

Lesson: Exploring Mining History through Maps

Grade Level: Fourth Grade

Duration: Approximately Four 50 minute periods

Objectives:

- Students will learn an introductory history of mining in the central Upper Peninsula and discuss how mining companies have contributed to the growth of towns and cities in the region.
- Students will review the difference between a primary and secondary resource and use critical thinking to analyze primary resources about the history of mining in the central Upper Peninsula.
- Students will use basic map reading skills to interpret historic maps from the CCI collection.

Materials:

- Map of Munising
- Helmer and North Star Mines Surface Map
- Selection from 1918 Mining Department Agent's Annual Report, Pension Report
- Map Analysis Worksheet
- Vocabulary words
- Appropriate text book selection
- Construction paper
- Colored pencils
- Paper and pencil
- White paper, approximately 12"x18"

Historical Background

Michigan's central Upper Peninsula has a history in iron mining that spans over a hundred years. The incoming mining companies, especially, the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company were instrumental in the industrialization of the central Upper Peninsula.

In 1844 William A. Burt led a team of surveyors in the Upper Peninsula in the areas of what are now Marquette, Ishpeming, and Negaunee that discovered the ore deposits that Cleveland-Cliffs would eventually mine. The Jackson Mining Company and the Marquette Iron Company were two of the first mining companies to open mines in this area.<sup>1</sup> The Jackson Mining Company of Jackson, Michigan was the first iron mining company in the Marquette Iron Range. They organized in 1845 with the main intention of finding copper. A local Native American chief, Marji Gesick, led them to a location in what is now Negaunee where they found high grades of hematite and magnetite. They obtained the mineral rights to the land and created Jackson Mine.<sup>2</sup> In 1848 the Jackson Mining Company was prospering and was incorporated by the Michigan Legislature. Word of the wealth of resources being mined in the Upper Peninsula was spread through the lectures of Charles Jackson and Charles Whittlesey. The lectures attracted a group of investors in Cleveland led by Dr. J. Lang Cassels. The Cleveland Iron

Company was officially established in November, 1847 and in 1850 became the Cleveland Iron Mining Company of Michigan.<sup>3</sup> The Iron Cliffs Company had opened the Barnum Mine in 1868. It merged with The Cleveland Iron Mining Company in 1891 to form the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company.<sup>4</sup> Like other mining companies Cleveland-Cliffs wanted to attract more workers and did so by building residences and essential buildings. By 1854 Cleveland-Cliffs was building residences for workers and their families as well as building boarding houses, company houses, company stores, and sometimes a community building. Progress continued in 1889 when Cleveland-Cliffs built its first hospital in Ishpeming.

#### Assessment

- Students will examine select maps from the CCI records and answer questions on the map analysis worksheets
- Students will create a map of a mining town with a key that explains the different elements
- Students will be quizzed on the vocabulary presented through the vocabulary list

#### Standards

4 – H3.0.1 Use historical inquiry questions to investigate the development of Michigan’s major economic activities (agriculture, mining, manufacturing, lumbering, tourism, technology, and research) from statehood to present. (C, E)

4 – H3.0.3 Describe how the relationship between the location of natural resources and the location of industries (after 1837) affected and continues to affect the location and growth of Michigan cities. (G, E)

4 – H3.0.4 Draw upon stories, photos, artifacts, and other primary sources to compare the life of people in towns and cities in Michigan and in the Great Lakes region during a variety of time periods from 1837 to the present (e.g., 1837-1900, 1900-1950, 1950-2000). (G)

4 – H3.0.5 Use visual data and informational text or primary accounts to compare a major Michigan economic activity today with that same or a related activity in the past. (E)

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<sup>1</sup> Richard J. Osborne, Edward J. Walsh, and Jeanne A. Weitman. *Celebrating 150 Years: Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.: Eighteen Forty-Seven, Nineteen Ninety-Seven*. (Cleveland, Ohio: Custom Publ. Group, 1997), 13-14.

<sup>2</sup> Burton H. Boyum, *History and Geology of the Marquette Mineral District, Marquette County, Michigan*. (Marquette, Mich.: Northern Michigan University, 1999), 14.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 15-16.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 18.