

Speaker: Gives Students Chance To Focus On Local History, Learn From Community

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Valley Quest is a series of 89 regional educational treasure hunts stretching across 31 towns and teaching natural and cultural history to children.

Glazer talked about how a group of fifth- and sixth-grade students from Norwich, Vt, learned about the history of their area while creating a treasure

hunt that guided people through the village of Beaver Meadow, a part of their town.

He talked about how the students worked with 19th century maps of their area, which taught them that their town was once made up of many different villages. The students also talked with older residents to collect living history.

He said the treasure hunt program has two purposes.

First, students create the treasure hunt themselves. This gives them a chance to focus on local history and, as they develop the hunt, to learn from older people in the community, not just from the classroom teacher.

Second, once the hunt is created and other people begin to take part in the activity, they are encouraged to explore their own community in greater depth.