

#8819

# MINNESOTA, IOWA AND WISCONSIN

Grade Levels: 3-6

15 minutes

CHIP TAYLOR COMMUNICATIONS 1999

## DESCRIPTION

Uses a map to better understand the geography of the upper great lakes states of Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Old maps and photographs, graphics, and live photography help present each state's geographic features, size, population, major cities, capital, commerce, and some historical sites. Knowing how to read a map of an area helps a person learn about a region before visiting there.

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To introduce the geography, history and features of Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin.
2. To review basic map skills.

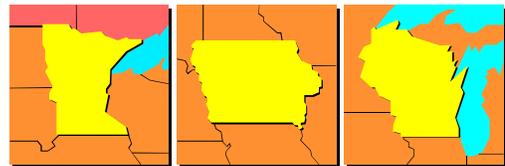
## VOCABULARY

1. boundary
2. dirt roads
3. glacier
4. historical site
5. industrial center
6. interstates
7. paved two-lane highways
8. satellite
9. two-dimensional

## AFTER SHOWING

### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Discuss maps.
  - a. Why have people created maps throughout the world's history?
  - b. How do maps define countries?
  - c. How do maps show relationship among features such as: cities, lakes, rivers, mountains and roads.
  - d. Why has learning to use maps always been an important skill?
  - e. How are satellites used to make maps?
  - f. What are the differences between a globe and a two-dimensional map?
  - g. What are the benefits and drawbacks of using computer generated maps?
  - h. Why are lakes and rivers considered major geographical features?



- i. How do maps differentiate between interstates, paved two-lane highways and dirt roads?
  - j. Why are some interstates labeled with even numbers and others with odd numbers?
  - k. How can a map show the difference between geographical regions such as forested and agricultural regions?
  - l. How do maps show where historical sites are located?
  - m. How can maps tell much about a region?
  - n. How can maps be fascinating and fun?
2. Discuss Minnesota.
    - a. From the shore why do Lake Superior and Lake Michigan seem like oceans?
    - b. Why is this state sometimes called the land of of 10,000 lakes? How were these lakes formed?
    - c. What are this state's twin cities?
    - d. Why is the Mayo Clinic in Rochester world famous?
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3. Discuss Iowa.
    - a. How does Des Moines serve the whole state's agribusiness needs?
    - b. Why is the Mississippi River considered a historical landmark?
    - c. What is famous in Madison County?
4. Discuss Wisconsin. What are Wisconsin's port cities?
5. Discuss Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin.
    - a. What are the sizes of each state?
    - b. What are the boundaries for each state?
    - c. What important rivers are in each state?
    - d. What are some of the major cites in the region? How are they connected?
    - e. Why do visitors come to see Aztalan?
    - f. How do area museums tell the story of birch bark canoes and early fur trapper history?
    - g. When did each state enter the union?
    - h. What is each state known for today?
    - i. How do the three states compare in terms of population?
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6. Discuss the common heritage of Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin.
    - a. What Native Americans once occupied the area?
    - b. What role do the Great Lakes play in the common heritage of the three states?
    - c. What similar events happened in each state shortly after America became an independent country?
    - d. What united the three states during the Civil War?
    - e. Why are Scandinavian traditions found in many places in the three states?
7. Discuss Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin's state capitals.
    - a. When was each building constructed?

- b. What are the similarities and differences of each capital?
- c. What are the famous paintings in each capital building?
- d. How is each capital building unique?

### Applications and Activities

1. Investigate Native American cultures in Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin.
2. Research when Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin were frontier regions.
3. Create maps of Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin.
4. Plan a trip to Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. Include the following sites in the trip itinerary.



- a. Minnesota
  - 1) Minneapolis
  - 2) St. Paul
  - 3) North West Company Fur Post Museum
  - 4) Mayo Clinic in Rochester
  - 5) St. Paul's capital building

- b. Iowa
  - 1) Des Moines River
  - 2) Des Moines
  - 3) Effigy Mounds Museum
  - 4) Madison County
  - 5) Des Moines' capital building

- c. Wisconsin
  - 1) Wisconsin River
  - 2) Milwaukee
  - 3) Aztalan
  - 4) Villa Louis Museum
  - 5) Madison's capital building



- d. Mississippi River
- e. Lake Superior and Lake Michigan
- f. Native American and Scandinavian sites



5. Investigate other states in the USA.
  - a. What are the state's boundaries?
  - b. How many square miles or kilometers is the state?
  - c. What important bodies of water are in the state?
  - d. Where is the state capital? How does it compare with other state capitals and the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.?
  - e. When did the state enter the union?
  - f. How does the state currently rank in terms of population?
  - g. What is the state currently known for?

## RELATED RESOURCES

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### Captioned Media Program

- Basic Map Skills #8626
- Mountain States #8825

### World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid-safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **50 STATES AND CAPITALS**

<http://www.50states.com/>

Facts and links arranged specific to each of the 50 United States of America.

- **COLOR LANDFORM ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES**

<http://fermi.jhuapl.edu/states/states.html>

Each state link brings up a menu of links to maps and other online information about the state. Also includes satellite images, 1895 state maps and more.