

Making Minnesota



Text by Patricia Bauer Artwork by David Geister



In 2008, the citizens of Minnesota voted to use tax money to help make our state even better. This money goes to the:

- Clean Water Fund
- Outdoor Heritage Fund
- Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund
- Parks and Trails Fund

Making Minnesota is made possible with funding from the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, with appropriations from the state legislature approved by the governor.

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Making Minnesota

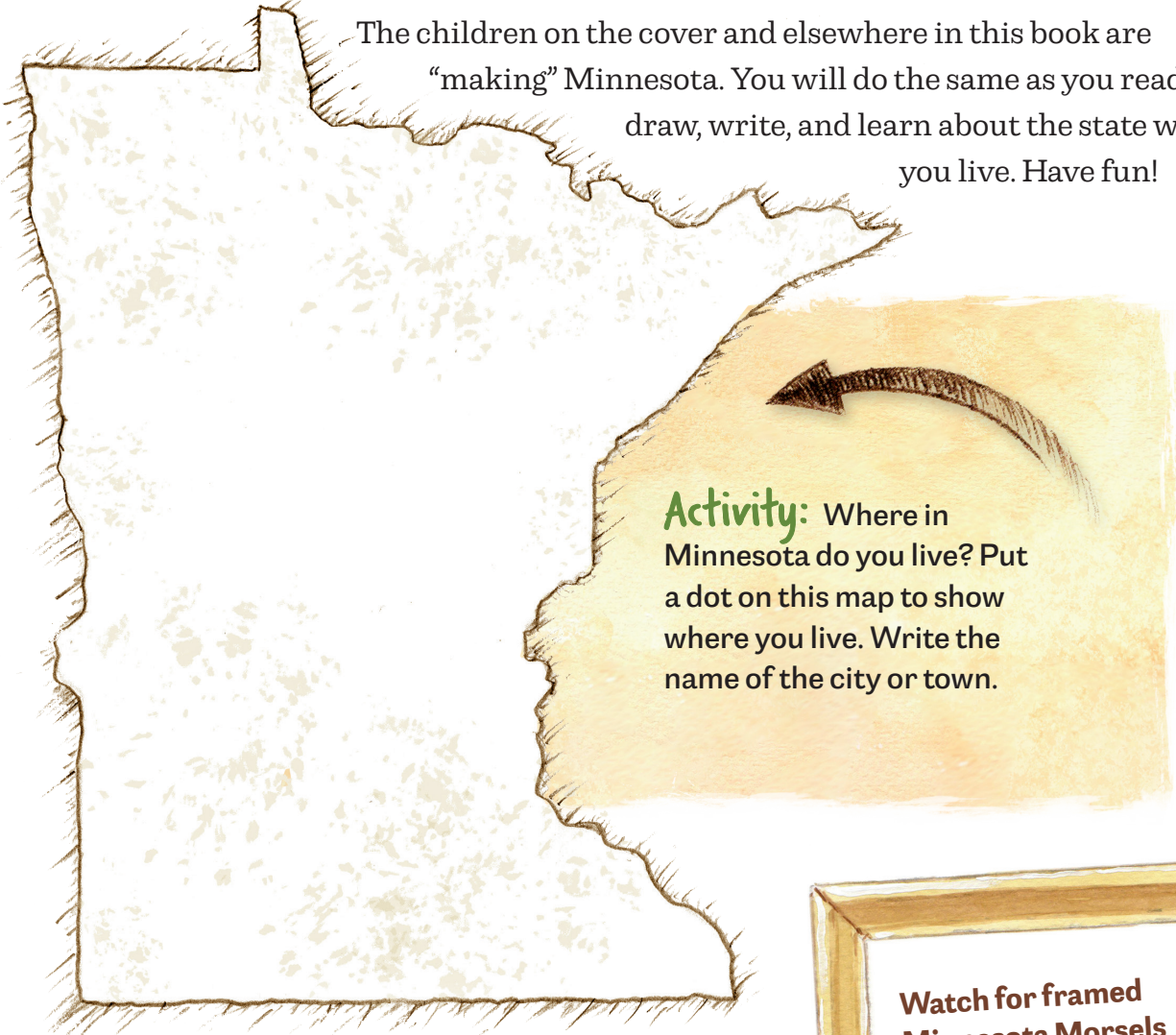


Text by Patricia Bauer
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We All Live Here

Take a close look at the cover of this book. You see children who could be you, your classmates, or your friends. They represent the many different people who live in Minnesota. It takes all of us working and playing together to make our great state.

The children on the cover and elsewhere in this book are “making” Minnesota. You will do the same as you read, draw, write, and learn about the state where you live. Have fun!



Activity: Where in Minnesota do you live? Put a dot on this map to show where you live. Write the name of the city or town.



Watch for framed Minnesota Morsels in this book. A **morsel** is a *tidbit* of something. Sometimes it is food. In this case, it's a tidbit of information.

MN Morsel



Contents

2	We All Live Here	25	Water for Power
4	Mni Sota Makoce	26	Agriculture
5	What Is Minnesota to You?	28	Wild Rice
6	Native Minnesotans	29	Pipestone
8	Immigrants to Minnesota	30	Mining
10	Where Do You Live?	32	Forests
12	Land of Rivers and Lakes	33	Lumbering
13	Dinosaurs?	34	Wildlife
14	The Ice Age	35	The Fur Trade
15	Mega fauna	36	Habitats
16	Climate and Weather	37	Hunting and Fishing
18	Minnesota's Biomes	38	Parks
20	Natural Resources	40	Historic Sites
21	Natural Resources Word Search	42	Arts and Culture
22	Water for Life and Fun!	44	Sports
24	Water for Transportation	45	Making Minnesota Wrap-Up

Mni Sota Makoce

Minnesota is one of the 50 states in the United States. It became a state in 1858. That was more than 150 years ago.



Activity: Minnesota is surrounded by four states, one country, and one Great Lake. Can you label them on the map?

Iowa	Wisconsin
North Dakota	Canada
South Dakota	Lake Superior

Did you ever wonder how Minnesota got its name? **Dakota**, some of the Native (first) peoples in our state, call their homeland **Mni Sota Makoce** (mNee SO-tah mah-KO-chay). It means *land where the waters reflect the clouds*. That's a good description, don't you think? It makes sense that when Minnesota became a state, the state's founders kept that name. They changed it a bit to make the word seem more English. Many place names in Minnesota come from Native languages, especially the Dakota language.



You've probably heard that Minnesota is the **Land of 10,000 Lakes**. Believe it or not, our state actually has 11,842 lakes. That's a lot of water reflecting the clouds! Can you figure out how many more lakes there are than what is written on the license plate?

What Is Minnesota to You?

When you think of Minnesota, what comes to mind?



Activity:
Draw your
idea here.



Activity:
Draw your
face here.



Minnesota is all of these things and so much more! In this book, we'll explore the people, places, and history that make up our great state.

Native Minnesotans

You may have **ancestors** (*people who came before you*) who were the original people to live on this land: **Dakota** and **Ojibwe**. In this book, the words **Indigenous** and **Native** will also be used for the first people who lived in Minnesota.

Most Dakota people prefer to be called **Dakota**, which means “friend.” But Dakota were, and still are, often called **Sioux**. This was a name given to them by their enemies. It means “little snakes,” which was an insult. You may still see both names used today.

Ojibwe people belong to a larger group called **Anishinaabe**. It means “first people.” Sometimes they are called **Chippewa**. That’s because a long time ago, some Europeans didn’t say the name Ojibwe correctly. To them it sounded more like “Chippewa.”



While it is true that Native people have a rich and long history, some people think of them as only living in the past. Native people continue to play an important role in modern Minnesota. You may be Native or have friends who are Native.

In Minnesota today, there are four **Dakota nations** and seven **Ojibwe nations**. (*Native people have their own governments within the United States.*) Some Native people live on **reservations** (*land that is set aside for Indigenous people by treaty or law*). Others live all over the state and country. And there are Native people from other parts of the country who make Minnesota their home.

There are so many places in Minnesota where you can learn about Indigenous people. Here are just a few. To learn about Dakota people and culture, visit the **Lower Sioux Agency** near Morton or the **Hočokata Ti** cultural center in Shakopee. To learn more about Ojibwe people and culture, take a trip to the **Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post** near Onamia. It is located on Lake Mille Lacs, one of Minnesota's largest lakes. You can also visit the **Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum** located on Lake Vermilion.



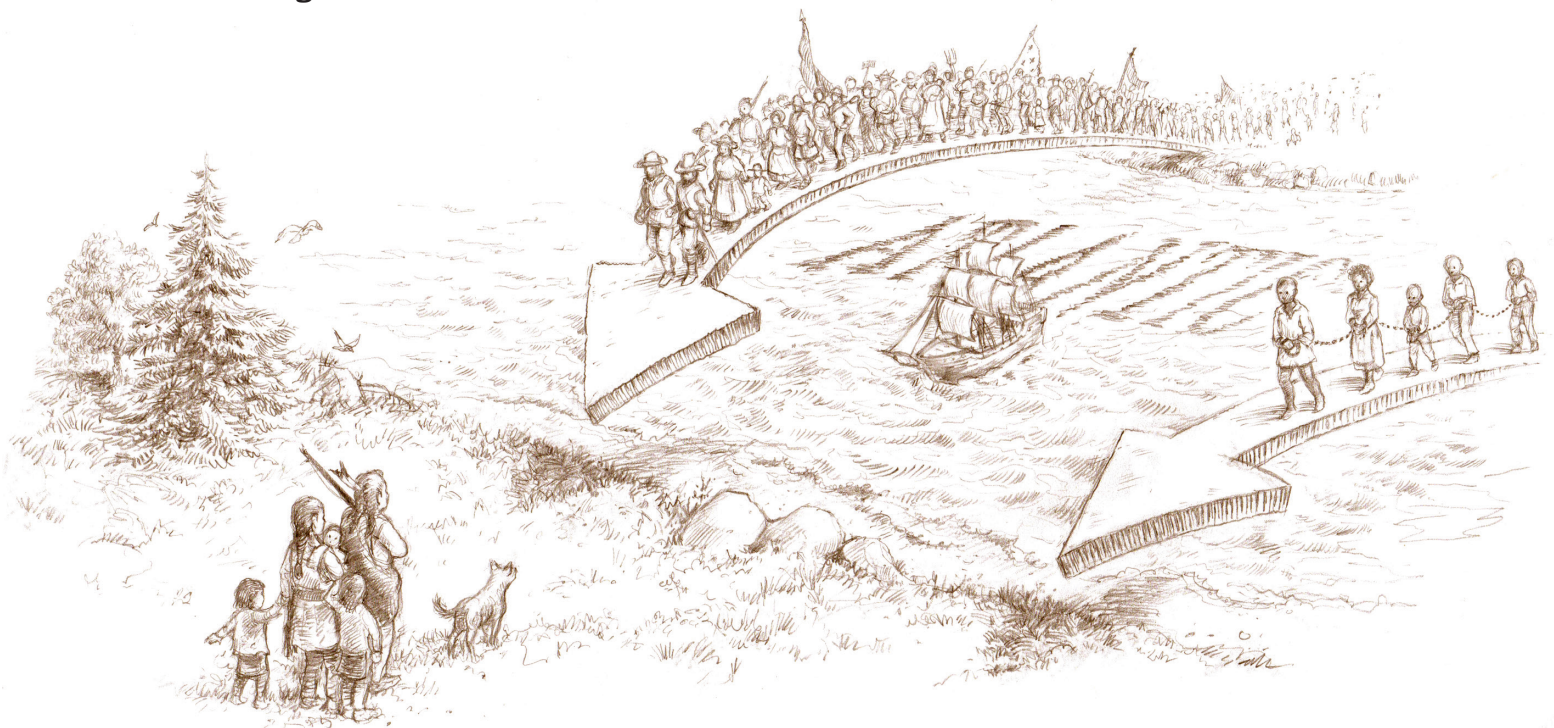
Immigrants to Minnesota

You might be wondering why Minnesota isn't made up only of Indigenous people today. Long ago, many Indigenous people were forced off their lands as new **settlers** arrived. (*Settlers is a word often used to describe non-Native people who moved onto Native lands.*) The United States government and Native nations signed **treaties**. (*Treaties are agreements between different nations.*) The treaties often meant that Native people had to give up their homelands.

So, how did Minnesota become home to people from many different backgrounds? Several hundred years ago, people started crossing the Atlantic Ocean to North America. They came from European countries, including France and England. Some of them came all the way to the land that would become Minnesota. People who moved here from other countries are called **immigrants**.

Why did Europeans come to North America? Some were **refugees**. (*Refugees are people who want to escape war or poor treatment in their countries.*) Others moved here because they could own land in North America. Many hoped to get rich. Some wanted adventure. They all came looking for a better life.

Some people were brought here against their will. They were Africans who were **enslaved** by white people. (*That means they were owned as property and forced to work for no pay.*) Enslaved people had no rights. They were often treated badly. While slavery was not legal in Minnesota, there were some cases of enslaved people being brought here. The Civil War ended slavery in 1865, just seven years after Minnesota became a state.



Still today, immigrants from Asia, Africa, Europe, Mexico, and Central and South America come here for freedom, for safety, and to make a better life. Newcomers bring their language, foods, customs, and ideas with them, just as the first immigrants did hundreds of years ago. Together, we make Minnesota a more interesting place!



Activity: How did you come to be in Minnesota? Write down any places, names, or stories that you know. Or, ask a friend or neighbor to tell their story.

Where Do You Live?

You might live in a big city, like Minneapolis or Duluth. Or perhaps you live in a smaller town, such as Eagle Bend or Warroad. Do you live in the north woods, surrounded by trees and lakes? Or on a farm where your family grows corn or sugar beets? Maybe you live in the Twin Cities area, close to or in Minneapolis or St. Paul. They are Minnesota's two biggest cities.

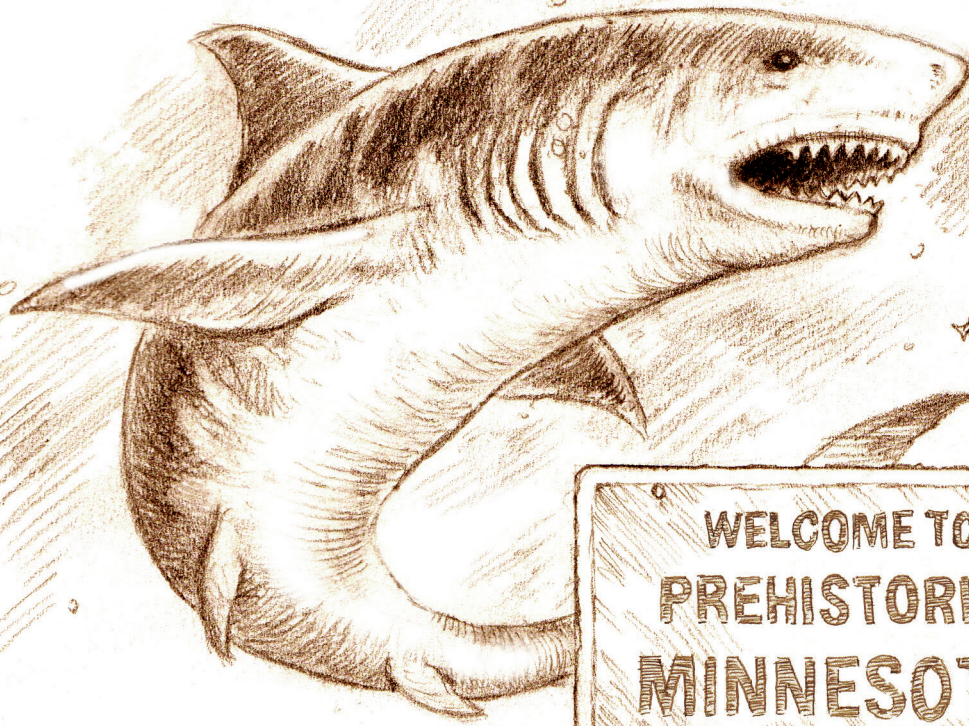


Activity: Write down five words or **phrases** (*small groups of words*) to describe where you live. Here are some examples: by Lake Superior, on a farm, in an apartment in Rochester, or in a house in Shakopee.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Activity: Draw a picture of where you live (inside or outside).



Land of Rivers and Lakes

Why does Minnesota have rivers and lakes, hilly land and flat land? Not all states have these **land formations** (shapes). It is because of climate and geological events that happened here long, long ago.

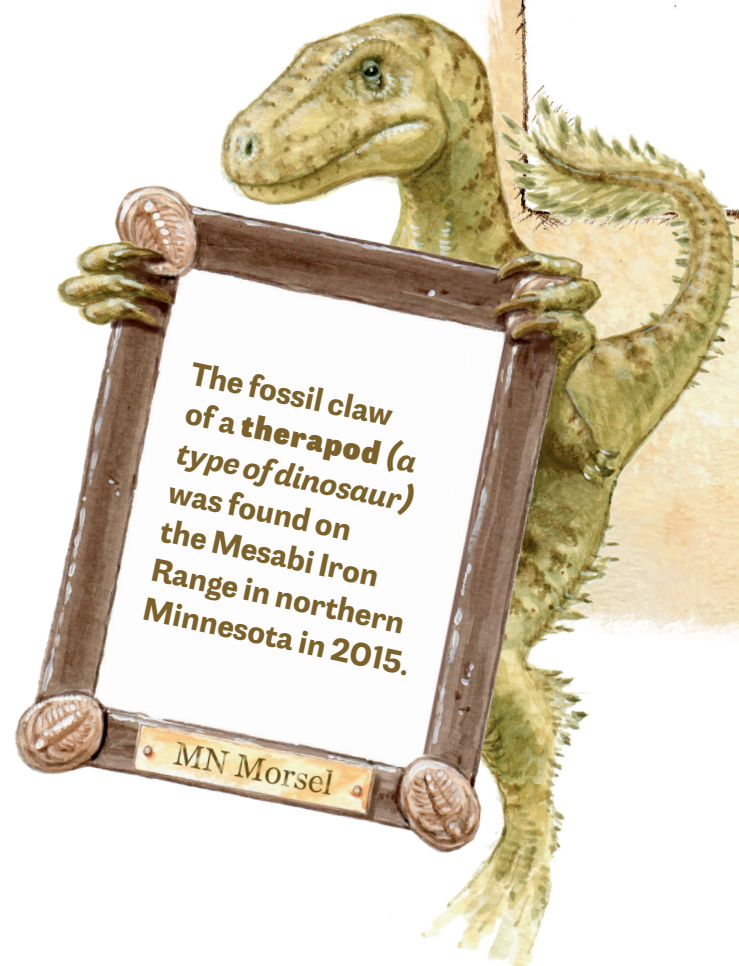


Clues tell us that our land was covered with water millions of years ago. The animals and plants from that time left **fossils**. (*Fossils are the remains or imprints of plants and animals.*) We can learn about the past by studying these fossils. One way we know that the land was once covered with water is because many fossils of shark teeth have been found here!

Dinosaurs?

Did you ever wonder if dinosaurs lived in Minnesota? There is some evidence that they did! But most of the bones and fossils were washed away by water and **glaciers** (*thick layers of ice*) that came later.

Keep your eyes open—you just might find some dinosaur fossils yourself!



The fossil claw of a **therapod** (a type of dinosaur) was found on the Mesabi Iron Range in northern Minnesota in 2015.

MN Morsel


Activity: Draw a picture of a dinosaur that you hope lived in Minnesota. Or, use your imagination to create a special Minnesota dinosaur.



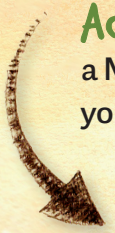
The Ice Age

Millions of years after our land was under water, the climate changed and the earth became much colder. The land was covered with thick layers of ice, called glaciers. These glaciers moved very slowly, picking up rocks, trees, and sand and carrying them to different places. Those **deposits** (*rocks, trees, and sand*) helped form the hills and **valleys** (*low areas*) of our state.

When the last glaciers melted about 10,000 years ago, they left behind the land formations that make up Minnesota today.

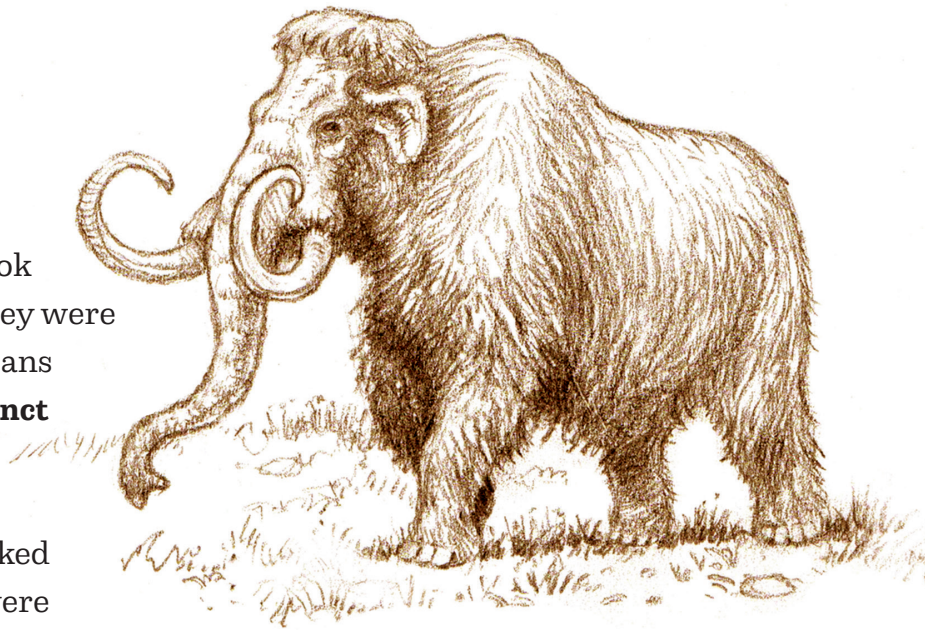


Activity: Write the name of a Minnesota lake or river near you, or one that you like to visit.



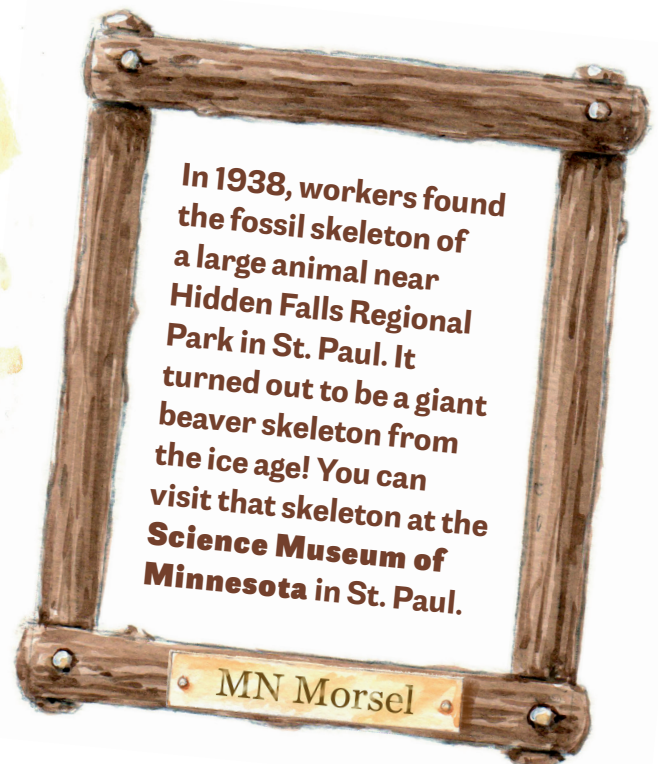
Megafauna

Some interesting animals were living on this land during the ice age. They might look like animals you see today—except that they were *huge!* We call them **megafauna**, which means *large animals*. These animals **became extinct** (*died out*) at the end of the ice age.



Woolly mammoths were animals that looked like elephants but were even bigger and were covered with woolly hair that kept them warm. They stood about 14 feet tall and had long, curved tusks. The fossils of these animals have been found in Minnesota.

Giant beavers were six to eight feet long and weighed about 200 pounds. That's about the size of a modern black bear. The beaver that we know today is two to three feet long and weighs about 65 pounds.





Climate and Weather

What is the difference between climate and weather?



Weather is what we experience daily. Many people look at the weather outside in the morning to help them decide what to wear that day.

Climate is the weather that we experience over a long period of time. Minnesota's climate has four seasons. We have hot summers and cold winters. There are extreme differences in temperature in our state. The highest temperature ever recorded was 115 degrees F. The lowest? -60 degrees F! The difference between those two numbers is the **temperature range**. See if you can mark those temperatures on the thermometer.

Wow! Minnesota has one of the largest temperature ranges in the United States. It is also one of the coldest states in the country. Brrr!

Weather

Season

Activity: Draw a picture or write about the weather you are experiencing today.

Activity: What season is it now where you are? Draw a picture or write about it.

Winter

Spring

Summer

Fall

When children left for school on the morning of January 12, 1888, it felt warm outside. Many went without coats, hats, or mittens. But by the afternoon, it was very cold and the snow was coming down hard. **The Children's Blizzard** got its name because many children were stuck in their schoolhouses due to the dangerous weather. Some people died during the storm, including children on their way home from school.

MN Morsel

Activity: Draw a picture or write a poem about something from each season in Minnesota. Put a star next to your favorite season. Explain why you like it.

Try writing a haiku in at least one square. A haiku is a poem with three lines: 5 syllables, 7 syllables, 5 syllables. Here's an example:

Dancing in the leaves (5 syllables)

That's what I do in autumn. (7 syllables)

And munch on apples. (5 syllables)

Hint: Use your fingers to beat out the rhythm. *Dan-cing* has two syllables, but the rest of the line has one-syllable words. Notice that the words don't rhyme. That's okay! Poems don't have to rhyme.

Minnesota's Biomes

A **biome** is a community or group of plants and animals that lives in a specific area. They grow in nature and have not been moved there by people. You may live in a biome that doesn't seem to be one of those described here because of all the changes that humans have made.



Coniferous Forest: You will see these forests “up north” in Minnesota. It’s where lots of trees with needles and cones grow. This includes trees like pine, fir, and spruce. Most of them stay green all winter. (Hint: A way to remember this name is that coniferous trees have cones.)

Deciduous Forest: Deciduous trees lose their flat leaves in the fall. Maples, oaks, and birches are a few types of deciduous trees. Sometimes, deciduous and coniferous trees grow together in the same forest.

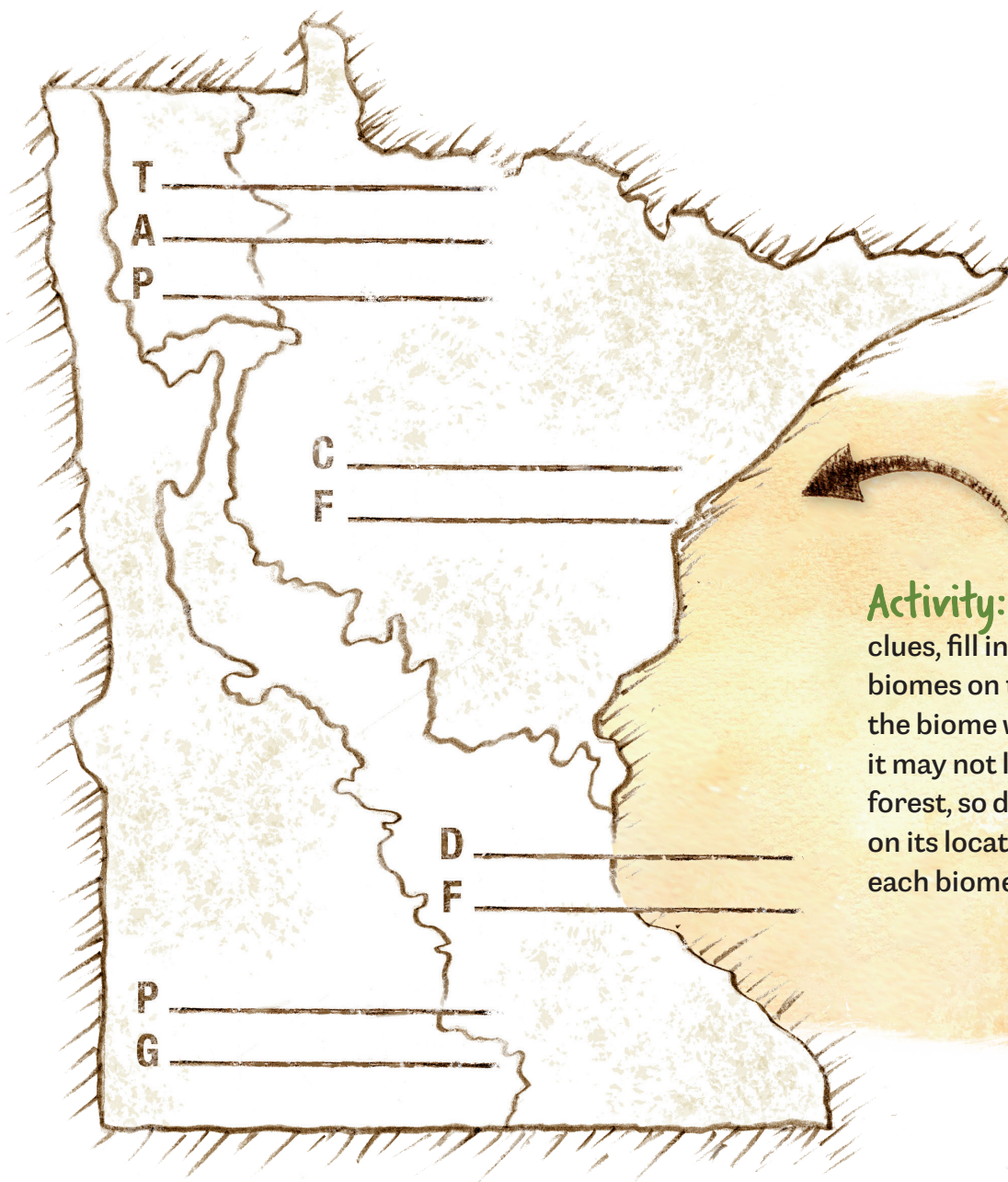


Prairie Grasslands: This biome has mostly flat land covered with grass. Some of the grasses grow up to eight feet tall! The few trees that live on the prairie grow near water. The soil is very rich, some of the best in the world. There aren't many grasslands left today because they have been turned into farmland.



Tallgrass Aspen Parkland: This is a mixture of prairie and woodlands. It is found in the northwestern part of Minnesota.





Activity: Using the letters as clues, fill in the names of the four biomes on the map. Put a star by the biome where you live. Today, it may not look like a prairie or a forest, so decide your biome based on its location in the state. Fill in each biome with a different color.



Natural Resources

You might say that **natural resources** are gifts from the earth. We are lucky in Minnesota to have many of these!

Water, trees, and rich soil are very important gifts. These are **renewable** resources. (*Renewable resources can be naturally replaced so they never run out.*) They will continue to be here if we take care of them. In our land of 10,000+ lakes and lots of trees, it's easy to take the water and trees **for granted** (*like they'll always be there*). But that isn't true. That's why it's so important to keep our water clean and take care of our forests and trees.

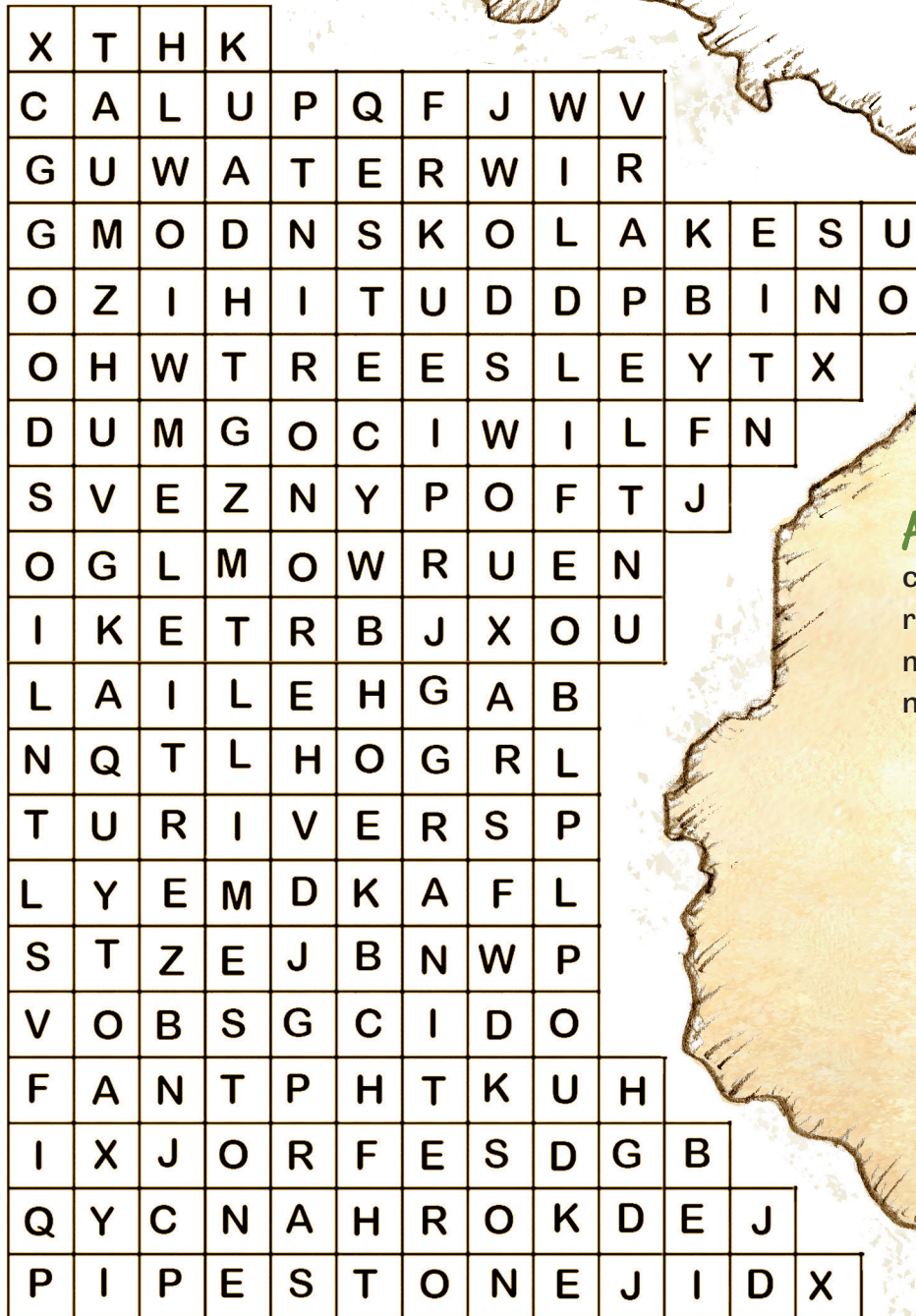


We have rich soil in many parts of Minnesota. That's why we have so many farms that grow food for people all over the world. But we must take good care of that soil, or it won't continue to grow plants.

We also have what are called **nonrenewable** resources. They are the opposite of renewable. This means that *once they are gone, they won't come back, at least not for millions or billions of years*. Nonrenewable resources include things like iron ore, copper, limestone, and granite. These are minerals and stone that come from the earth in parts of Minnesota. They all need to be used carefully, or they will be gone.



Natural Resources Word Search

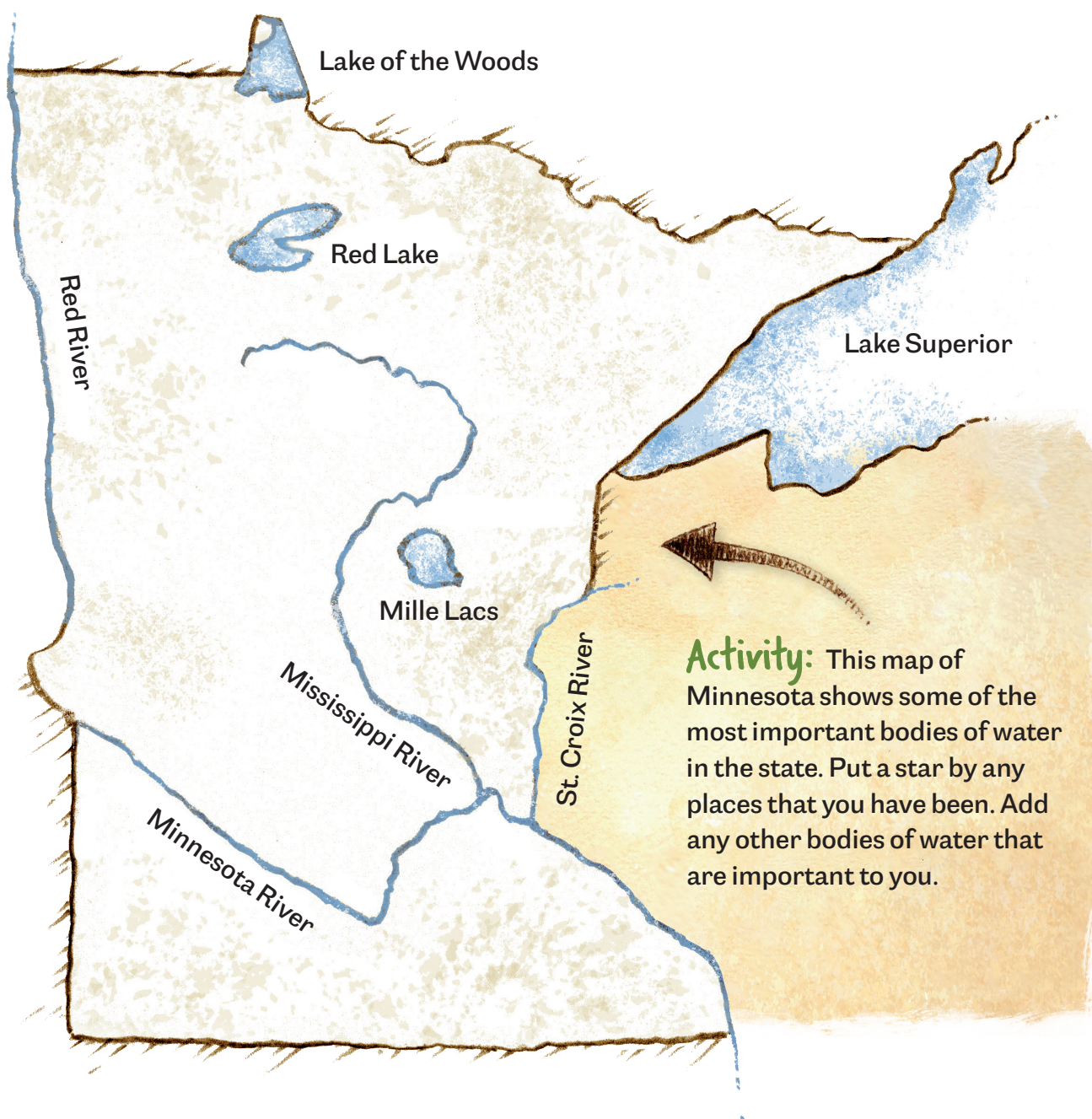
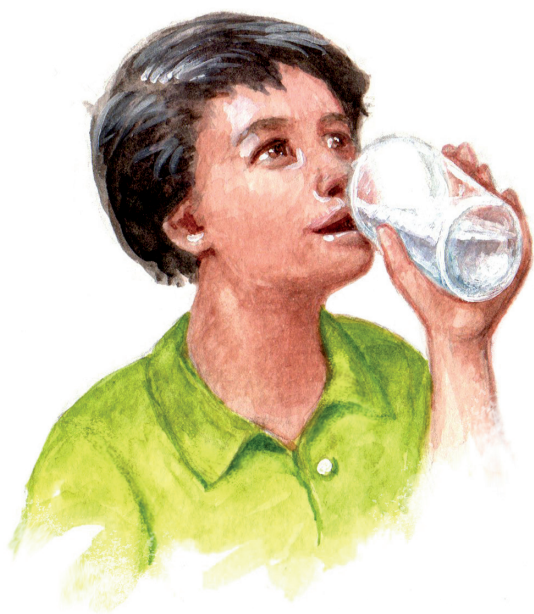


Activity: Find and circle these natural resources. You will learn more about these on the next few pages.

good soil
granite
iron ore
lakes
limestone
pipestone
rivers
trees
water
wildlife

Water for Life and Fun!

Besides food, what do our bodies need to live? Water, of course! Would you rather drink clean water or dirty water? That's a silly question, isn't it? We all want clean water. That's why it's so important to do what we can to keep our water clean. It's also important to **conserve** water. That means that we *don't waste it*. So, remember to turn off the water when you don't need it. And we all can pick up our trash so it doesn't end up in our rivers and lakes.



Activity: This map of Minnesota shows some of the most important bodies of water in the state. Put a star by any places that you have been. Add any other bodies of water that are important to you.

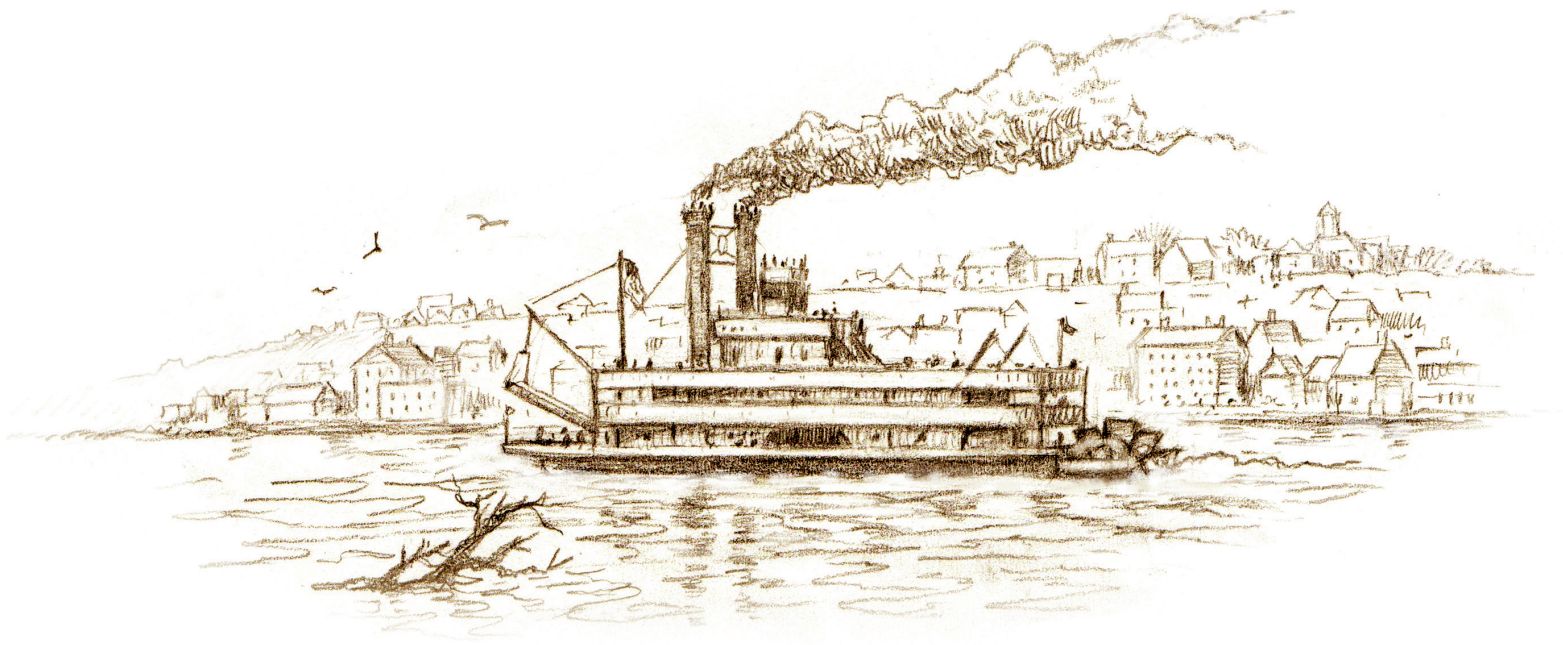


Do you ever go swimming, boating, ice skating, or fishing? Join the crowd! Those activities are just some of the reasons why so many people like living in Minnesota. Children—and adults—like to play in their free time. Think of Minnesota as a giant playground! And clean water is so important for our fun outdoor activities, no matter what the season.



**Here's a fun fact:
Minnesota has more
shoreline — 183,326
miles — than
California, Hawaii,
and Florida
combined! That
includes oceans,
lakes, rivers, and
streams.**

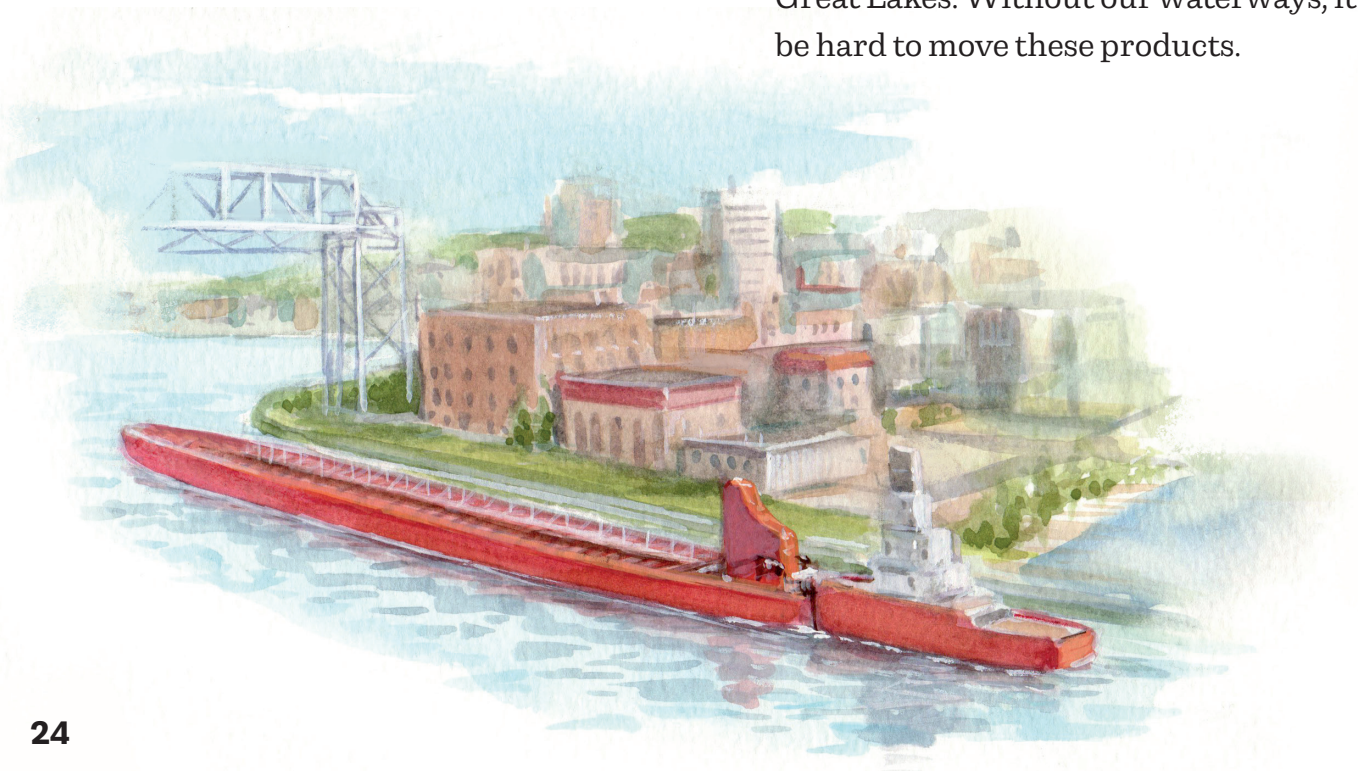
MN Morsel



Water for Transportation

Did you ever wonder why towns and cities are located where they are? Native people and settlers often built their villages and towns by water. It was sometimes quicker and easier to travel on water than over land. Many towns and cities (such as Mankato and Grand Portage) in Minnesota today were once Dakota or Ojibwe villages located on water.

Even though we have trains and airplanes and other fast ways of moving people and things, water travel still works best for many items. The Mississippi River and Lake Superior connect Minnesota to the rest of the world. Farm products from Minnesota get shipped to other countries, such as China and Mexico. Iron ore from northern Minnesota is put on boats and travels to steel mills around the Great Lakes. Without our waterways, it would be hard to move these products.





Water for Power

Water has been used for power throughout history.

When newcomers came to Minnesota, they put the rivers to good use. Some of them built mills!

Fast-moving water pushed the big wheels around to make power. Sawmills used that power to cut logs into lumber. Flour mills ground wheat into flour.

Minnesota had lots of trees and wheat, so mills were very important to the state.

Trees were cut down by **lumberjacks** (*men who cut down and moved trees*) in the winter. When spring came, the logs were floated down the river to a sawmill. There, they were cut into boards to be used for building. Fast-moving water powered the huge blades of the mills in places like Stillwater and Little Falls.

Minneapolis was the “flour milling capital of the world” for 50 years (1880–1930). The mills near the **Falls of St. Anthony** ground more wheat into flour than any other place in the whole world! **Mill City Museum** is located in an old mill in Minneapolis. Visit if you can, and you will have fun learning about the people and activities at the old mill.





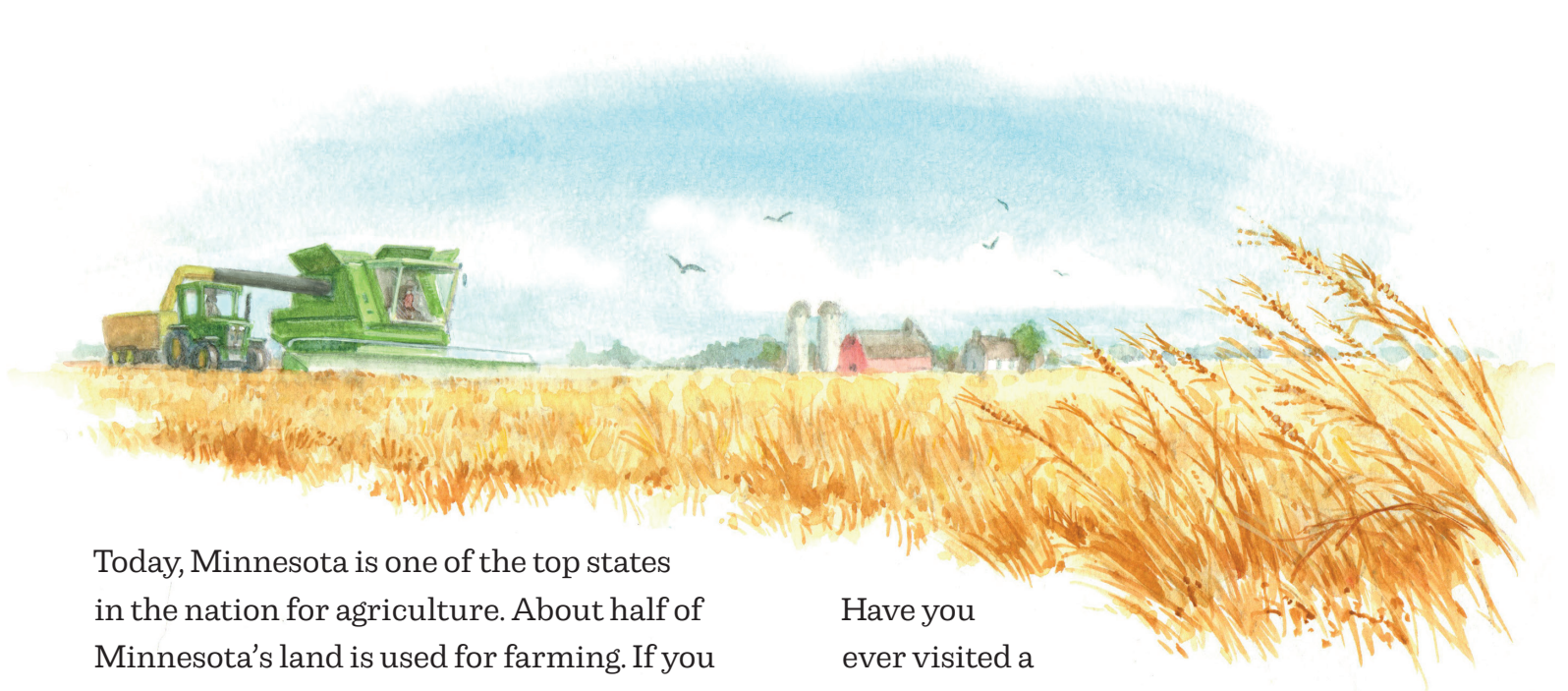
Agriculture

Here's a big word for you: **agriculture**. It means (drum roll, please!) *farming*. Minnesota's land has been farmed by Indigenous people for thousands of years. Native people grew, and still grow, the **Three Sisters**: *corn, beans, and squash*. Those three plants grow very well together.

When the first non-Native people arrived, they also mostly grew food to feed their families. They traded any extra crops for other things they needed. Their crops were mainly corn, potatoes, and beans. If they were lucky, they might also have some chickens, a pig, or a cow. Later, many farmers grew wheat to sell.

In time, the number of farmers of European background became much larger than the number of Native farmers. Farming methods changed over time, too. The prairie land has very rich soil, but it was hard to plow. Farmers began using steel plows pulled by horses or oxen. The **Oliver Kelley Farm**, in Elk River, is a working farm from the mid-1800s. When you visit, you might even be able to help with the farm animals and gardens!

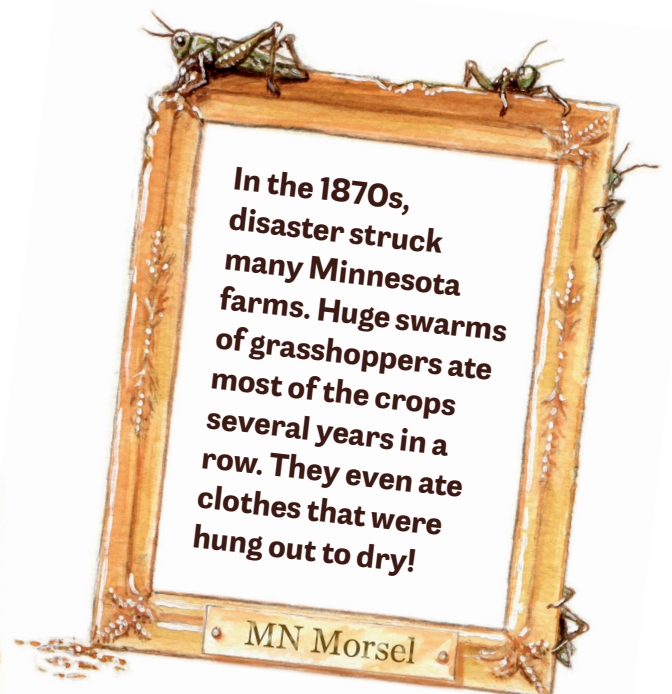
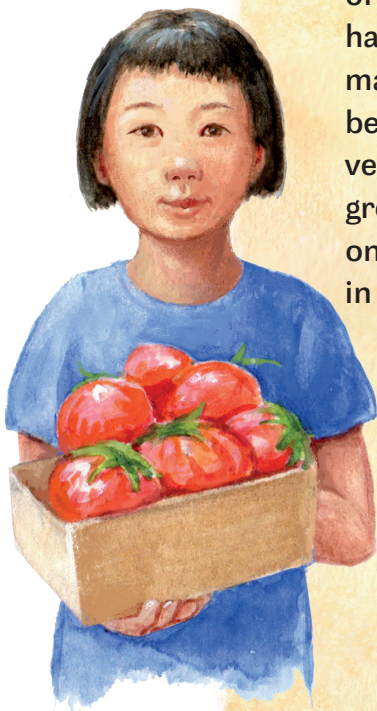
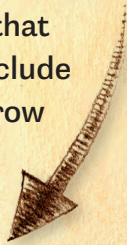




Today, Minnesota is one of the top states in the nation for agriculture. About half of Minnesota's land is used for farming. If you are in the western part of the state, there are farm fields as far as the eye can see! The most important crops are corn, soybeans, sugar beets, and oats. Farmers also raise hogs, turkeys, and cattle. Agricultural products, including crops and dairy, make up more than a third of Minnesota's **exports** (*products going out of the country*).

Have you ever visited a farmers' market? Many towns and cities have them so people can buy local **produce** (*fruits, vegetables, and other food items*). Many farmers who sell their produce at these markets are Hmong refugees or their children or grandchildren. Many Hmong people were farmers in their homelands in Southeast Asia and brought those special skills with them.

Activity: Make a list of foods that your family has bought at a farmers' market. If you've never been to one, make a list of vegetables and fruits that grow in Minnesota. Include ones that you might grow in a garden.





Wild Rice

Wild rice is another gift from the earth. The word for wild rice in Ojibwe is **manoomin** (muh-NOH-mihn), which means “good berry.” In Dakota, the word is **psin** (pSEE). Wild rice is sacred to both Dakota and Ojibwe. Native and non-Native people **harvest** (*pick*) it in the fall and store it to eat all year or to sell or trade. Wild rice is a healthy and popular grain. It grows in **shallow** (*not deep*) lakes and streams. Wild rice must have clean water to grow.

Hundreds of years ago, Ojibwe people lived farther east. According to legend, they heard **prophecies** (*predictions*) that said they should move west until they found the place where food grows on the water. They stopped when they found the manoomin growing in the Great Lakes area.



Pipestone

Remember when you learned about natural resources earlier in the book? One of the gifts from the earth in Minnesota is a soft, red rock called **pipestone**. It is found in a small area in the western part of the state. Pipestone has been **quarried** (*dug up*) for many, many years by different groups of Native people. The stone is sacred to them because it is made into pipes, **cagunpa** (chuh-NOO-pah), that are used for ceremonies. Pipestone has been traded all over North America for thousands of years.

Only Native people are allowed to quarry pipestone. But everyone can visit **Pipestone National Monument** to learn more. You can even walk in a tallgrass prairie!

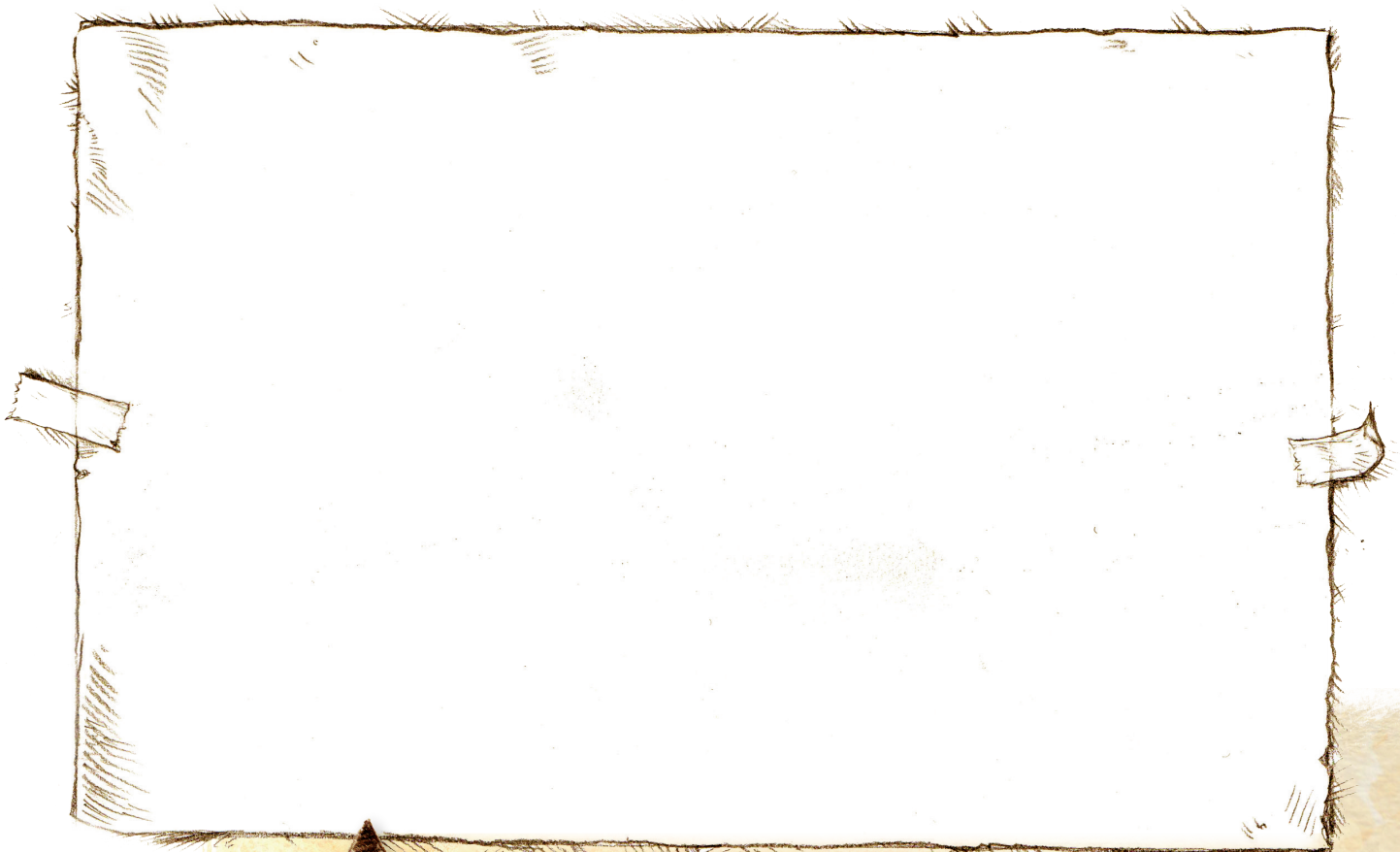


Mining

Did you know that there was once a gold rush in Minnesota? It was a very long time ago, and it didn't last long. It was too hard to get the gold from the rock. But later, people who were looking for gold found **iron ore** (*rocks and minerals that have iron in them*) instead. Minnesota has produced iron, which is made into steel, for more than a hundred years. You may have heard of, or live on, the Iron Range in northern Minnesota.

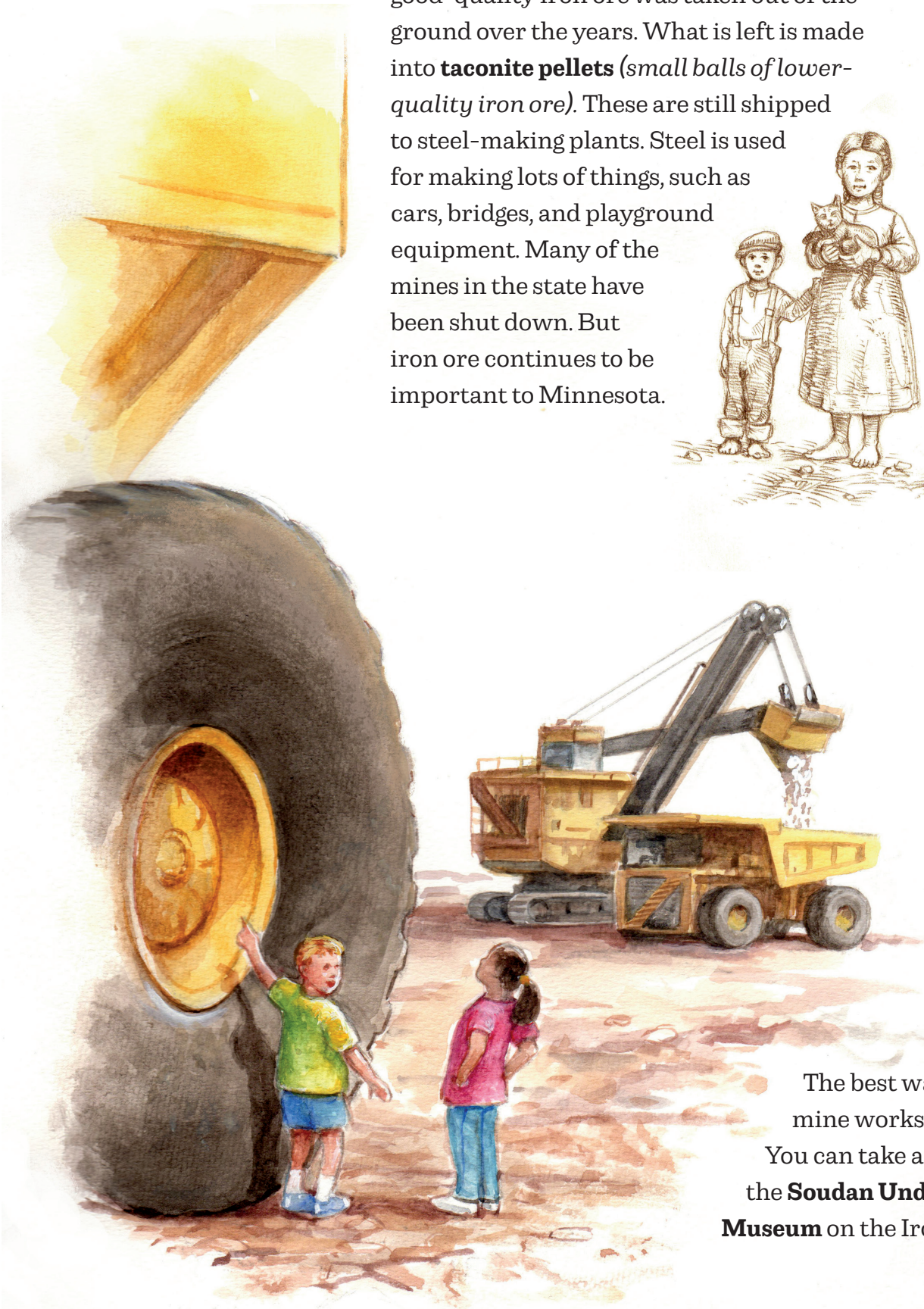
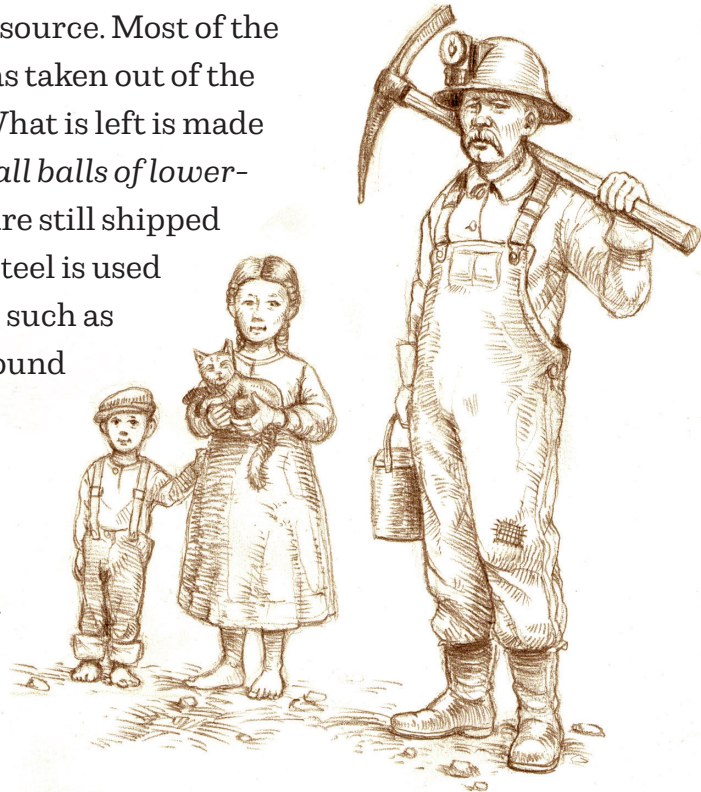
The first miners were mostly immigrants. They came from more than 30 countries in Europe, such as Finland, Sweden, and Italy.

Many of these immigrant children learned English in public schools. Imagine playing with lots of kids who all spoke different languages. You would probably learn a few words in each of your friends' languages!



Activity: What language or languages do you speak? How about other people in your class or community? Make a list.

Minnesota has the largest amount of iron ore in the country. But remember that iron ore is a nonrenewable resource. Most of the good-quality iron ore was taken out of the ground over the years. What is left is made into **taconite pellets** (*small balls of lower-quality iron ore*). These are still shipped to steel-making plants. Steel is used for making lots of things, such as cars, bridges, and playground equipment. Many of the mines in the state have been shut down. But iron ore continues to be important to Minnesota.



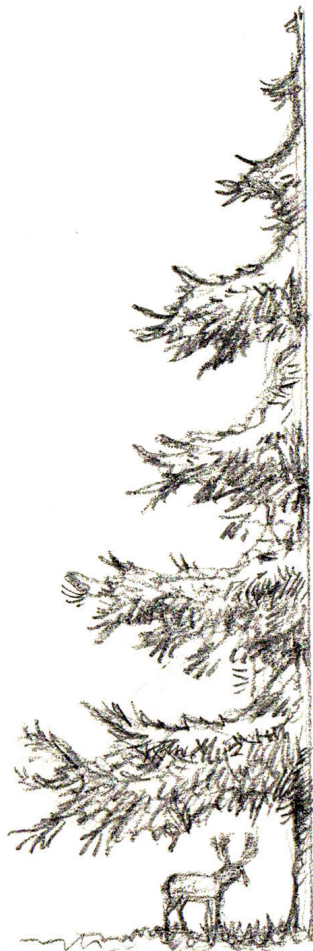
The best way to see how a mine works is to visit one!

You can take a tour of a mine at the **Soudan Underground Mining Museum** on the Iron Range.

Forests

Trees are one of Minnesota's most important natural resources. They help clean our air and provide shade and beauty to our environment. Our houses and furniture are sometimes made of wood. And trees can be fun to climb!

Do you like maple syrup on your pancakes? For hundreds of years, Native people have used the sap from maple trees. They boil the sap and make syrup or maple sugar. Then it can be stored for use throughout the year. Many Minnesotans continue the maple syrup tradition today.



Coniferous

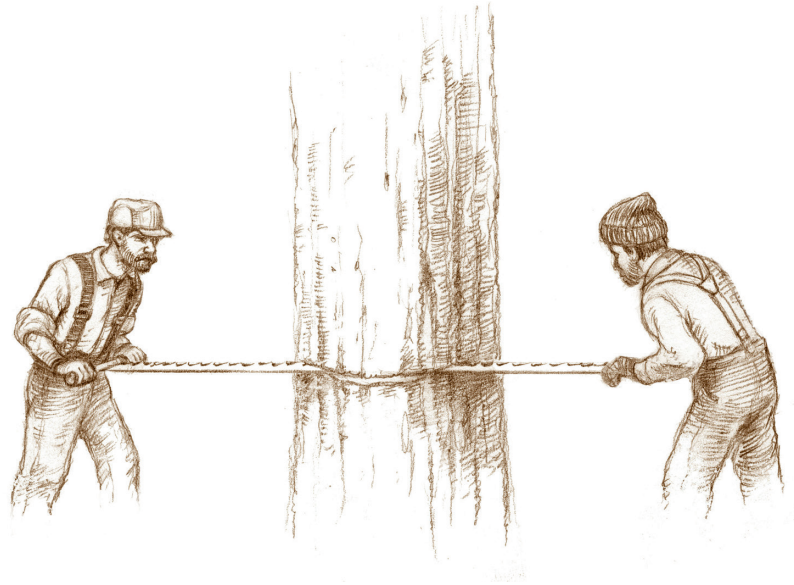


Deciduous

Activity:
Draw the
other halves
of these trees.

Lumbering

Almost 200 years ago, people came to Minnesota from the eastern United States looking for trees. When they saw the large forests, they thought the trees would last forever. But most of the huge white pines were cut down in just a few decades.



The lumber industry is still important to Minnesota today. Remember that trees are renewable if new ones are planted. The lumber industry has made many changes over the years. Now loggers use modern machinery that is less harmful to the forest. They are also more careful about how many trees they harvest.

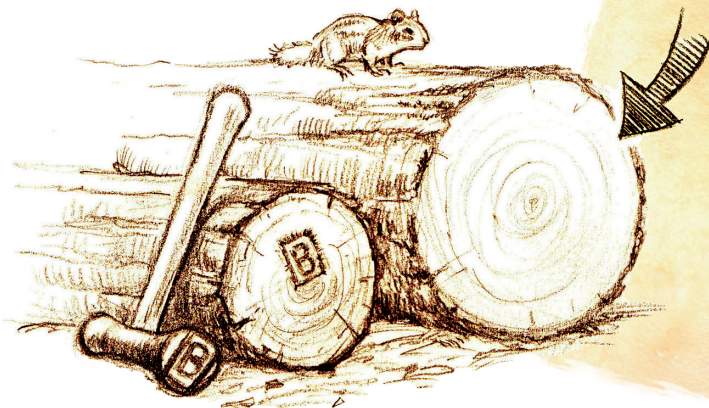
The **Forest History Center** in Grand Rapids has exhibits and a re-created lumber camp from 1900. That's where the lumberjacks lived, worked hard, and ate a lot of food! As you learned earlier, lumberjacks cut down the trees in the winter. When spring came, they put the logs in the river and floated them to a lumber mill.



Sometimes lumberjacks stood on the logs in the river and pushed them in the right direction. They had to move their feet very fast. This dangerous job was called "logrolling." Some people do this as a sport today!



Lumberjacks put special marks on each log to show which company owned them. The mark was stamped onto each end of the log with a special hammer.

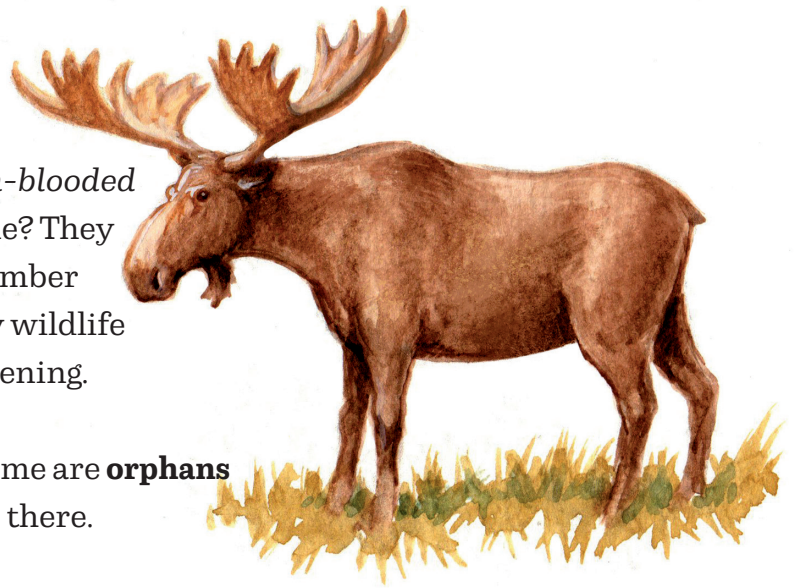


Activity: Design a mark that shows that you own the log. It should be a simple design but something that is easy to spot.

Wildlife

Moose are Minnesota's largest **mammals** (*warm-blooded animals with fur or hair*). Have you ever seen one? They live way up north and are rather shy. But the number of moose in Minnesota is also going down. Many wildlife experts are trying to figure out why that is happening.

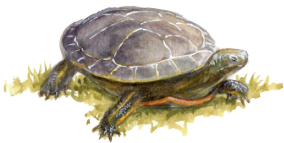
You can also see moose at the **Minnesota Zoo**. Some are **orphans** (*they have no parents*) who were brought to live there.



What is the smallest mammal to live in Minnesota? Hint: It is a bit like a mouse but is even smaller. It's called a pygmy shrew. It has a pointed nose and weighs about as much as a dime. It is also very stinky! That helps keep bigger animals from eating it.



Minnesota has many birds, big and small. Have you ever seen a bald eagle flying overhead? Or a tiny hummingbird at a feeder? Or heard the call of a loon swimming on a lake? Keep your eyes and ears open for our bird friends.



And of course, there are tons of turtles, fish, toads, and frogs. And so many insects! (You may have heard the joke that the mosquito is the Minnesota State Bird!) We may be afraid of some creatures, such as snakes or bees, but they are all important parts of nature.



Bison (sometimes called buffalo) were the most important animal to Dakota people. The Dakota word for bison is **tatanka** (tuh-TAHN-kah). But by 1900, most of the bison had been killed by hunters who weren't Native. The bison almost became extinct. There are many more now because of efforts to save them. Visitors to **Minneopa** and **Blue Mounds State Parks** can see buffalo roaming on the park land.

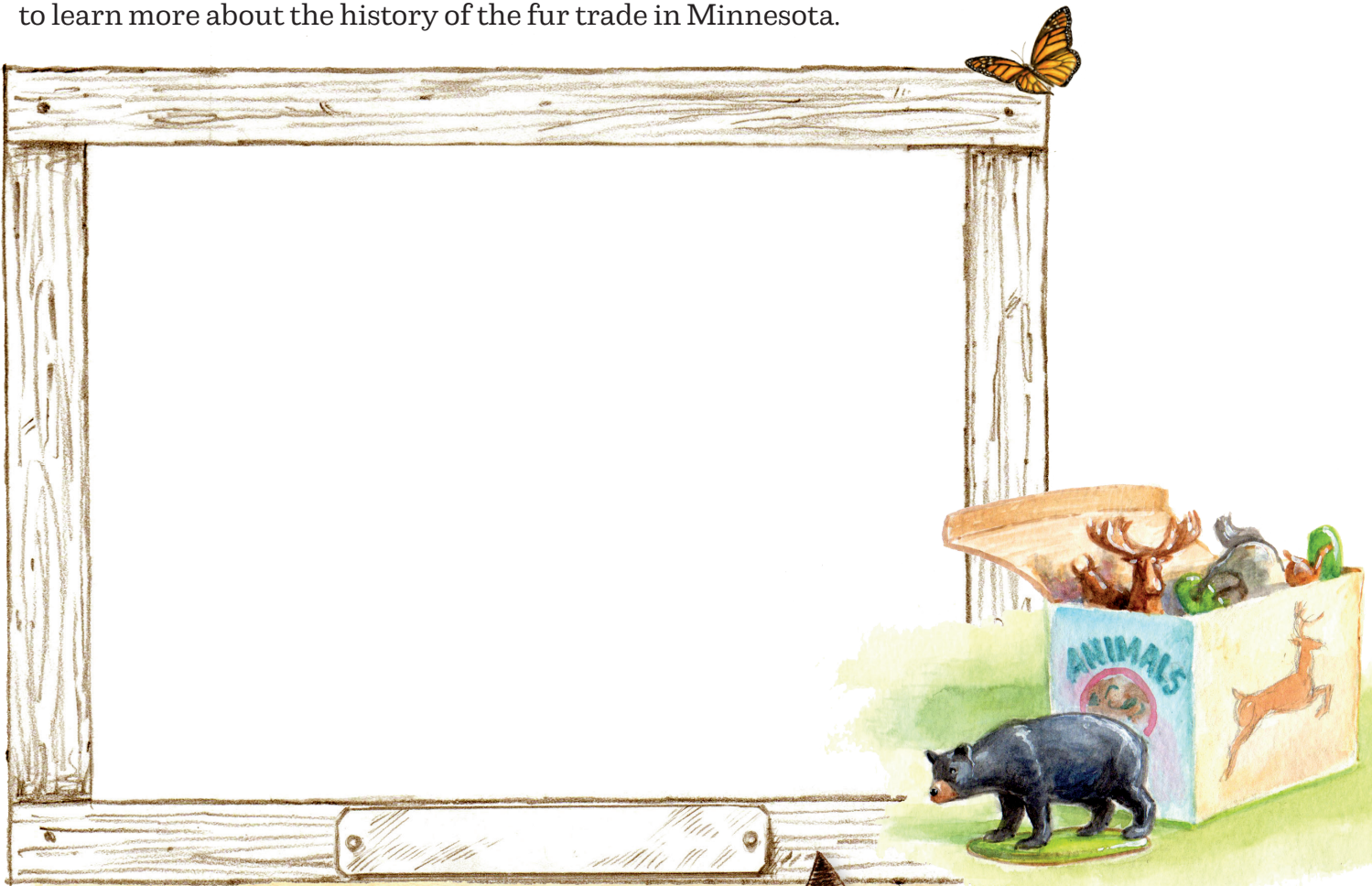
The Fur Trade

Some of the earliest Europeans who came to Minnesota were French fur traders. They were looking for animals, especially beavers. Hats made of beaver fur were the fashion for men in the 1700s and 1800s. The land that would become Minnesota was home to many beavers.



Native people trapped the animals and traded with the fur traders. What did the Native people get in return? They traded for food and many metal items like tools, pots, and jewelry. They also got blankets, cloth, and items that weren't part of Native culture. The furs of other animals, such as fox and muskrats, were also traded.

You can visit the **Snake River Fur Post** or the **Grand Portage National Monument** to learn more about the history of the fur trade in Minnesota.



Activity: In the space above, draw some Minnesota animals—birds, mammals, fish, insects—that can be found in the wild.

Habitats

Habitat is *where something lives*.

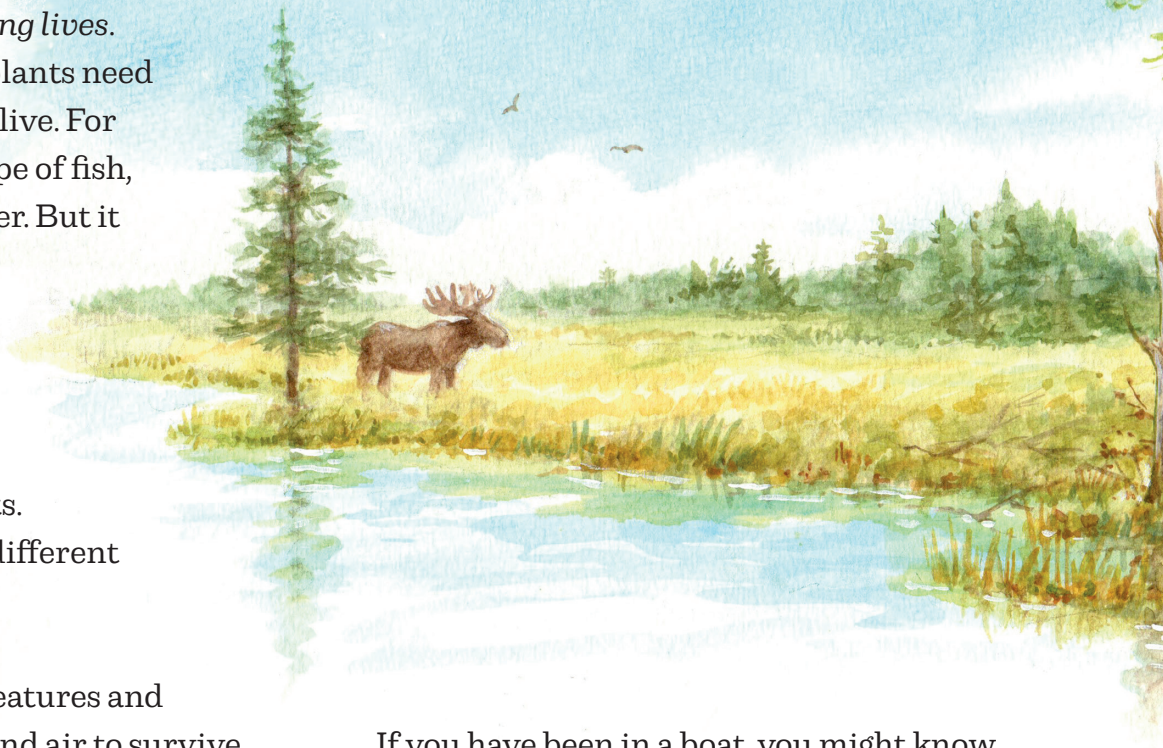
Different creatures and plants need certain types of places to live. For example, a walleye is a type of fish, so it obviously needs water. But it does best in large, shallow lakes. That is one type of habitat. Forests, swamps, lakes, and grasslands are just some examples of habitats. Minnesota is home to 16 different habitats.

No matter the habitat, creatures and plants need clean water and air to survive. Some chemicals and **pollution** (*harmful things*) in the environment can kill or sicken bees, birds, and other animals. Habitats can be destroyed by the construction of roads, pipelines, and buildings. Today, studies are usually done before anything is built to see how construction will affect the habitat.

You may have heard the term **invasive species**. That is *a plant or animal that has moved from where it should live and “invaded” a different place*. It disturbs the order of the habitat. One example is the emerald ash borer, an insect that kills ash trees.

If you have been in a boat, you might know this rule: **Clean in, Clean out**. It means you should always check to be sure there aren't any zebra mussels or plants stuck to your boat. Zebra mussels are creatures with shells that came across the ocean on ships. Now in Minnesota, they cause all kinds of problems, from cutting swimmers' feet to killing native mussels.

How can we make Minnesota better? By taking care of habitats so that creatures will have safe places to live. This will keep the earth healthy for us and for the people who come after us.

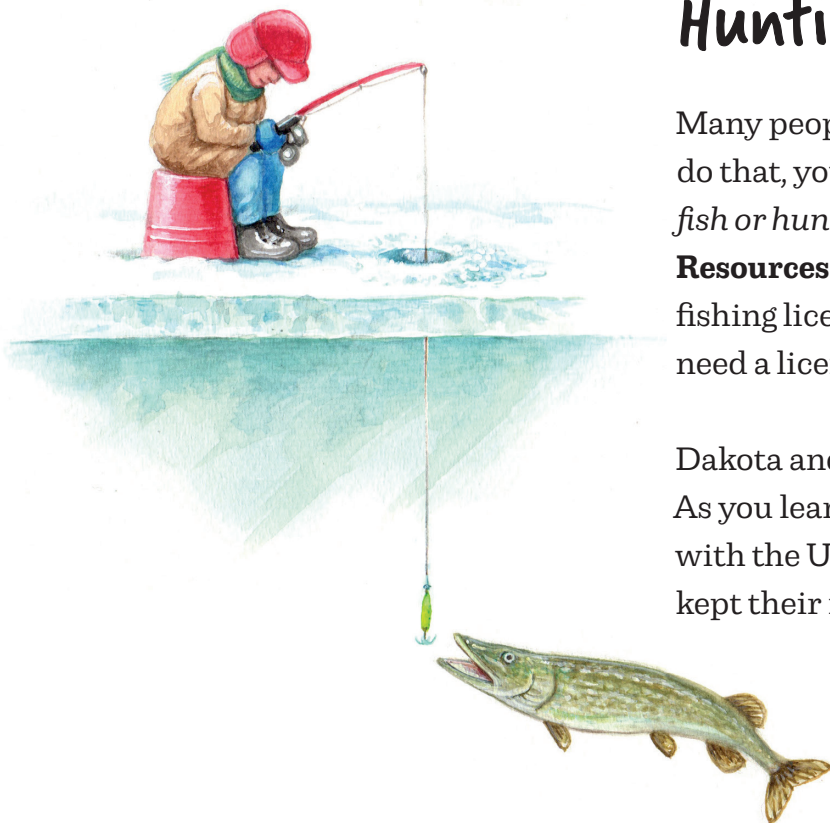




Hunting and Fishing

Many people in Minnesota like to hunt and fish. To do that, you need to get a **license** *that allows you to fish or hunt*. The **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources** issues many different types of hunting and fishing licenses. If you are under 16 years old, you don't need a license to fish.

Dakota and Ojibwe people have close ties to the land. As you learned earlier, their leaders signed treaties with the US government giving up their land. But they kept their rights to hunt and fish and gather wild rice.





Parks

High above the waters of Lake Superior sits a lighthouse. You may know that lighthouses were built to warn ships to stay away from the land so they don't crash. Visitors to **Split Rock Lighthouse historic site** learn the stories of people who lived there and about Lake Superior. Next to the historic site, **Split Rock Lighthouse State Park** has lots of hiking trails and camping sites.

State parks are places where habitats are protected. Did you know that Minnesota has 75 state parks and recreation areas? Here are a few of them and some things you can see there:

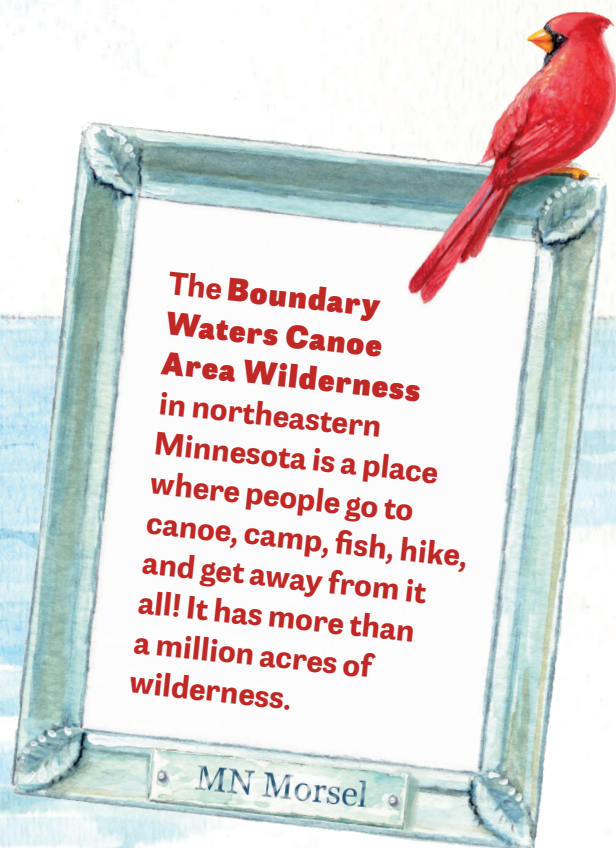
The tallest waterfall in Minnesota is in **Grand Portage State Park**.

Where does the Mississippi River begin?
At **Lake Itasca!**

Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park has more than 13 miles of underground caves that you can tour.



There are many more state and local parks where you can hike, bike, ski, swim, camp, and have fun! You might want to join the Junior Park Naturalist Program through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Keep a travel journal of the places you visit. Writing and sketching will help you remember them.



Attention! Make Minnesota even better by staying on the trails and leaving the place cleaner than when you arrived.

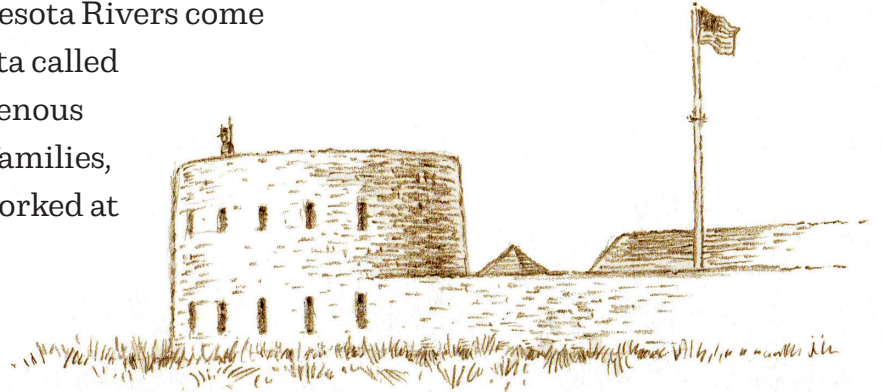


Historic Sites

Minnesota has so many stories to tell! A fun way to learn them is by visiting historic sites around the state. You already read about some of the places in this book.

Petroglyphs! Now there's a big word. It means *stone carvings that tell stories with pictures*. Some of the stories are about bison, turtles, deer, and humans. You can visit **Jeffers Petroglyphs** and see them. The carvings were made by Indigenous people beginning about 7,000 years ago! This is still a sacred place to Native people today.

Some of the oldest buildings in Minnesota are located at **Historic Fort Snelling**. The fort sits high above the place where the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers come together. This is a sacred place to Dakota called **Bdote**. Here, you can learn about Indigenous people, fur traders, soldiers and their families, and many other people who lived or worked at the fort for the last 200 years.



The **Minnesota State Capitol** is where our laws are made. Elected officials from throughout the state work there. You can visit and tour this beautiful and important building in St. Paul. From the capitol, you can see the **Minnesota History Center**. It is a library and museum, with many exhibits that are fun for kids and adults!

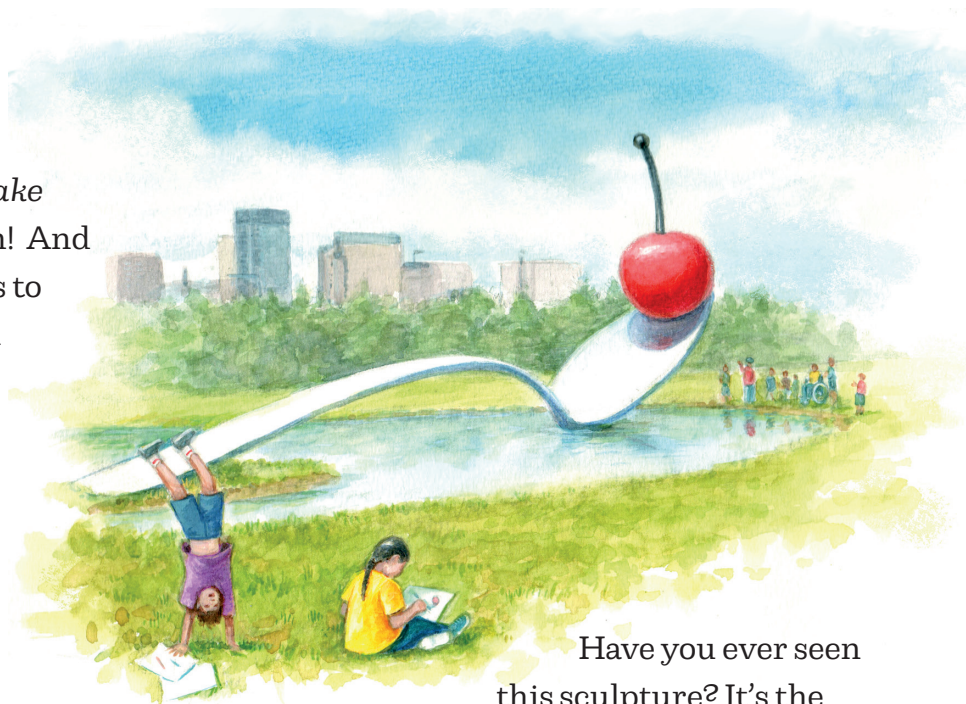
Our state is filled with historic sites. There might be a historic home in your area or a county museum filled with interesting **artifacts** (objects). Take the time to visit and discover their stories and secrets!



Arts and Culture

Being **creative** (using your ideas to make something) makes life much more fun! And in Minnesota, we have so many places to visit and things to see that can get you excited about using your creativity.

You might not always have the materials that you want for a project. But all you really need is a pencil and paper to sketch or write a poem or story. You can create art out of your own imagination, or you can look at something and sketch what you see.



Have you ever seen this sculpture? It's the

Spoonbridge and Cherry, located in the **Walker Art Center Sculpture Garden** in Minneapolis. It's become a symbol of the city. This is just one of the many museums, parks, and galleries located in Minnesota.



Speaking of sculptures, winter provides the opportunity for people to visit ice sculptures and castles in many places throughout the state!

Activity: Sketch an idea for an ice sculpture that has something to do with Minnesota. Maybe a famous Minnesota person, animal, or building.



Do you like to act or watch plays? The Twin Cities is famous for its theaters, such as the **Children's Theatre Company** and the **Guthrie Theater**. But there is live theater throughout Minnesota. Lanesboro, in the southeastern part of the state, is well known for its theater productions. Whether you are in a play or in the audience, live theater can be so much fun!

How about writing? Young people can take writing classes at **The Loft Literary Center** in Minneapolis. Or, you can learn to sculpt or paint at the **Grand Marais Art Colony**. Local libraries are great places to look for classes and events.

We are lucky in Minnesota to have so many wonderful musicians! The **Minnesota Orchestra** and the **Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra** are known throughout the world for their concerts and recordings.

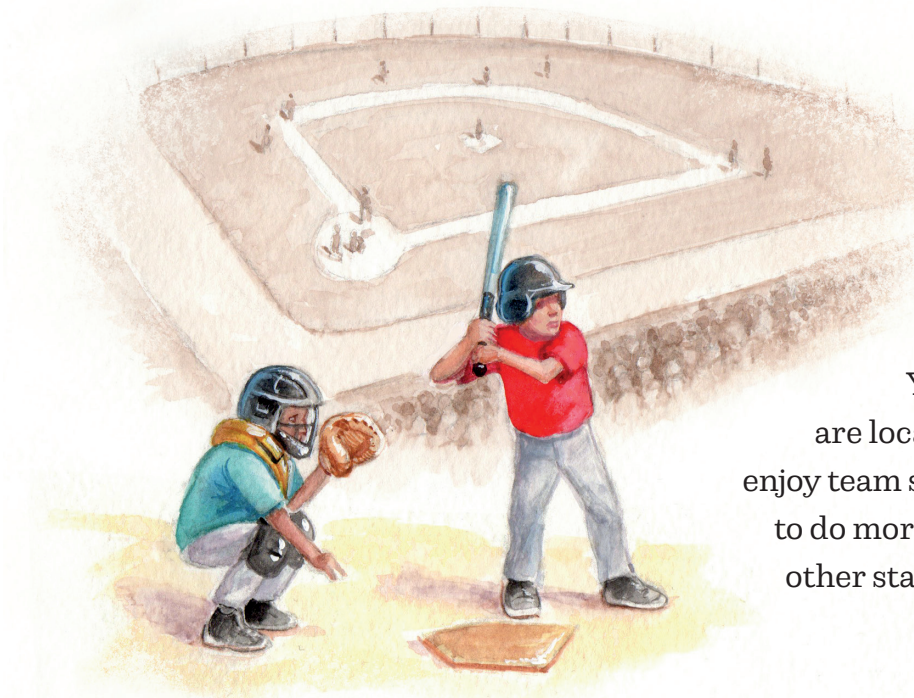
Minnesota is known for its many rock bands and hip-hop and folk musicians, too. Some groups perform music and dance from their cultures, including at Indigenous powwows held throughout the state.



Sports


"Let's play ball!" Or hockey. Or lacrosse. Or swim. Or run. Or ski. These sports, and many more, are fun and healthy for you!

Youth sports leagues and school teams are located all over the state for those who enjoy team sports. Minnesota's climate allows us to do more kinds of sports than people in many other states.



Bike and hiking paths are a great way to see Minnesota's beauty and have fun! From the **Paul Bunyan State Trail** to the **Root River State Trail**, you can pedal or hike your way through the country or the city. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources can help you find all kinds of trails and their locations.

Do you like to watch sports? You have so many choices in Minnesota: high school, college, and professional sports teams. Watching athletes is fun and inspiring! Cheering on the Gophers, Twins, Vikings, Lynx, Wild, United, Timberwolves, Saints, Aurora, and all our teams is something that unites us.



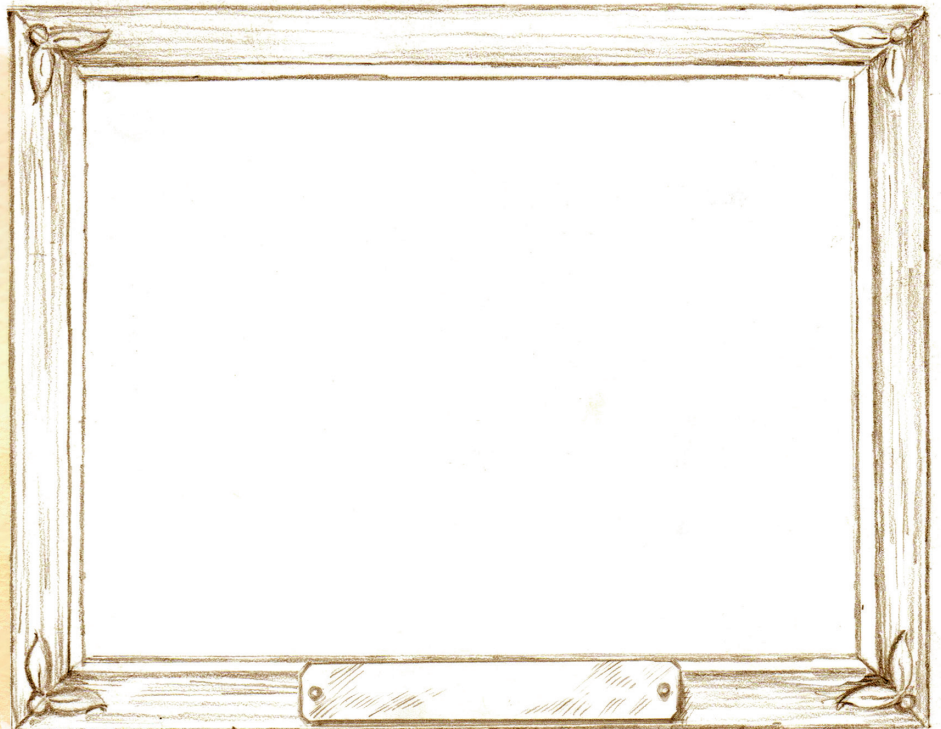
Activity: What is your favorite sport to play? To watch?

Making Minnesota Wrap-Up

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Activity: Think of a word for each letter in Minnesota. Each word should have something to do with the state. Try to use some of the new words that you've learned in this book.

Activity: You know that Minnesota is a pretty wonderful place! Now, think of ways that you and your family can make our state even better as we go into the future. Write down two or three ideas.



Explore Minnesota's history, people, landscapes, wildlife, and culture in this fun activity book!



Full of information and activities for kids of all ages, this celebration of all things Minnesota highlights the people we live with, the parks and waterways we play in, the animals we observe, the places we love to visit — and the history that made it all possible.

