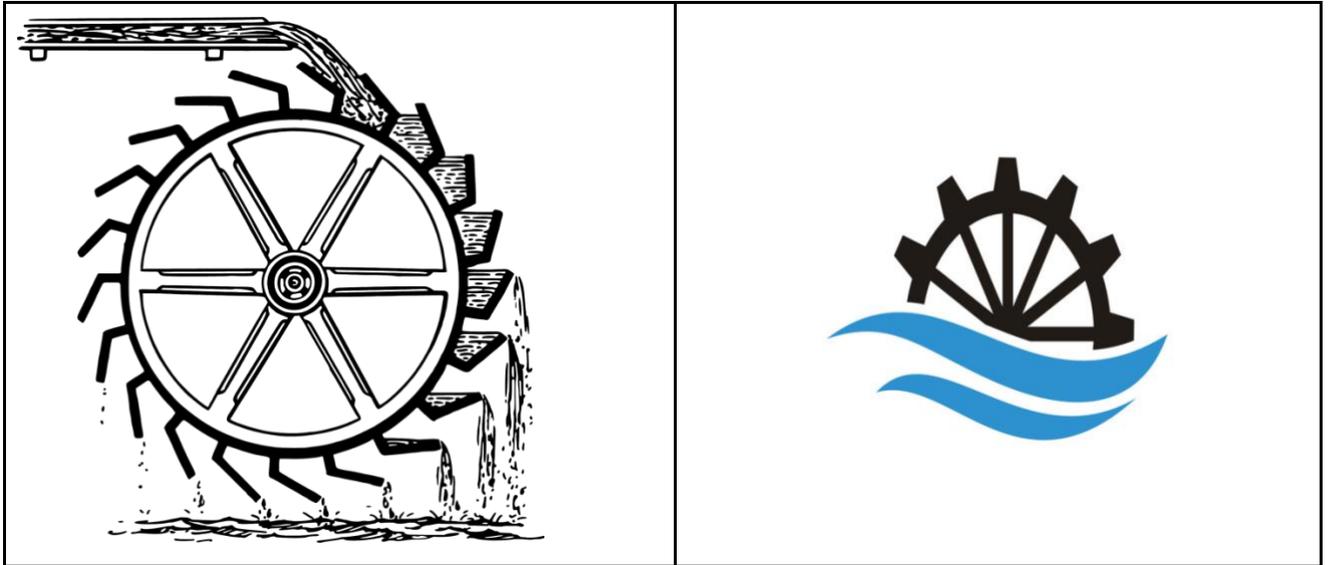
2. **Summarize:** Can you name at least five human impacts on the Powow River?
3. **Interpret:** If the Powow River could speak to us, what would it say? Try to take on the voice of the river. Write a poem, a letter, a song, a storyboard, or a short story -- whatever! What would the Powow want to tell us?
4. **Illustrate:** Choose a few time periods in the Powow River's history. Draw scenes to show how you think the river looked.

Explore Amesbury: ABC's of the Powow River

Design at Home

ACTIVITY: A waterwheel powered the early mills on the Powow River. Below you can see how two different artists drew an image of a waterwheel.

Why don't you try drawing one?



My drawing:

A large empty rectangular box for drawing.

Explore Amesbury: ABC's of the Powow River

ACTIVITY: Look for the hidden words in this puzzle.

WORD SEARCH: Amesbury's Powow River

A	I	D	R	E	S	T	O	R	A	T	I	O	N
R	I	K	O	O	C	A	N	N	E	P	R	N	I
I	F	R	A	H	W	R	A	R	R	A	A	R	I
M	E	R	R	I	M	A	C	K	R	I	V	E	R
K	H	A	T	T	R	I	B	U	T	A	R	Y	E
B	A	M	P	H	I	T	H	E	A	T	E	R	M
C	R	E	W	K	D	T	G	G	W	O	W	O	P
O	M	I	G	E	Y	A	C	H	A	N	G	E	R
A	I	I	D	A	P	E	M	S	I	H	O	I	K
Y	O	E	A	G	S	E	R	S	V	Y	G	E	H
Y	G	R	E	N	E	C	I	T	E	N	I	K	A
T	A	E	G	R	I	S	T	M	I	L	L	E	G
G	A	N	A	I	L	I	N	D	U	S	T	R	Y
Y	L	A	K	E	G	A	R	D	N	E	R	N	N

BRIDGES
NAIL INDUSTRY
PENNACOOK
POWOW
DAMS
WHARF
CHANGE
GRIST MILL
RESTORATION
MERRIMACK RIVER
AMPHITHEATER
LAKE GARDNER
TRIBUTARY
KINETIC ENERGY

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2047249/>

Explore Amesbury: ABC's of the Powow River

GLOSSARY

Conservationist: a supporter of the preservation of the natural world

Foundry: a building for making metal or glass

Fulling: a step in woolen cloth making which involves the cleaning of cloth to eliminate oils, dirt, and other impurities, and to make it thicker.

Gristmill: A grist mill grinds grain into flour. Most old ones are watermills.

Heavy industry: requires large scale buildings and machinery to produce products

Indigenous: living naturally in a particular region or environment

Industry: work; large-scale production of a particular product

Innovation: a new method. A modernization.

Kinetic energy: Kinetic energy is the energy of anything in motion like a car in motion or a football when kicked.

Pennacook (or Pawtucket): a Native American people who lived in what are now the U.S. states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Maine. They spoke an Algonquian language. Today the Pennacook are no longer a distinct tribe, but many of their descendants can be found among the Abenaki people who live in New England and Canada.

Restoration: to return something to an earlier and better condition

Tributary: a stream, river, or glacier that joins a larger river, glacier, or lake

Waterwheel: a wheel made to turn by a flow of water against it

Wharf: a structure built alongside or out into the water as a landing place for boats and ships

Explore Amesbury: ABC's of the Powow River

SOURCES

We gathered most of our information from research and writing that Amesbury historians have published at amesburycarriagemuseum.org. In particular:

- *A Mill 2 Scrapbook* by John Mayer
- *The Docks of Amesbury and Salisbury Mills* by Tom Murphy
- *The Rise of Textile Mills along Amesbury's Powow River* by Mike Harrold
- *Topographical Sketches of the County of Essex 1792* from ACM website.

Other sources were:

Amesbury History: *Amesbury's Industrial History – A View from the Millyard*, by Gray Fitzsimons and John Mayer, 12/14/17 – 3/3/19

Amesbury Landscape: *Amesbury Reconnaissance Report Essex County Landscape Inventory Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program. 2003*

Essex County History: *Essex Memorial for 1836: Embracing a Register of the County*, by Newhall, James R.

Industrial revolution:

https://www.ducksters.com/history/us_1800s/industrial_revolution.php

North-south economies intertwined: <https://www.encyclopedia.com/humanities/applied-and-social-sciences-magazines/impact-slavery-northern-economy>

Powow River: <https://wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/wma/Powow-river.html>

Working conditions in the mills: http://www.bbc.co.uk/nationonfilm/topics/textiles/background_conditions.shtml