



The Five Themes of Geography and Minnesota Maps

Strand Identification: V - Geography

B. Essential Skills: The student will use maps, globes, geographic information systems, and other databases to answer geographic questions at a variety of scales from local to global.

Benchmark: 2. Students will make inferences and draw conclusions about the character of places based on a comparison of maps, aerial photos, and other images.

Grade Level: 7-8

Overview: This lesson is to be used in conjunction with the “Minnesota on the Map” exhibit at the Minnesota History Center from 2/28/09 thru 8/31/09. Students will complete the Student Worksheet - *Minnesota Maps and the Five Themes of Geography* while visiting the History Center and viewing the maps. Note: If your class cannot go to the History Center, maps can be viewed by going to:

<http://www.macalester.edu/geography/mage/curriculum/mapsofmn/mapindex/index.htm>

Time: 30 minutes depending on quality of student work and the number of visitors attending

Subjects/Topics: Geography/ Minnesota History

Required Materials: Student Worksheet - *Minnesota Maps and the Five Themes of Geography* and *Changing Themes* (attached to this lesson).

Objectives: Students will be able to use the Five Themes of Geography to interpret historical maps of Minnesota.

Suggested Procedure: Teachers should print off the worksheet and go through the directions prior to leaving for the History Center. Note: Be specific about what level of work you are expecting from the students or they will rush through the tasks with vague answers.

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Minnesota Maps and the Five Themes of Geography

Directions: After viewing the following maps in the exhibit match each one with the correct theme and complete the questions found in the statement below.

New Sectional Map of Minnesota: From the Latest Government Surveys, 1857, John G. Wells

The Quetico-Superior County of Minnesota and Ontario Featuring the Ancient Voyageur's Highway along the International Border, 1952, W.A. Fisher Company

Map of the Mississippi River: from its Source to the Mouth of the Missouri Laid Down from the Notes of Lieut. Z. M. Pike, 1810, Nicholas King

Langwith's Pictorial Map of Minnesota, 1930's

Carte de la Louisiane et du Cours du Mississippi, 1718, Guillaume de L' Isle

Location

The position of a place can be described in absolute (latitude & longitude) and relative (the relationship to other location) terms. Which map shows the relative location of Minnesota by including the Mississippi River and the southern border of Lake Superior, along with areas that would later become many other US states? Although the map is in French identify any of the 13 original colonies that you recognize.

Place

Human and physical characteristics of a location are what makes it unique compared to other locations. Which map has drawings of people doing different activities that are unique to that place? How might this map look different if it were made today?

Human Environment Interaction

How people adapt to, modify, and rely on the physical landscape varies from place to place on the earth. The purpose and value of a location can change as new technologies in transportation develop or the need for new resources grows. Which map shows both how humans used an area of Minnesota for a specific resource and used the natural environment for travel in the 17th and 18th century and have preserved that area today? Using information from the map, describe the clothing of the 18th century Voyageurs.

Movement

The ability for people, goods, and ideas to get from one location to another is essential for diffusion of culture and economic trade. Which map shows an early attempt at identifying the headwaters (source) of the Mississippi River? Which direction is at the top of this map?

Regions

Grouping areas of land together based on common features makes it easier to understand similarities and differences between places. Which map shows political regions known as counties just before Minnesota became a state? Describe another political or natural region found on the map.
