

Lesson Plan: Great Lakes Shipping

Content Area: Science (Social Studies and Geography)

Lesson Title: Great Lakes Shipping, Then and Now

Objectives:

After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

- * List/identify kinds of boats used to transport things on the Great Lakes beginning with Native Americans, up to the present day and examples of cargo moved by each of these boats.
- * List some ways that shipping has affected their community, such as cities and harbors being built to accommodate ships, lighthouses built to guide ships to their destination.
- * List some types of ships currently being used to transport goods on the Great Lakes.
- * Locate their position on a map of the world. (Ludington, or their community) * Locate shipping lanes near them, using a cell phone app such as maritimetraffic.com.
- * Using the app, locate a ship currently in the vicinity of Big Sable Point Lighthouse.
- * Identify information about that ship, such as its name, place of origin, destination, speed, type of cargo being carried, etc.
- * Use the website of that ship to find answers to questions that interest them, such as; how many people are on that ship? How do you get a job on that ship? How long is a tour of duty on that ship? Are there any children on that ship? How long has the current chef worked on that ship?, etc.

NOTE: Ideally, this lesson would be combined with a field trip to Big Sable Point Lighthouse or other nearby lighthouses, as part of the plan.

MI Content Standards:

Grades 3-4 Social Studies Overview

HISTORY - Use historical thinking to understand the past in the local community.

GEOGRAPHY - Environment and Society - Understand the effects of human-environment interactions.

The World in Spatial Terms - Use geographic representations to acquire, process and report information from a spatial perspective.

Materials:

- 1) Teacher prepared information explaining the history of shipping in the Great Lakes region, and some examples of how it has affected their community. (cities and harbors built, lighthouses)
- 2) Pictures and information about ships currently being used on the Great Lakes, specifically Lake Michigan.
- 3) Large paper map of the world.
- 4) Cell phones with apps such as maritimetraffic.com.
- 5) Internet access to search for the website of ships they find traveling near them.

Resources:

Penrod, John. *Great Lakes Ships. Historical View of Shipping on the Great Lakes.* Berrien Center, Michigan, 2016

*Learn About the United States Coast Guard.
Missions, People and Equipment*
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
For copies, visit: www.uscg.mil/community
(history, pictures, videos)

<https://www.mnhs.org> History and Development of Great Lakes Water Craft - Minnesota

<https://www.ssbadger.com>
About the Car Ferry - SS Badger

<http://collections.mnhs.org>
Great Lakes Ships and Shipping - Research Minnesota Historical

Cameron, Pamela *SPORT Ship Dog of the Great Lakes*
Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2019

Activities:

Work in groups to make posters of ships of the Great Lakes from specific time frames.

Develop a timeline to illustrate the history of shipping.

Draw, mold or find pictures of types of cargo that were transported from different time frames.

Present information about some of the changes that have occurred in Ludington, or their community, as a result of shipping. Possibly bring in a historian from the area to present to the class.

Contact an employee of the Badger to visit the class with pictures, video, etc. specific to the history of the Badger. Have questions prepared to ask the speaker.

Read the story *SPORT Ship Dog of the Great Lakes* and do a report for the class on how Sport has affected the city of Ludington. (The author, Pam Cameron, could be contacted to come read her book for the class.)

Make contact with a ship's captain via email and record an interview with him about his job, to share with the class.

Use a map of the world with shipping lanes to trace the route of ships selected from departure to arrival.

Assessment:

Group work set up with a point system. Points given for correct information, working as a team, presentation to the class, etc.

Written quiz about the facts of the lesson to be done individually or with a partner.

Using a cell phone and app, find a ship selected by the teacher and trace it's route from departure to arrival.

Lesson Plan developed by Kathy Bloomfield and Larry Stulz, Aug. 2021

Note to teachers:

SPLKA welcomes your feedback on this lesson plan. Please send any comments and/or suggestions for improvement to Cherie Hockenberger at the following address: SPLKAofficemanager@gmail.com. Thanks!