

The Great Migration of the Ojibwe People

I. Curricular Areas

1. Social Studies/History
2. Geography

II. Learner Goals

Students will track the migration of the Ojibwe people and understand how and why they traveled to their present geographical location.

III. Learner Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. make a list of the difficulties faced when moving a large number of people across the country.
2. compare the Ojibwe migration map with a present day map and calculate the miles traveled in the course of their journey.

IV. Teacher Information

The oral traditions of the Ojibwe tell of a time when the people lived on the shores of the Great Salt Water in the east (The Atlantic Ocean). A great westward migration took place moving the Ojibwe slowly down the St. Lawrence River. There were seven major stops along the way, the last being what is now known as Madeline Island in Wisconsin. These stops lasted for many years and villages were created to meet the needs of the people for that period of time.

At some of the stopping places groups of people decided to end their journey and set up permanent villages.

The journey may have begun nearly eleven hundred years ago and taken over five hundred years to complete. The Ojibwe people encounter many hardships along the way including other Native tribes not wanting them to move through their hunting grounds. The prophecy that led the Ojibwe on this journey told of bad times coming to all who stayed and a better life to be had "where food grows on the water." (wild rice) However, not all people related to the Ojibwe decided to make this journey.

V. Student Activities

Activity 1

Have students look at Map 1, The Migration of the Ojibwe People, compare it to a modern day map of the same area. Have your students answer the following questions:

1. What mode of transportation did the Ojibwe use to travel?
2. Calculate the distance between each stopping off place.
3. Give at least two reasons that groups would break off from the main migration and go in different directions.
4. Using the internet or other resource materials, research other American Indian tribes the Ojibwe might have encountered on their journey.
5. Do you think it was a good idea for the Ojibwe to make this move?

Activity 2

Students will participate in a classroom discussion answering the following questions.

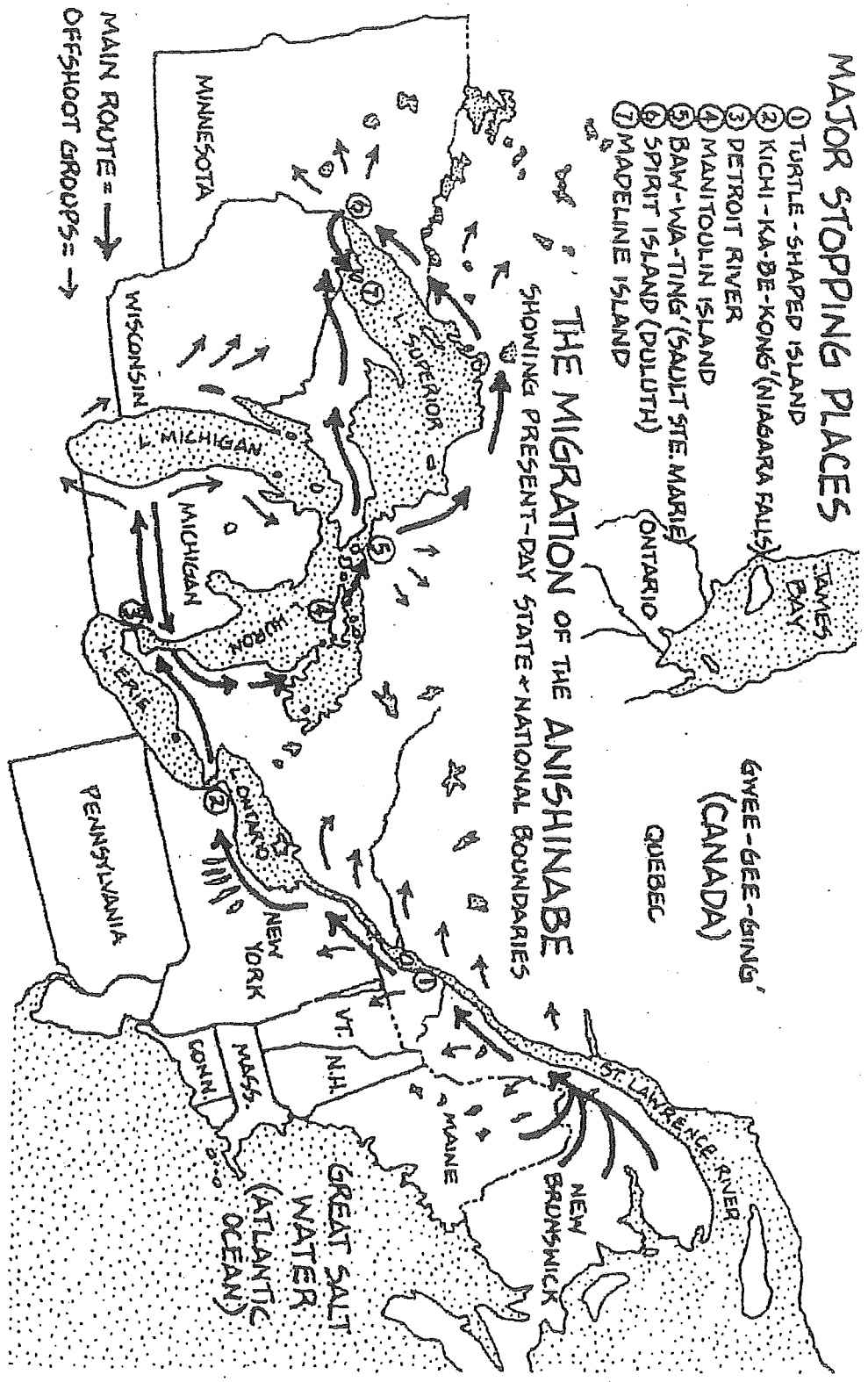
1. Imagine what it would be like today to move the population of your town.
2. What things would have to be taken in consideration before such a move could take place?
3. Do you think all people would go even if they were told that bad things would happen if they stayed?
4. If you were packing for a long journey and could only take things you could carry, what are the things you would take?

MAJOR STOPPING PLACES

- ① TURTLE-SHAPED ISLAND
- ② KICHI-KA-BE-KONG (NIAGARA FALLS)
- ③ DETROIT RIVER
- ④ MANITOULIN ISLAND
- ⑤ BAW-WA-TING (SAULT STE MARIE)
- ⑥ SPIRIT ISLAND (DULUTH)
- ⑦ MADELINE ISLAND

THE MIGRATION OF THE ANISHINABE

SHOWING PRESENT-DAY STATE & NATIONAL BOUNDARIES



Ojibwe Migration (from The Mishomis Book by Edward Benton-Benai)