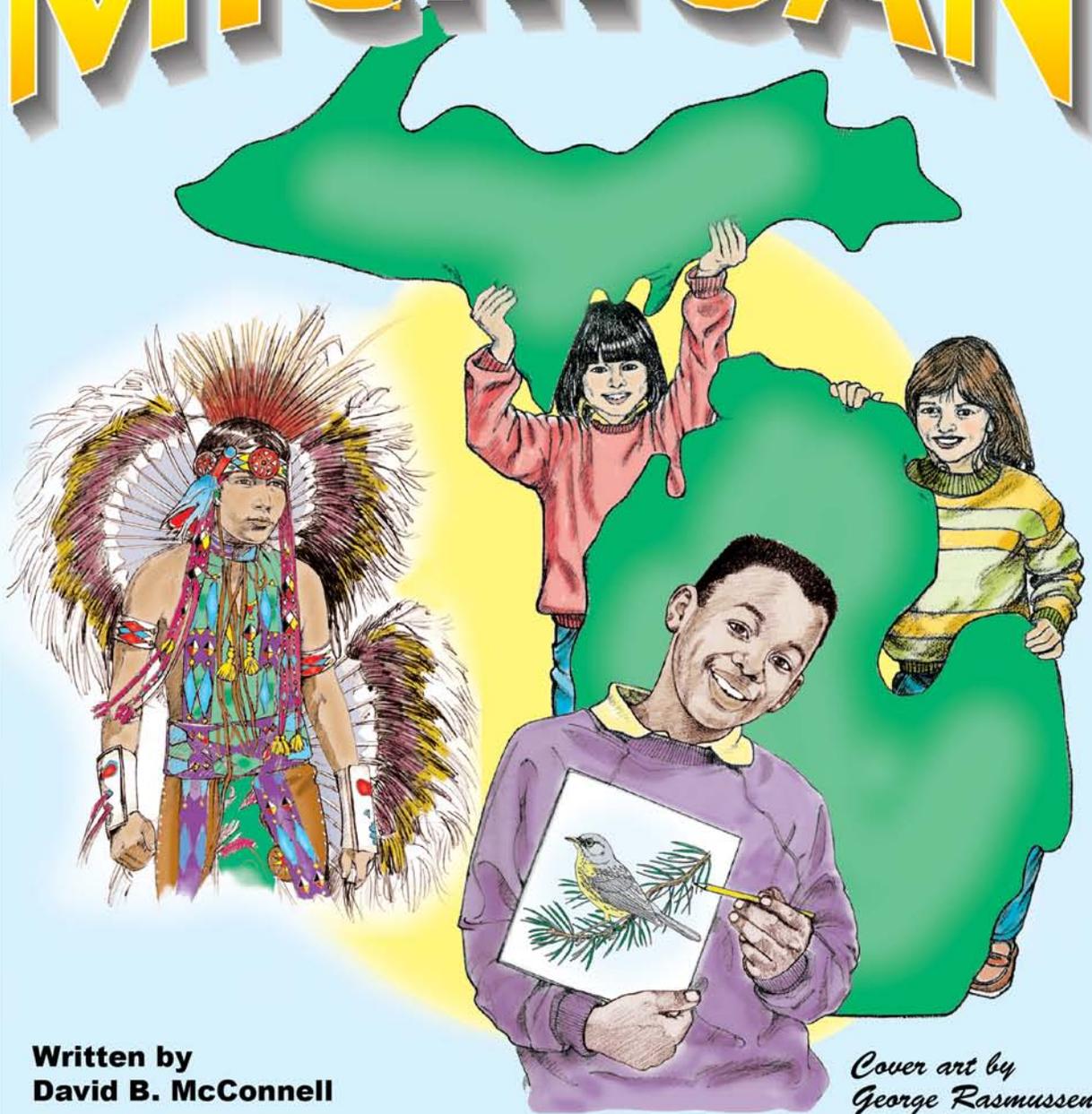


# MEET MICHIGAN



**Written by  
David B. McConnell**

*Cover art by  
George Rasmussen*

**Hillsdale Educational Publishers**

# *Meet Michigan*



*by David B. McConnell*



The students on the cover are using their talents to learn and share about Michigan. Two are making a big state map. This is for a Michigan History Day project. One is practicing a Native American dance for a Pow Wow. The fourth is entering his drawing of Kirtland's Warbler in an art contest. How can you share with others what you learn about Michigan ?

**This book is dedicated to the memory of  
Mr. Mel Miller, a tireless advocate of  
teaching about Michigan and its history.**

---

**2012 Printing**

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**ISBN 978-1-931466-12-7**

*My encouragement to those educators who take the time  
to present Michigan to their students in spite  
of a crowded curriculum. Keep up the good work!*

### **About the Author**

David McConnell has a lifelong interest in history and teaching. For many years he has been a member of the Michigan Council for Social Studies, the Michigan Council for History Education and the Historical Society of Michigan. He is also a member of the National Council for Social Studies and Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Dave lives with his wife Janice in their country home near Hillsdale. For the past 30 years he has written and developed Michigan studies textbooks and teaching resources. These include—

*Discover Michigan*, 1981, 1985  
*Explore Michigan A to Z*, 1993  
*Forging the Peninsulas: Michigan Is Made*, 1989, 2001, 2008  
*A Little People's Beginning On Michigan*, 1981, 2002  
*Michigan Activity Masters*, 1985, 1999  
*Michigan's Story*, 1996, 2002  
*Our Michigan Adventure*, 1998, 2002, 2005, 2008  
*A Puzzle Book For Young Michiganians*, 1982

Also served as editor and contributor for  
*Computer Games On Michigan*, 1996, 2004  
*Michigan Student Desk Map* and associated lessons  
*Michigan Government and You*  
*Michigan Map Skills and Information Workbook*

#### **Awards:**

*Our Michigan Adventure*  
Award of Merit, Historical Society of Michigan.  
*Forging the Peninsulas: Michigan Is Made* -  
Award of Merit, Historical Society of Michigan.  
*Discover Michigan* -  
Michigan Product of the Year, non consumer division.  
Listed in *Michigan Authors* 1993, 2001



The author at Lincoln Elementary School talking with Jonathan Huhta and his class about Michigan's logging days .

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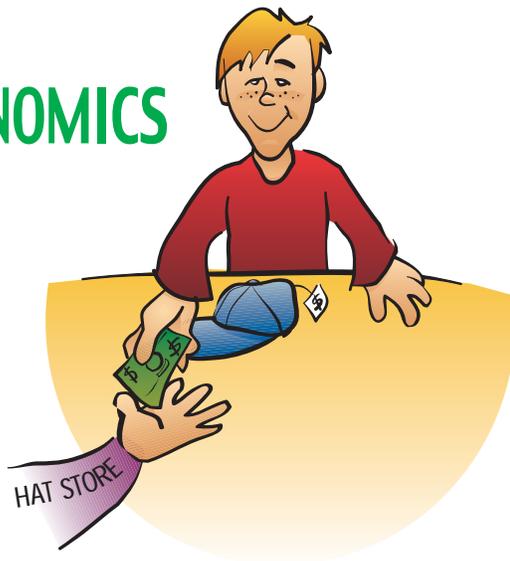
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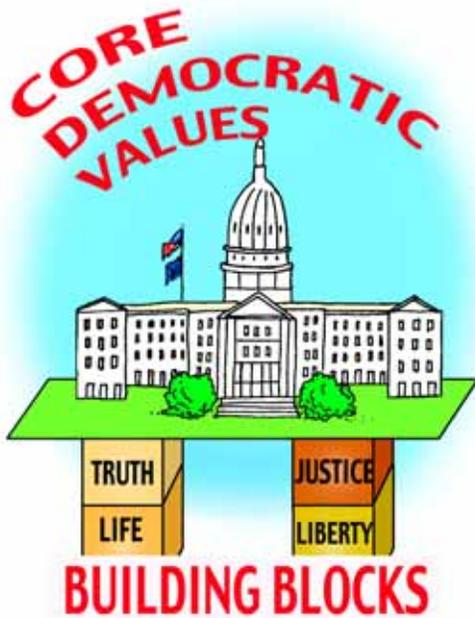
# ECONOMICS



You will meet some new ideas in this book. Some will be about our past- our history. Some will be about money and economics. Others will be about values. These are important values. They make our state and our country great. We call them core democratic values. These values are like building blocks. Our state and our country are built on them.

These ideas and values tie in with our past. They also tie in with our present.

There are special pictures to guide you to these ideas. Look for them as you read. You will find important thoughts next to each one.



For money and economics, we will use...



For core democratic values, we will use...



Teachers want you to start to think like historians. Historians study the past. You should ask and answer the kinds of questions historians

use. What questions would they ask? Here are some.

**What happened? When did it happen?**

**Who was there? Why did it happen?**

When you see this picture you know it is time to think about these questions.



Teachers also want you to start to think like a geographer. Geographers study the land and the water. They look at rivers, lakes and oceans. They want you to understand maps. They want you to see how geography shaped our state. Here are some questions geographers ask.

**Where is it?**

**What is it like there?**

**How is it connected to other places?**

**How did the land or the water affect what happened there?**

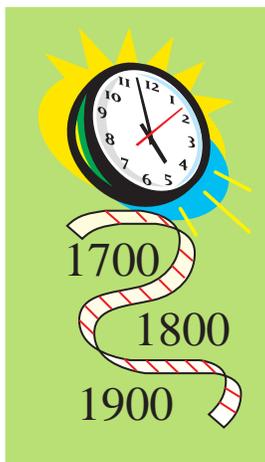


**GEOGRAPHY**

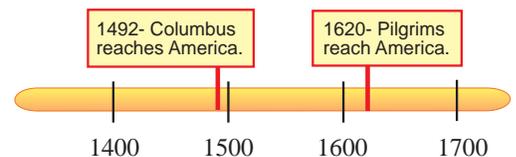
When you see this picture you know it is time to think about geography.

Teachers also want you to know when events took place. They want you to know what happened first and what happened next.

We use time lines to help do this. Here is a time line.



The picture with the clock and dates will let you know you should think about time and what came first.



# Chapter 1 - Meet Michigan

## Chapter 1 Lesson 1



the big,  
bright ideas

### Ideas To Explore

What is a state?

What gives Michigan its shape?

How did our state get the name Michigan?



### Places To Discover

Great Lakes

Michigan (mish eh gan)

peninsula (pen in su la)

Lower Peninsula

Upper Peninsula



### Words to Welcome

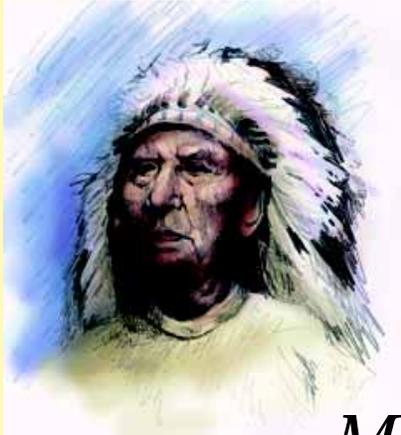
borders (bor ders)

government (gov ern ment)

Michigan  
Social  
Studies  
GLCEs  
3G1.0.2  
3C3.0.2



**Welcome  
to Meet  
Michigan!**



## Chapter 1

### *Meet Michigan*

Think about this question while you read.

**What is a state?**

Welcome to Michigan. This is where you live. Your hometown is here. This is your state. Michigan is full of fun and exciting things. Let's learn about them.

Read about its Indian tribes. Listen to a chief tell you a legend. See the old forts from long ago. Some of our first towns began as forts.

Go back in time. See how our pioneer men and women lived. Learn why they came to Michigan and how they got here. Discover how Michigan became a state. Find out how it has grown and changed.

What would YOU like to learn about Michigan?

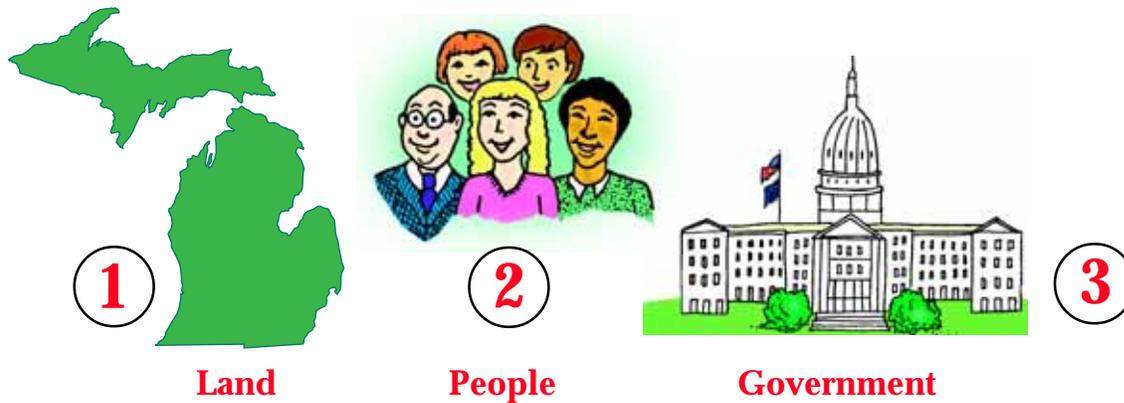


Luis is checking out our state stone.

The fort at Mackinaw City.







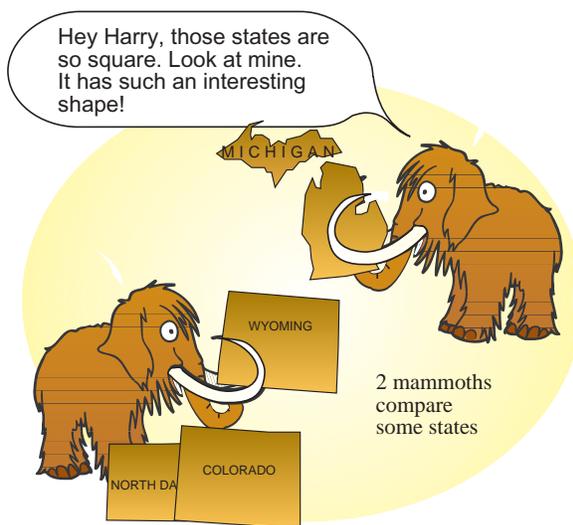
Each state has its own **borders**. A *border* is where one state ends and the next state begins. Has your family driven across Michigan’s border?

A state is also the people who live there. You and I are each a little bit of Michigan. The things we do are all a part of our state.

People need rules. They need help doing some things. **Government** does things for us we cannot do by ourselves. It helps people. It builds highways. It pays for the police. It makes laws. It helps people protect their rights. Government is the third part of what a state is.

### Our Shape

Some states have square shapes. Some are long. Some are tall. Michigan has a very different shape. No other state has a shape like ours. Our shape is quite interesting!

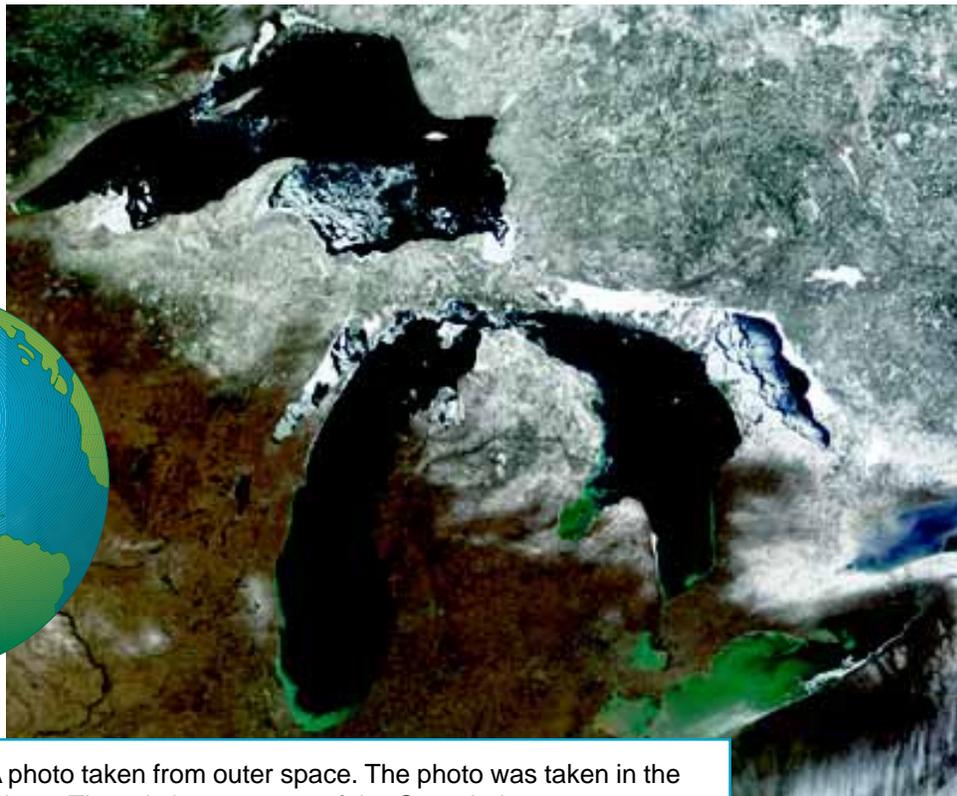


## Chapter 1



A photo of Lake Superior. A large ship sails by. This ship carries coal to a power plant. Courtesy David McConnell

We are not like any other state. We are different in two ways. First, we are in the middle of the **Great Lakes!** The Great Lakes are **HUGE** lakes. You cannot see across them. Each of them holds a lot of water. Big ships sail on them. No other state has so much fresh water around it. The Great Lakes give our land its shape. You can spot Michigan quickly, even from outer space!



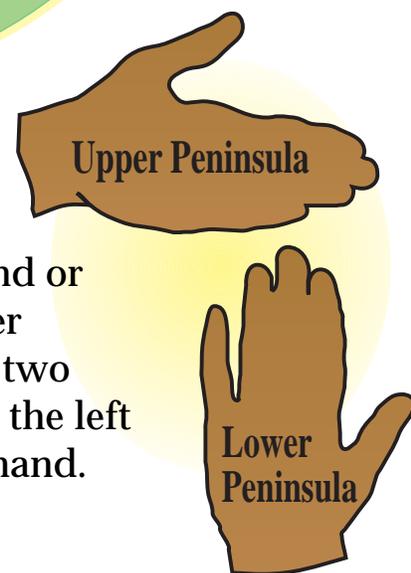
A photo taken from outer space. The photo was taken in the winter. There is ice on some of the Great Lakes.

Courtesy Liam Gumley, Space Science and Engineering Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Next, Michigan is divided into two big parts. It is the only state that is this way. We have the **Upper Peninsula**. It is the northern part. We have the **Lower Peninsula**. It is the southern part. Have you heard the word **peninsula** before? *A peninsula is land with water on three sides.* The Great Lakes are around our two peninsulas. Check it out on a map.



The Lower Peninsula looks like a hand or a mitten. Some people also say the Upper Peninsula has a hand shape too. Put the two shapes together. The Upper Peninsula is the left hand. The Lower Peninsula is the right hand. Now your hands look like Michigan!



# Chapter 1



Picture drawn by George Rasmussen.

## Our Name

What does the name of our state mean? The name Michigan comes from Native American words! It means big lake or great lake. That fits our state. It has so much water around it!



## Remember ....

You have learned that Michigan is one of our 50 states.

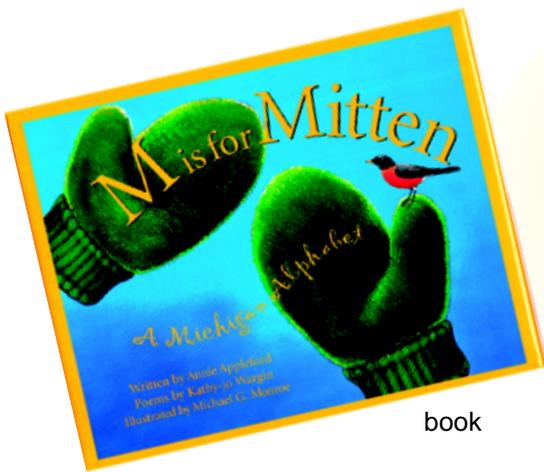
You should know what a state is.

**MEET MICHIGAN**

Now you know where to find Michigan on a map. Now you know how its shape comes from the Great Lakes.

**BUY THIS BOOK FOR YOUR CLASS!**

Michigan has two parts called peninsulas. Those are like hands.



book

There are many ways to learn more about Michigan. You may want to read a book about Michigan. There are also videos about our state.



video

**Think About It. Write About It!**

1. Tell what you know about the shape of Michigan.
2. What is a peninsula?
3. What does the name Michigan mean?
4. What is a state?
5. Name one thing state government does for us.

**Brain Stretchers**

What makes Michigan different from other states in the United States?

**Words In Action!**

Imagine you have a pen pal in another state. Write an e-mail telling about Michigan. Use facts you learned from this lesson.

**MEET  
MICHIGAN**

**BUY THIS BOOK FOR YOUR CLASS!**



# Chapter 1

## Chapter 1 Lesson 2



### Ideas To Explore

**common good:** what is best for *everyone*, not just yourself.

**state flag:** Each state has a state flag. What does ours look like?

**state symbols:** Which symbols (SIM bols) stand for Michigan?



### Places To Discover

Isle Royale (sounds like- eye I • roy al)

Lansing (lan sing)



### Words to Welcome

coral (KOR al)

deposit (dee pos it)

fossil (fos el)

Kalkaska (kal KAS ka)

Latin (LAT n)

human characteristic (hu man • kar ak ter iz tik)

natural characteristic

nature

opinion

state game mammal

state seal

Tuebor (TOO-a-bor) a Latin word

Michigan  
Social  
Studies  
GLCEs  
3G1.0.2  
3G5.0.1  
3C1.0.1  
3C5.0.1  
3P3.1.1  
3P3.3.1  
3P4.2.1  
3P4.2.2

## OUR STATE SYMBOLS

Think about this question while you read.  
**How do our state symbols help people learn about Michigan?**

Check out our **state symbols** (SIM bols)! The symbols are things which are special to Michigan. Here are some examples.

The **robin** is the *state bird*. People said it is the best known and most loved bird here.



Our *state flower* is the **apple blossom**. It has been the state flower since 1897. In the spring the apple blossoms are beautiful on the trees. Our climate helps this tree grow well here.



The **white pine** is our *state tree*. It is an evergreen. Many were used for lumber long ago. The lumber helped to build lots of homes. Michigan does not have nearly as many white pine trees today. Our climate and soil help this tree grow well here. It grows best in the north part of the state.

The colorful **brook trout** is our *state fish*. It is about eight to ten inches long. Blue, green and red spots cover its sides.



## Chapter 1



Our state symbols are natural characteristics of Michigan. They are a part of nature - the outdoors.

The *state stone* is the **Petoskey stone**. Many are found on the beaches near the city of Petoskey. This stone is very old. Each stone is a piece of ancient **coral**. Coral grows in seas and oceans.

You may wonder how pieces of coral got here. It means a sea once covered this land! That was a very long time ago. Without that great sea, there would be no Petoskey stone today. Look closely. You can see the coral pattern in the stone.



How do we get a state symbol? Our state government in **Lansing** votes and says so. In 1973 it voted to have a *state gem*. They chose the **greenstone**. You can find these little green stones on **Isle Royale** (eye l roy al). This is an island in Lake Superior. The stones are often on the beaches there.



We even have a *state soil*. This is the **Kalkaska** (kal KAS ka) **soil**. The state government chose this special soil. That was in 1990. This helps people remember how important soil is to all of us. Without soil there would be no farms. We could not grow our food.



A while ago some students felt we should have a *state reptile*. The students thought about it. Then they said the painted turtle would be the best choice. In 1995 the **painted turtle** became Michigan's state reptile!

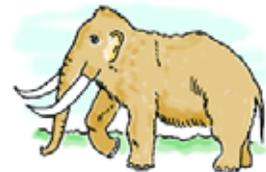
The **whitetail deer** is Michigan's **state game mammal**. Over a million deer live here. They are found in every part of the state. Many of you have seen one.



Our **state wildflower** is the **dwarf lake iris**. This kind of flower is hard to find. It is very small.

Dwarf Lake Iris-  
Courtesy  
Dr. Dennis  
Albert

We also have a **state fossil**.  
What is a **fossil**? *A fossil was once a living thing that has changed to stone.* It takes a very long time to make a fossil. Most fossils are found in the ground.



**a mastodon**

**Mastodon** bones are often found here. Those animals lived here a very long time ago. They looked like hairy elephants. The mastodon was voted the **state fossil** a few years ago.

### **Made by Nature or by People?**

Each state symbol is special to us. Each is found here. Each one is made by **nature**. It is a **natural characteristic** of our state. The robin is made by nature. The apple blossom is made by nature. The Kalkaska soil is made by nature.



Hillsdale College student Chase Beck holds two bones from a mastodon. The bones were found in Hillsdale county.

## Chapter 1

Michigan has **human characteristics** too. These are things made by humans. Men and women made them. Buildings and bridges are human characteristics. A road is a human characteristic. People made it. Another example is a school. On the other hand, a river is a natural characteristic. It was made by nature.



### Michigan's Flag

Michigan has its own **state flag**. Have you ever seen it? Most of the flag is bright blue. In the middle is the Michigan **State Seal**.

The state seal is a picture. This picture is used by our state government. You may see it on government papers or at state offices.

The seal has an eagle holding arrows and an olive branch. There is an elk and a moose too. There is also a man with one hand raised. This means peace. In his other hand is a rifle. This means we will



The state seal.

defend our state. There is also a rising sun and a lake on the state seal.

The seal has several words on it. These words are from an old language called **Latin** (LAT n). One of the Latin words on the flag is “**Tuebor**” (sounds like- TOO-a-bor). It means “I will defend.”



**COMMON GOOD**

Thinking about the **COMMON GOOD** is a lot more than thinking about just yourself.

It is thinking about what is good for everyone!



How can you defend Michigan? Have you ever thought about it? One way is to help keep it clean. Do not leave litter along the sidewalk or playground. Pick up after yourself. Do not drop gum and candy wrappers on the ground. Do not leave pop cans at the park. Recycle them instead.



Keeping Michigan clean is good for everyone. It is thinking about the **common good!** Thinking about the common good is thinking about what is good for everyone. It is not thinking just about yourself. It is not being selfish. Helping to keep Michigan clean is helping to defend it. It is also working for the common good.

Not just



# Chapter 1



## The Bottle Bill

Once there were lots of bottles and cans thrown along our roads. It was a mess! People said this made Michigan ugly.

Our state did something. It made a new law in 1976. This is often called the "Bottle Bill." It put a **deposit** on soda pop and other fizzy beverages. *A deposit is money paid up front and given back when the item is returned.* Today the deposit on each bottle or can is 10 cents. People pay an extra 10 cents each. They get it back when they return the bottles and cans to the store. It was felt the deposit would help people take the bottles and cans back.

# 10¢



MEET MICHIGAN

BUY THIS BOOK FOR YOUR CLASS!

Over four billion bottles and cans go back to Michigan stores each year. Wow! The bottle bill is one reason for this. The deposit helps people see what they should do anyway. Our state was one of the first to have deposits. Eleven states now have this kind of deposit law.

There is still trash on our roads, but not as many bottles or cans. Should we have laws to get rid of other kinds of trash? Why don't more states have deposit laws? What do you think?



States that have bottle and can deposits.

**Think About It. Write About It!**

1. Name three of our state symbols.
2. The Petoskey stone is interesting. What does it tell us about Michigan a very long time ago?
3. Think about a road and a river. Which one is a natural characteristic? Which one is a human characteristic?
4. How can you help defend or protect Michigan?

**Brain Stretcher**

Draw a picture of a new state flag for Michigan. Include at least one human characteristic and at least one natural characteristic.

**Think Like a historian**

Use the Internet to learn more about how the state seal was made. Who made it? When was it made? Was it made with ideas borrowed from other places?

**Take a Stand!**

How can we have less litter at our parks and playgrounds? Explain your **opinion**.

**Make a Plan**

Make a "do not litter plan." What will you say? What is the best way to share your ideas with others?



# Chapter 1

## Chapter 1 Lesson 3



### Ideas To Explore

climate (kli mit)

lake effect (ee fekt)

glacier (glay sher)

persuasive essay (per sway siv • es say)

public policy issue

(pub lick • pol eh see • ish shoe)

rivers: Where does the water from Michigan's rivers go?



### Places To Discover

Canada (KAN uh duh) -

the large country next to us

Houghton Lake (ho ton)

Lake Erie (EAR ee)

Lake Huron (hYOUR on)

Lake Michigan

Lake Ontario (ON tair ee oh)

Lake Superior (SUP EAR ee or)

Tahquamenon Falls (TAH KWA meh non)

Wisconsin (wes con sin)

Michigan  
Social  
Studies  
GLCEs  
3G1.0.2  
3G5.0.1  
3C5.0.1  
3P3.1.1  
3P3.1.3  
3P3.3.1  
3P4.2.1  
3P4.2.2



### Rivers To Remember

Grand River - Michigan's longest river

Menominee (meh NOM eh nee) River

## *The Water Around Us*

Think about these questions while you read.  
**How are lakes and rivers important to Michigan?**  
**What made the Great Lakes?**

Carly and Mike are on a family trip. They pull off the road and the car stops. Mom and Dad tell them, “Come out and look around!”

They walk over a big hill of sand and Mike says, “Wow! That is a lot of water! What is the name of this river?”

Carly quickly says, “That’s not a river. It’s a lake.”

Mike wants to know how she can tell the difference.

Carly explains, “Rivers do not look the same as lakes. Rivers are long and narrow. Lakes tend to be like big, wide circles. The water in rivers flows. It moves from one end to the other.”

“So, what is the name of this lake?” Mike asks.

Carly smiles and says, “It is Lake Michigan. It gives our state part of its shape.”

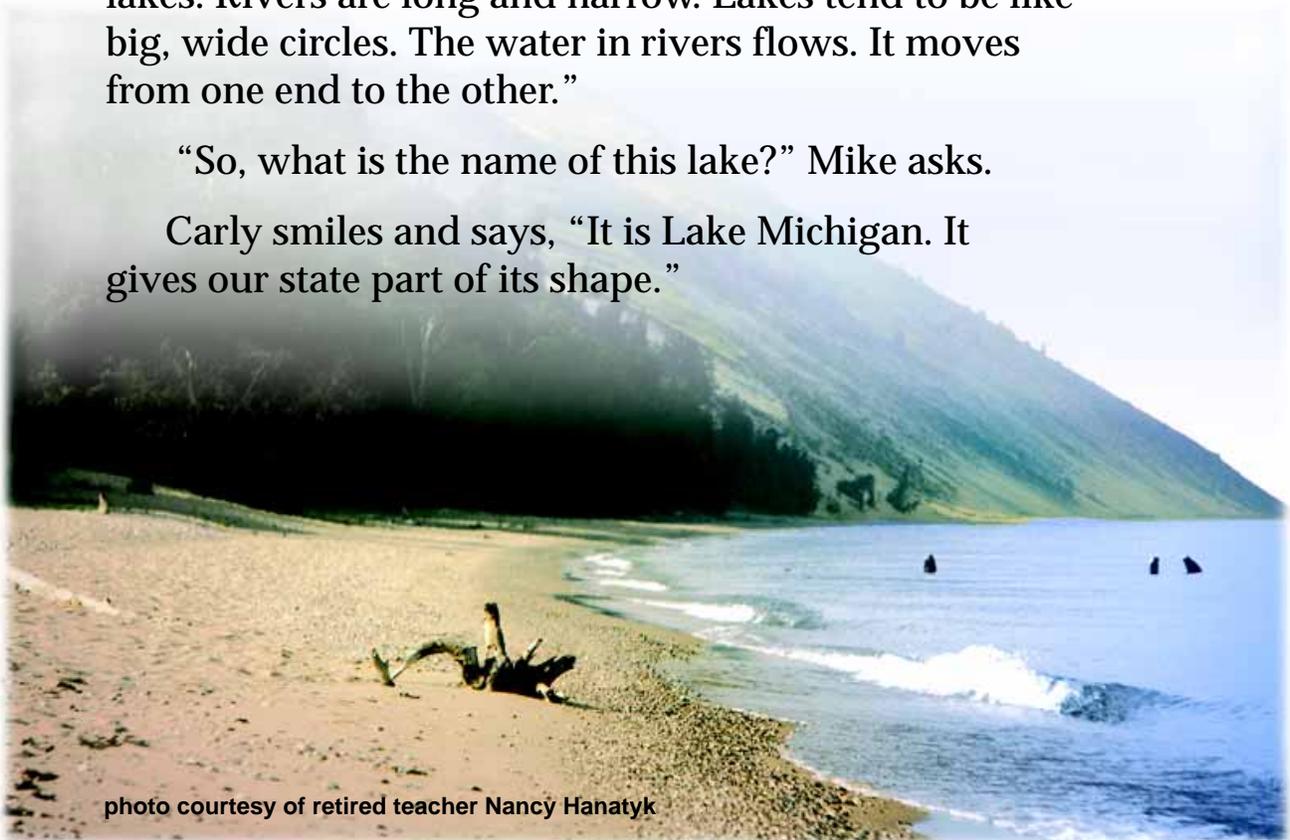


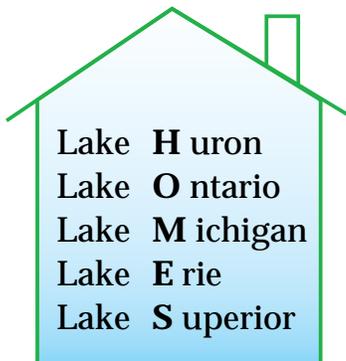
photo courtesy of retired teacher Nancy Hanatyk

## Chapter 1



### The Water Around Us

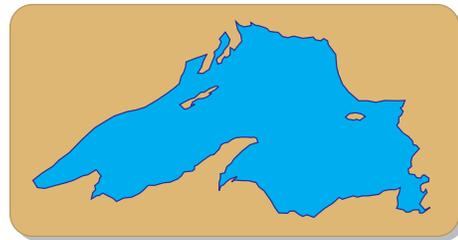
How does water help give our state its shape? We have the Great Lakes around us. The Great Lakes also split our state into two peninsulas.



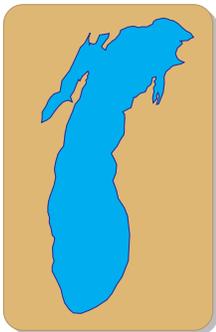
There are five Great Lakes. To remember their names, think HOMES. Each letter in HOMES starts the name of a Great Lake. The lakes are: Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie and Superior. Michigan is our home, so do not forget HOMES! **Lake Ontario** is the only one that does not touch our state. Find it on a map.

**Largest and Deepest**

**Lake Superior** is huge. It is the deepest Great Lake. It has more area than any other fresh water lake in the world! Only the salty oceans and seas are bigger. Lake Superior is north of the Upper Peninsula. It's water is cold all year. Many ships have sunk in it. What would it be like to see one – down in the dark, cold water?



*Superior*



*Michigan*

**All in the U.S.A.**

The only Great Lake that is all inside the United States is **Lake Michigan**. We share the rest with **Canada** (KAN uh duh). Canada is the country next to us.

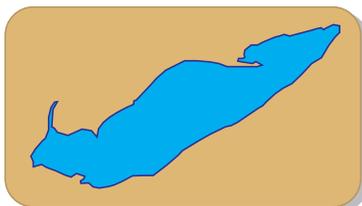
**On the East Side**

**Lake Huron** is the second largest Great Lake. This lake is east of Michigan. It was named after one of the tribes who lived on its shores.



*Huron*

**Not Very Deep**

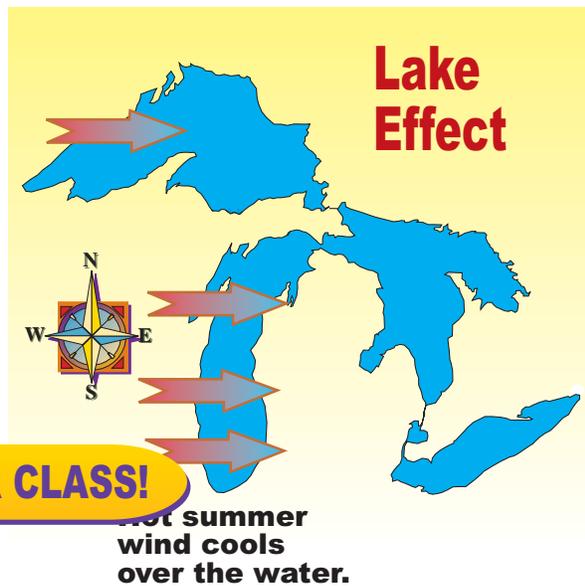


*Erie*

**Lake Erie** does not get the prize as the biggest lake. It does win for being the most shallow of the Great Lakes. It is also further south than the others.

### **The Great Lakes and Our Climate**

The Great Lakes help our **climate**. We call this the “**lake effect**.” Here is how it works. In the summer, the cool lakes keep the air from being so hot. It is cooled when it blows over the water. In the winter the lakes keep us a bit warmer. The water does not cool as fast as the land.



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Our rivers flow into the Great Lakes.

### **Rivers Fill the Great Lakes**

How do the Great Lakes get their water today? It comes from rain. Some rain falls right into the Lakes. Other rain falls on the land and runs into **rivers**. *Rivers drain the low places and take the water to the Lakes.* All Michigan rivers flow into one of the Great Lakes.

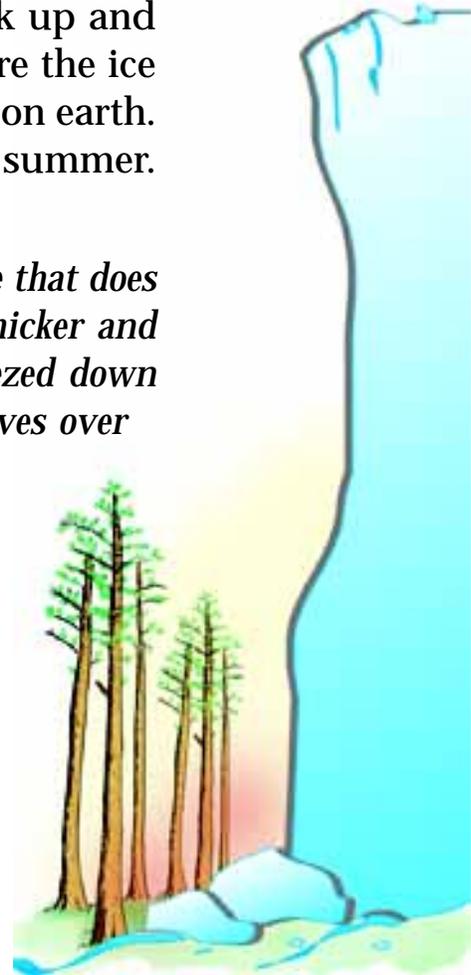
## How Did We Get the Great Lakes?

They started with lots and lots of ice. If you had been there, you would have to look up and up to see the top. You would shiver. Sure the ice made it cold, but it was also a cold time on earth. It was too cold for the ice to melt in the summer. This ice was called a **glacier**.



*A glacier is a thick cover of ice that does not melt in the summer. It gets thicker and thicker for many years. It is squeezed down from the North Pole. It slowly moves over the earth.*

As the great glacier moved over Michigan, it dug up the softer land. The glacier made low places. When it melted, its water filled in the low places. They became the Great Lakes. At the same time, the dirt it had carried with it was left behind. This dirt made hills in the southern part of our state.



## Our Longest River

Michigan's longest river is the **Grand River**. It begins in the south of Michigan. It is very small where it starts. It runs west to reach Lake Michigan. All of the state's longest rivers go into Lake Michigan. As the Grand River crosses the state, it grows wider and deeper. It goes through some big cities, like Lansing and Grand Rapids.



# Chapter 1



The Grand River near Grand Rapids



The Menominee River



The Detroit River  
Many cities started on rivers.  
People often traveled on rivers.  
Before good roads, it was easier to go by canoe or boat.

The **Menominee River** is in the Upper Peninsula. It makes part of our border with **Wisconsin**. Wisconsin is a state west of us.

The Detroit River is over 2,000 feet wide. That makes it our widest river. Can you guess where it is? It goes by Detroit, of course! Our largest city has the widest river.



## Waterfalls

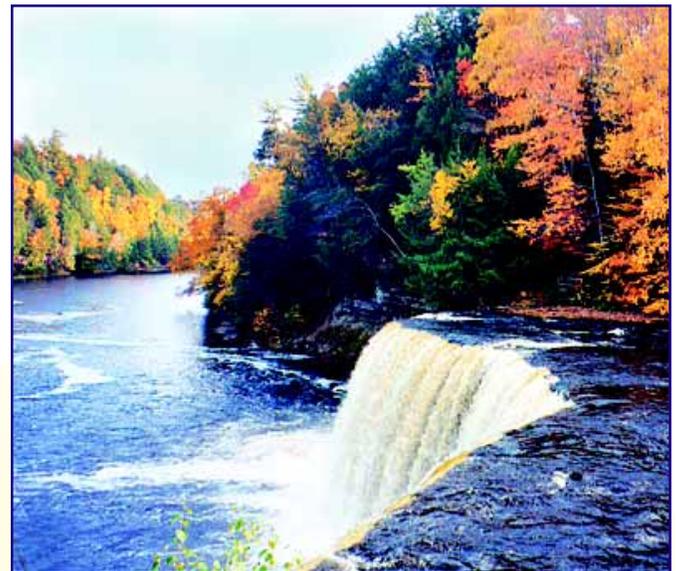
The Lower Peninsula has most of the long rivers. The Upper Peninsula has most of the waterfalls.

Michigan's biggest waterfall is in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Its name is **Tahquamenon Falls** (tah KWAH meh non). It has two parts. At the tallest part, the water falls 48 feet. That is like five classrooms stacked on top of each other!

Tahquamenon Falls-  
Photo Courtesy  
Janice McConnell

### **Many Small Lakes!**

Michigan has thousands of small lakes. These lakes are great for fishing. People also like to sail their boats on them. Visitors come here from far away to enjoy these lakes.



The state's largest lake inside Michigan is **Houghton Lake** (HO ton). Can you find it on a map? It is in the Lower Peninsula. People enjoy boating there in the summer. They like to ice fish there in the winter. Some also ride snowmobiles on it when it is frozen.

### **Be Careful and Keep It Clean**

Our lakes and rivers are wonderful things. They give us water to drink. They give us places to use our boats and to fish. They can be places to swim or have picnics. They can supply water used to make products we buy. All of this water is a wonderful resource for our state.



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## Chapter 1



**Be  
careful.**

So, we need to be careful with our lakes and rivers. Do not waste the water. Keep the water clean. We should not throw junk and garbage into them. We want to have lots of good water for a long time.

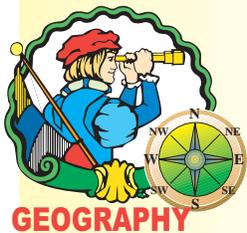
How lakes and rivers are used can be a **public policy issue**. All the people, the public, are concerned. An issue is something important to people. An issue has at least two sides to it. Some people may want to build homes around a lake. Other people may want no homes around a lake. They think it is pretty and peaceful without homes. People must decide which is best. Then they can make a policy or law about it.



When we talk about issues, we need to explain our stand. Often we can talk to others to do this. Sometimes we need to write our ideas. We need to do this with care so people know what we mean. We need to *persuade* them. *This means we want them to see things our way.* We will write down our stand clearly. We will write an essay- a **persuasive essay**.

**Think About It. Write About It!**

1. Name the five Great Lakes. Underline the ones touching Michigan.
2. Name the world's largest freshwater lake in area.
3. How is our climate affected by the Great Lakes?
4. Name Michigan's longest river.
5. Which peninsula has our biggest waterfalls?
6. How did a glacier give Michigan its shape?



**Be a Geographer**

Study a map of Michigan. Find the Grand River and follow its path. Find another long river. Write its name and the name of one large city along it.

**Take a Stand!**

Here is a public policy issue. Other states do not have as much water as Michigan. Should we give them water from the Great Lakes? Write a persuasive essay. Explain your stand.

Think about sharing your stand with others. What is the best way to do this? Where is the best place to do it? When is the best time to share it?



# Chapter 1

## Chapter 1 Lesson 4



### Ideas To Explore

Compare our two peninsulas.



### Neighbors To Know

Indiana (IN dee AN ah)

Ohio (OH hi oh)

Wisconsin (wes con sin)



### Places To Discover

Ann Arbor

Dearborn

Detroit (dee TROYt)

Escanaba (ES can ah ba)

Flint

Grand Rapids

Livonia (liy own ee uh)

Marquette (MAR KETT)

Monroe (moh nroh)

Port Huron (por tyoo ron) (ar von)

Porcupine Mountains (por kyou pine)

Sault Ste. Marie (soo SAYnt ma ree) - Ste. stands for Saint

St. Ignace (SAYnt IG ness) - St. stands for Saint

Sterling Heights (stir ling • hites)

Warren (war in)

Michigan

Social

Studies

GLCEs

3G1.0.1

3G1.0.2

3G2.0.1

3G2.0.2

3G5.0.1

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### Words to Welcome

capital

copper

counties (KOUN tees)

feature

iron

region (REE jun)

## Be Michigan Map Smart

Think about this question while you read.  
**How has Michigan’s geography affected the way people live?**

Suzy says, “I want to be a geographer someday!”

Luke asks, “What on earth is a geographer?”

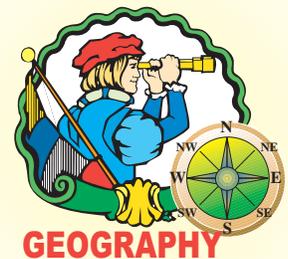
“Well, Luke, you have part of the answer already,” Suzy says.

Luke asks, “What do you mean, Suzy?”

Suzy adds, “Geographers study the earth. They like to read maps and learn about the land. I really like maps. I can learn a lot from maps. I can see where to find cities. I can learn where to find the high places- the mountains. I can find the low places- the valleys. I can see lakes and discover islands.”

“Okay, Suzy, I want to learn more about geography too. I want to look at a map and find where we are,” says Luke.

Suzy points to a map, “See, Michigan is in the northern part of the United States. It is not in the far west. It is not on the east side. It is near the middle. What else do you see?”



## Chapter 1

Michigan has four neighbors. Three of them are other states. These states touch Michigan. **Ohio** (OH hi oh) and **Indiana** (IN dee AN ah) are to the south. The third is **Wisconsin**.

### Michigan's Neighbors



The fourth neighbor is Canada. Canada is a country like the United States. It is north and east of us. Find it on a map. What do these two countries share? Canada and the United States share the Great Lakes!

Three rivers form the border between Canada and us. To reach Canada you must cross a river. Bridges make this easy to do.

The land of our state and Canada do not touch.



The bridge to Canada at Port Huron.



The flag of Canada

Michigan and Canada are friends. You can cross the border any time. Some people go on trips to Canada. Many products are shipped between us.

### Our Big Cities

Most people in our state live in cities. The largest city is **Detroit** (dee TROYt). Over 800,000 people live there. It is the 11th largest city in the

United States. Detroit began over 300 years ago, but it is not our oldest city. It is in the Lower Peninsula. Detroit is near Canada. Find it on a map.

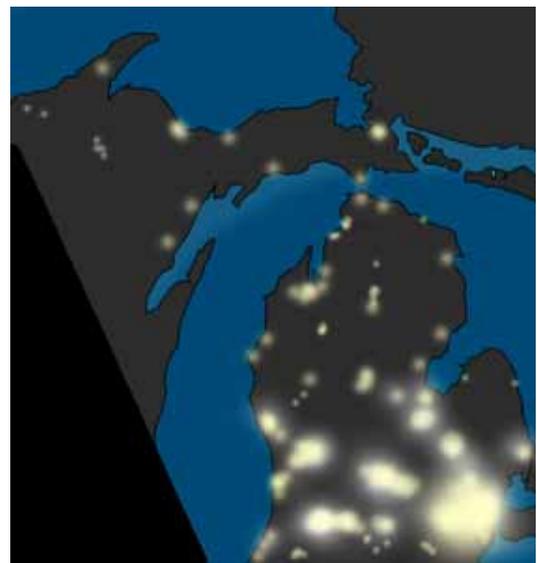
Our second largest city is not as big as Detroit. It is much smaller. This is **Grand Rapids**. It is west of Detroit. Almost 200,000 people live in Grand Rapids. It is in the western part of the Lower Peninsula. Grand Rapids was started about 170 years ago.

Check out the map that shows our state at night. The light seen from space lets you see where people live. You can see much light around Detroit. Many of Michigan's people live nearby. There are other large cities within a few miles. One of these is **Warren**. It is our third largest city. Some other big cities are **Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Livonia and Sterling Heights**. They are all near Detroit. Can you find them on the map? Why do you think so many people live near Detroit?

Do not forget Lansing. It has about 120,000 people. Lansing is our state **capital**. *This is the city where our state laws are made.* The governor's office is in Lansing.



Downtown Detroit.



A picture of Michigan at night from outer space. Lights show where people live and where our cities are.



## Chapter 1



Michigan has the oldest city in the Midwest. It is Sault Ste. Marie!

**Flint** is also a large city. Flint is almost the same size as Lansing. For a long time Flint has been known for making cars and trucks.

Look at the Upper Peninsula. The cities are much smaller there. The largest is **Marquette** (mar KETT). It started in 1850. About 20,000 people live there. It is near the center of the peninsula. South of Marquette is **Escanaba** (ES can ah ba). Head to the east. You will find another large city. It is **Sault Ste. Marie** (soo SAYnt ma ree).

Which is the oldest city in Michigan? This is Sault Ste. Marie. It began in 1668. That was a long time ago! Nearby is **St. Ignace** (SAYnt IG ness), the second oldest Michigan city. It began in 1671.

### Compare Our Peninsulas

#### CLIMATE:

The Upper Peninsula is colder. This is because it is farther north. It has much snow. There might be 20 feet of snow in one winter! That is almost enough to cover a house! Most of the Lower Peninsula has less than five feet each winter. The Upper Peninsula also has a short season to grow crops. Some crops will not grow well there because it can get so cold. Corn does not grow very well there.



## Michigan's Cities

Larger selected cities shown.  
The size of the dot gives a rough  
idea of how many people live there.

from *Meet Michigan* Copyright David B. McConnell



Our cities are human characteristics of Michigan. They were built by people—humans.

# Chapter 1

## Michigan's High & Low Places - A topographical map -

### LAND:

Which peninsula has the most land? Is it the upper or the lower? The answer is the lower. It looks like a mitten on the map. It has a lot of land. It could make about two and one-half Upper Peninsulas!

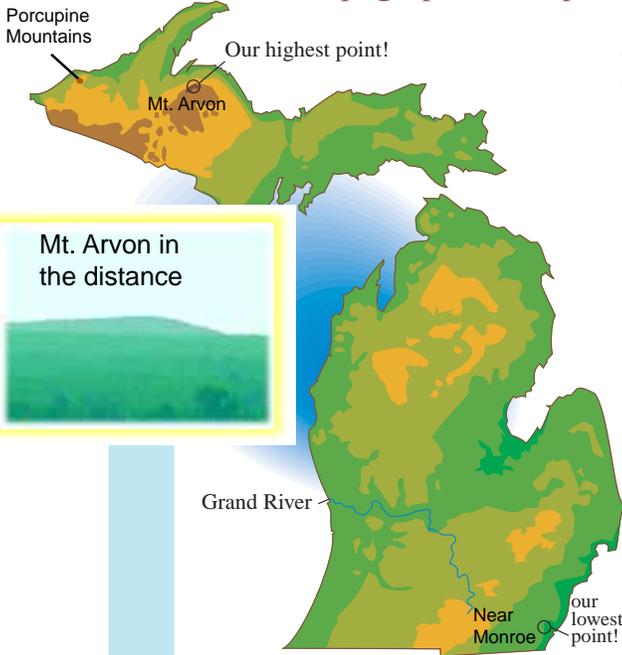
### MOUNTAINS:

The Upper Peninsula has the mountains! The land there is the highest. This is where you find **Mt. Arvon**. Mt. Arvon is about as tall as 100 houses on top of each other. This seems very tall, but it is small for a mountain. Some mountains in our country are ten times taller!

This peninsula also has the **Porcupine Mountains**. You will find them about as far west as you can go in our state. They are very close to Lake Superior. The tribes felt the shape looks like a porcupine. Some people call them the "Porkies." The Porkies are in a state park. You can drive to the top and see the Lake of the Clouds.

### THE LOWEST PLACE:

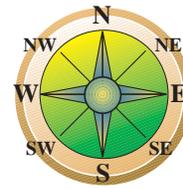
The lowest land in Michigan is along the shore of Lake Erie. This is near **Monroe** (mun row). Which part of the state has that area?



The Lake of the Clouds

## Lesson 4

Check a map. You will find it far to the southeast (SE).



Wayne  
The most people live in this county.

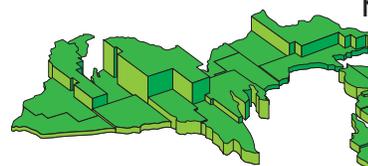
Each city is in a county. The map shows Michigan's 83 counties.

### CITIES:

The Lower Peninsula has more cities and some of them are quite large. More people live in the Lower Peninsula. Look at the green map chart. Can you think of reasons so many people live in that part of the state?

### USEFUL METALS:

The Upper Peninsula is known for two metals. It has **copper** and **iron**. Copper is used to make wire to carry electric power. Your house has copper wire. It goes to the plugs where you get power. For a long time much copper was mined there. The copper brought a lot of people to the area. They started towns around the copper mines. The mines are closed now. The copper is buried deep in the earth. It costs less to mine it in other places.



WHERE people live in Michigan



copper wire

Iron is still mined there. Iron is used to make frying pans, cars and other products. Your bike is probably made of iron. Nails are made from iron. Many people came to get jobs because there was iron. They worked in the iron mines. Towns grew up around the iron mines.



iron pans

# Chapter 1



Men and boys on a pile of rocks outside a Michigan mine. Photo from Library of Congress.

Jobs in the mines brought people north. They went to the Upper Peninsula. They moved there to find work. Without the copper and iron, they would not have gone. No metals are mined in the Lower Peninsula.

## What Is A Region?

Some people like geography. They study it. They think about the earth. They think about its land and water. They may study a **region** (REE jun). *A region is an area of land or sometimes water. All parts of a region share a **feature**. The feature can be a natural one or a human one.* A road is a human feature. A river is a natural one.

A river is a natural feature.



A road is a human feature.

Toaster from the kitchen "region."



Tire from the garage "region."



Think of regions this way. At home, your kitchen is one region. Your garage is another. All the things in the kitchen are about food or eating. The garage is for your car. The main feature of the kitchen is food. The main feature of the garage is cars.

All of the states that touch the Great Lakes can be part of the same region- **the Great Lakes region**. These states share the Great Lakes. Which states do you think are in the Great Lakes Region? They are Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. The Great Lakes are a natural feature. Each state has some of the same features due to the Great Lakes. As an example, they all have beaches.

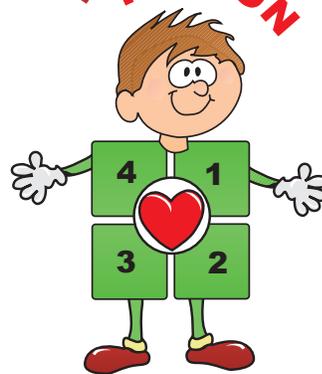
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**THE GREAT LAKES REGION**



**REGGIE REGION**



Meet Reggie Region. He has 4 parts to his body. Each one shares his heart. This is like the states that touch Michigan sharing the Great Lakes. All parts of a region share something.

**Let's Split Michigan Into Regions**

Can we split our state into two regions? Yes, we can. Each peninsula can be its own region. Each one is quite different. The Upper Peninsula

## Chapter 1

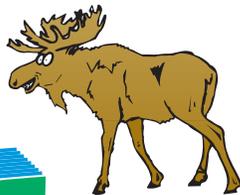
has many natural features. It has miles and miles of forests. There are also dozens of lakes. The whole peninsula shares these features. All of the Lower Peninsula shares big cities and busy highways. It has many human features. This is how our state can be split into two regions.

# Michigan As 2 Regions

## THE UPPER PENINSULA REGION



waterfalls



wildlife



forests



mountains

## THE LOWER PENINSULA REGION



industry

most people



cities



longest rivers



traffic



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**Think About It. Write About It!**

1. Name the three states that touch Michigan.
2. Name the country that is next to Michigan.
3. Name the two largest cities in our state. Which is nearest to you?
4. Why did people move to the Upper Peninsula?
5. What is a region?
6. How can our state be split into two regions?
7. What do the states in the Great Lakes Region share?

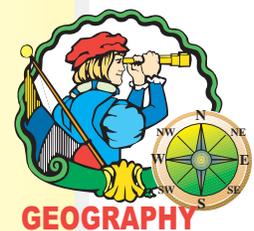
**Brain Stretchers**

Compare Michigan's two largest cities. Make a graph. Show about how many people live in each place. Be sure to label your graph.

**Think like a Geographer**

Make a map of Michigan. Show two human characteristics (things made by people). Also show two natural characteristics (things made by nature).

Explain this. How has Michigan's geography affected the way people live?

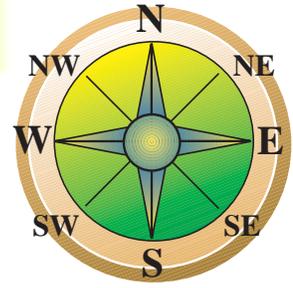


**Think Like a historian**

Make a timeline. Show when three Michigan cities started. Label each city. Write the date by each city on your timeline.



# See Our State!



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3

3. Pictured Rocks



2

2. Tahquamenon Falls



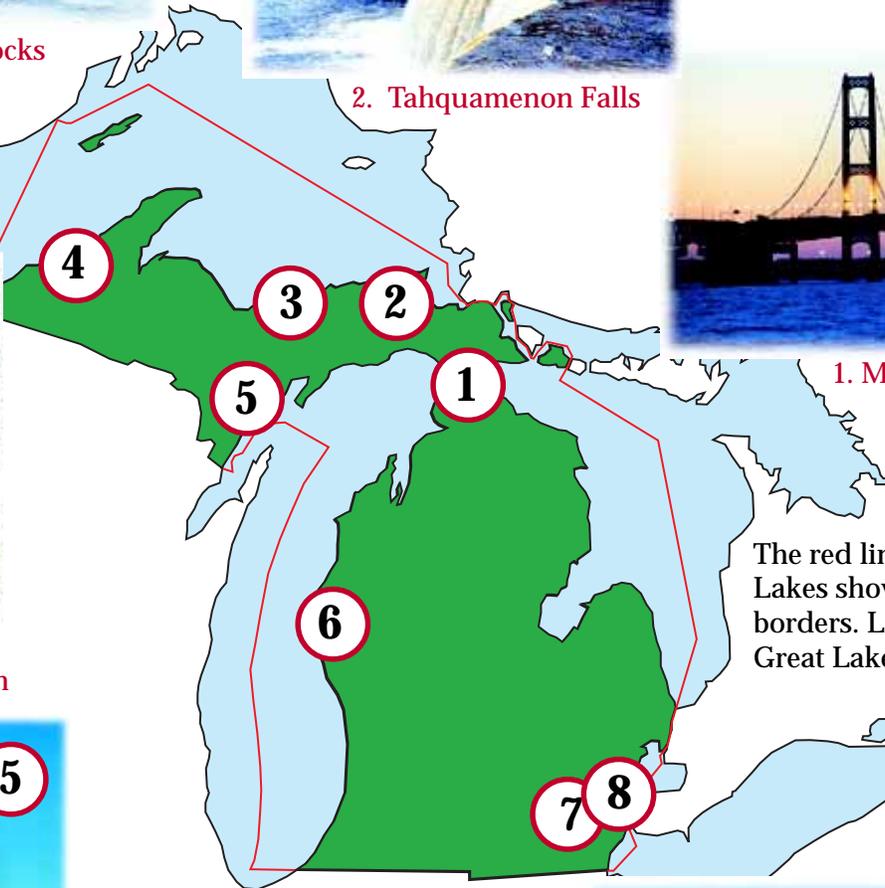
1

1. Mackinac Bridge



4

4. An old copper mine near Ontonagon



The red lines in the Great Lakes show Michigan's borders. Large parts of the Great Lakes are in Michigan.



5

5. A lighthouse at Escanaba



6

6. A sand dune at Pentwater-  
the little dots are cars!



7

7. A train at The Henry Ford in Dearborn



8

8. Comerica Park- a  
baseball park in Detroit

# 5 Themes of Geography



**Location:** Where is it?

---

**Place:** What is it like there?

---

Each place has natural characteristics. These are part of nature. They can be rocks, rivers, sand dunes or beaches. Each place has human characteristics. These are made by people. They can be roads or bridges. They can be lighthouses or stadiums.

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**People- Nature Interaction:** How have people interacted with nature there? Did people make changes? Did they build a road? Did people use what nature provided there? Did they cut down trees to make a house? Did they catch fish? Did people change or adapt because of what nature had there?

---

**Movement:** How did people, goods or ideas move to or from this place?

---

**Region:** Do other places have things in common with this place? These could be made by nature. These could be made by people.

Have you visited any place on page 38? Where is that place? What did you see that nature put there? What did you see that people put there? How did you get there? How is that place like your town or city?