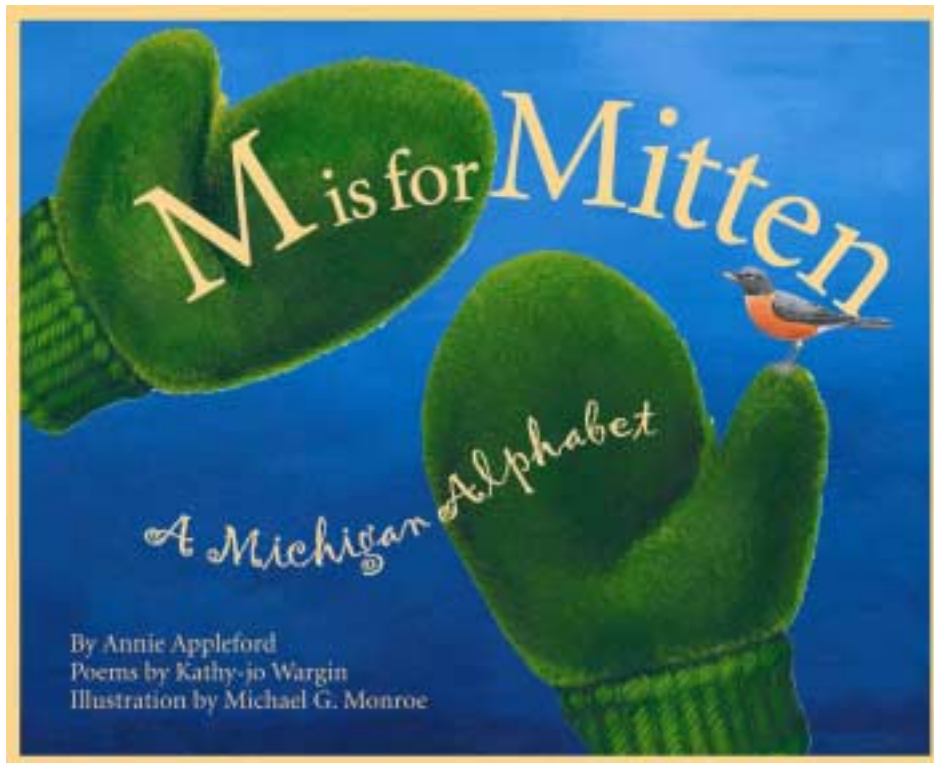


A Teacher's Guide



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Poems by Kathy-jo Wargin

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This guide is dedicated to
all teachers,
with special thanks for making
this guide possible to:

Yvonne Sappenfield

and

Nancy Monroe

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Activity Ideas from A to Z

Using the MEAP Benchmarks

A Celebrate Apples and Johnny Appleseed

1. Each child brings in an apple to graph the different types, colors, and his or her favorites.
2. Compose apple poems.
3. Slice the apples open in different ways; dip into paints and make prints.
4. Use Johnny Appleseed stories, and sequence the different events.
5. Compare the different types of seeds found in different types of fruits.
6. Have parents bring in apple treats, or bake apple recipes with the children.

B Bridges in Michigan and around the World.

1. Compare different lengths of bridges.
2. Design and construct different types of bridges.

Varieties of fish found in Michigan

1. Discuss different fishing methods used in Michigan.
2. Have a fly-tying demonstration.
3. Make a fish out of paper mache or clay, real or imaginary, and compose a creative essay about it.
4. Read *Lightning's Tale: The Story of a Wild Trout* by Hugh Campbell.

C Celebrate the Cherry

1. Write letters to Traverse City, the cherry capital, and request information.
2. Read *Cherries and Cherry Pits* by Vera B. Williams.
3. Have students write a poem about a favorite cherry dish, or a short story about a time when they ate cherries.

D Michigan Cities

1. Write reports on different cities, and share the locations on a map.
Reference: *Michigan's Capitol Cities* by Melissa Stimson and M.T. Chatfield
2. Make a quilt of the cities with each child designing a square about their city. Use paper or cloth, and sew or tape the pieces together.
3. Talk about Detroit being the automotive capital. Have the class research what make of car(s) their family owns, and graph the results.
4. Do reports on different cars. Contact a local auto manufacturer, and request that a designer come and speak with your class.
5. Design a new car with new features.

E Tree Varieties

1. Have the class take notes as you read about the varieties of trees.
2. Collect leaves to study the veins and edges. Group them according to different characteristics.
3. Read *Look What I Did With A Leaf* by Morteza E. Soki.
4. Have children bring in different leaves and construct unusual animals.
5. Web the different types of trees found in Michigan.

F Famous People of Michigan

1. Research various well-known Michiganians.
2. Each child writes a report on a person, and gives a 1-2 minute speech.
3. Construct a wax museum of the people, and invite the parents to hear about them.

G The Great Lakes

1. Learn the names of the Great Lakes.
2. Have the class research and write Great Lakes trivia. Have them work in pairs or small groups, assigning a different lake to each.

H Harbors and Lighthouses

1. Study the different lighthouses around Michigan, and construct a model.
Reference: *A Traveler's Guide to 116 Michigan Lighthouses* by Laurie and Bill Penrose.
2. Read *Beacon of Light: Lighthouses* by Gail Gibbons.

I Islands

1. Locate and list the islands in the Great Lakes.
2. Read *The Legend of Mackinac Island* by Kathy-jo Wargin and Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.
3. Discuss the characteristics of a legend.
4. Have each student write a story of what it would be like to live on an island.

J,K Michigan Products

1. Write to Jiffy Mix and Kellogg's. Request samples and information.
2. Take a field trip to a Michigan company.
3. Graph the favorite cereals of the class.
4. Study food nutrition and practice reading labels, i.e. fat content, sugars, and calories.
5. Homework: At the grocery store, research which products were produced in Michigan.

L The State Capital and Government

1. Discuss the different branches of government at state and national levels.
2. Construct a timeline using the formation of our state and the government as important dates.

M The Shape of Michigan

1. Discuss glaciers, and how they impacted Michigan's land formation.
2. Read *The Mitten* by Jan Brett.

N Native Americans and Northern Lights

1. Research the different tribes native to Michigan and the Great Lake region.
2. Make birch bark canoes from manila paper.
3. Discuss the Northern Lights, and why they scientifically happen.
4. Make a watercolor wash of the Northern Lights.
5. Read *Paddle to the Sea* by Holling Clancy Holling.

O Natural Resources

1. Research the history and types of mining that take place in Michigan.
2. Construct a display of the different types of rocks and minerals found in Michigan.
3. Using map skills, locate Soo Locks, and discuss what they are.
4. Research the types of boats found on the Great Lakes. Investigate sizes and what they are used for. Graph the difference in sizes.

P Geology and Biology

1. As a group, discuss and report the different characteristics of reptiles.
2. Make dioramas of the reptile's habitats, (Such as turtles or snakes).
3. Research what kind of living animal the Petoskey stone was, and why it is proof of the climate in Michigan's past.
4. Have students bring in rocks and identify the different characteristics of each. Classify them.

Q Historical Inventions

1. Take a field trip to a museum or historical place, such as Greenfield Village or Henry Ford Museum
2. Read about inventions, *Inventions No One Mentions* by Chip Lovitt.
3. Have the class design their own inventions. They will formulate the idea and purpose, then draw and write about it.
4. Discuss assembly lines and their efficiency. Construct one out of things you find in the classroom to demonstrate the process.

R Ornithology, the Study of Birds

1. Set up small groups to research a certain type of bird. In the information collected, have the students underline description in blue, habitat in green, and so forth.
2. Make paper mache eggs, and realistically paint them to match the eggs of the bird they researched.

S Geology and Sand

1. Read *The Legend of Sleeping Bear* by Kathy-jo Wargin and Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.
2. Analyze the different textures and compositions of sand.
3. Construct sand sculptures, with different varieties of coarseness.
4. Discuss erosion, and compare sand versus soil erosion.
5. Present the books with pictures of Michigan's beaches and dunes, *Sand Dunes of the Great Lakes* by C. J. Elfont and Edna A. Elfont, and *Views from the Sleeping Bear* by Thomas Kachadurian.

T Michigan Waterfalls

1. Research and locate waterfalls around Michigan.
2. Make color paintings depicting waterfalls.
3. Compare different waterfalls around the world.

U Topography

1. Discuss the definition of a peninsula.
2. Present a topographical map of Michigan and explain the different areas.
3. Discuss the difference between coniferous and deciduous trees. Using a Venn diagram, show how they are both alike and different.

V Math

1. Make a Vernors float. Test different ice creams and have the students graph the results.
2. Make a class graph of various favorite soda pops.

W Michigan's Animals and Seasons

1. Discuss the state's symbols, white-tailed deer, wolverine, and other Michigan indigenous animals.
2. Report on the changes that take place in the animals, from season to season.
3. Brainstorm different winter sports that play a part in Michigan's outdoor activities. Graph the sports that are the favorites and/ or have been experienced by students.
4. Make figures depicting these activities from simple materials, such as pipe cleaners, clay, and scraps.

X Map Reading

1. Draw a treasure map on graph paper. Student will list the coordinates for the position.
2. Discuss latitude and longitude.

Y Yachting

1. Design sails denoting different Michigan themes.
2. Explain wind speed, nautical miles per hour (knots), and other boating vocabulary.
3. Discuss fresh water versus salt water, and how different types of fish are supported in each.

Z Animal Research

1. Students formulate their own ABC Zoo book, or assign each of them a letter to compile a class book.
2. Make each animal from class materials, and display.

Your own Michigan Alphabet

Name _____

This is your own Michigan Alphabet.
What does each letter remind you of in
Michigan? Is it a special place, animal,
food, plant, or special thing to do in our
state?

A

R

B

J

S

C

K

T

D

L

U

E

M

V

F

N

W

G

O

X

H

P

Y

I

Q

Z

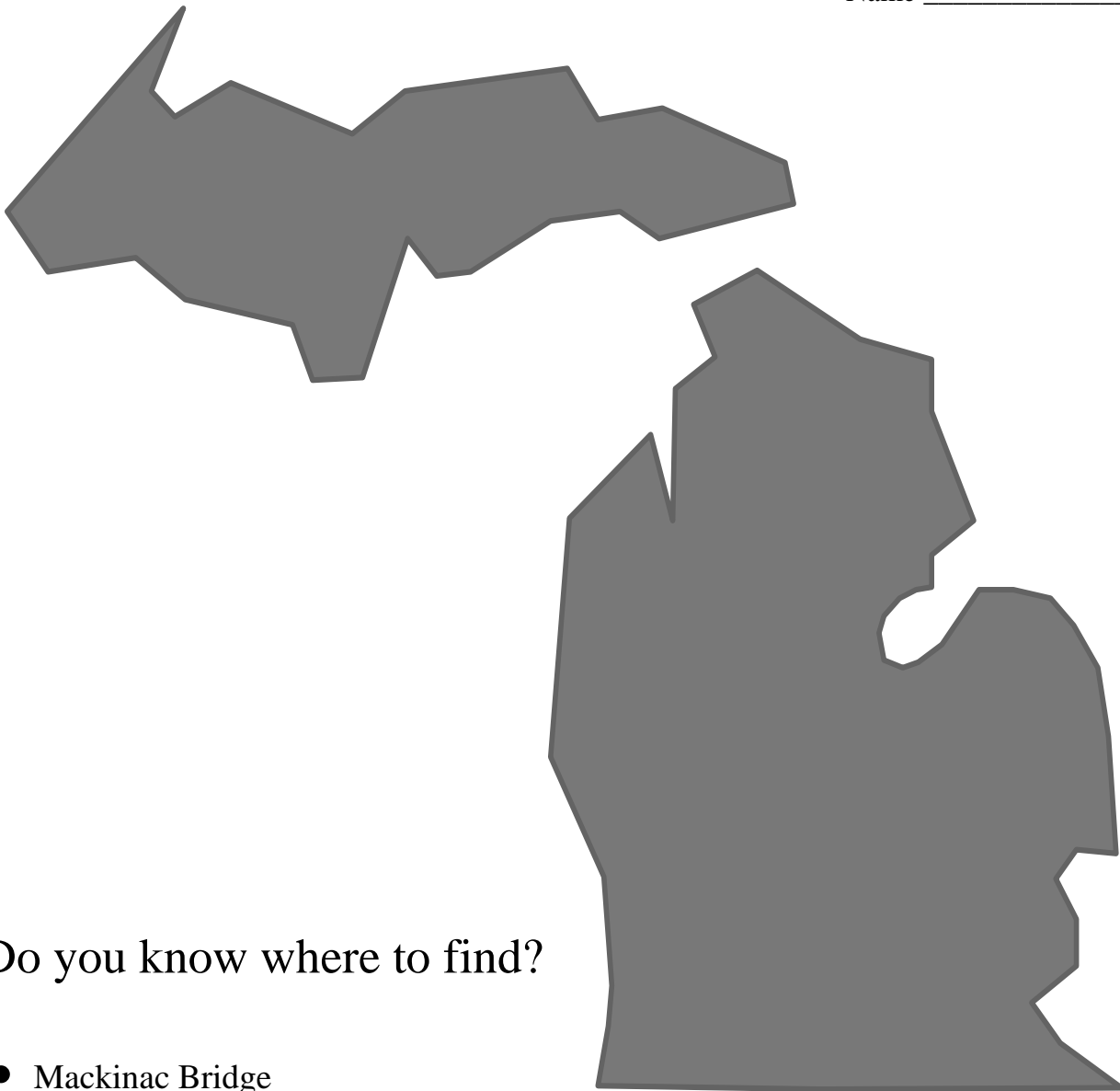
Name _____

My Michigan map.



You have your very own Michigan map that you carry with you. M is for mitten in the Michigan Alphabet, because that is how the state is shaped. If you place your left hand on the page and trace it, you will have the outline on the Lower Peninsula. Do you have an idea where you live? What else can you add to it?

Name _____



Do you know where to find?

- Mackinac Bridge
- Upper Peninsula
- Detroit
- Lansing
- Lake Michigan
- Lake Superior
- Lake Ontario
- Lake Erie
- Lake Huron

What other places can you identify around Michigan?

