
How Do We Shape Our Local Environment?



Supporting Questions

1. How did we modify our environment over time?
2. Describe physical characteristics such as rivers, parks, lakes, in our community
3. How did the use of our land harm or improve our community?

NORTHERN MICHIGAN INQUIRY HUB

2nd Grade Inquiry

How Do We Shape Our Local Environment?

Michigan Content Expectations:	G 2.5 Geography and natural resources shape where and how urban, suburban and rural communities develop and how they sustain themselves.
Staging the Compelling Question:	To launch this inquiry, student can view a time-lapse video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDfpcRPTetk of the growth of a city and observe the changes that occur (e.g., the building of new roads, houses, and commercial structures) while discussing the potential impact of these changes.

Supporting Question 1
How did we modify our environment over time?
Formative Performance Task
Complete a graphic organizer demonstrating how people have modified the environment of Cadillac over time.
Featured Sources
Image bank of Cadillac now and then

Supporting Question 2
Describe physical characteristics in our community such as rivers, parks, and lakes.
Formative Performance Task
Create a community map showing residential, industrial, commercial or recreational areas.
Featured Sources
Pictures of local places to help students identify location on a map

Supporting Question 3
How did the use of our land harm or improve our community?
Formative Performance Task
complete a t chart demonstrating the pros and cons of building The Cadillac Commons
Featured Sources
Pictures, video, and other information on Cadillac Commons.

Summative Performance Task	Argument: How do we shape our environment? Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that addresses the compelling question using specific claims and relevant evidence from contemporary sources while acknowledging competing views.
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Overview

Students in Michigan second grade classrooms learn about their communities and this early elementary inquiry is easily customizable for other teachers around the state. Students are encouraged to consider the compelling question “How do we shape our local environment?” While this is written for Cadillac Michigan, the sources provided are easily interchangeable with other communities around the state, making this one of the Michigan Inquiry Hub’s most versatile community level inquiries!

Staging the Compelling Question

Introduce the compelling question “How do we shape our local environment?”

To launch this inquiry, student can view a time-lapse video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDfpcRPTetk> of the growth of a city and observe the changes that occur (e.g., the building of new roads, houses, and commercial structures) while discussing the potential impact of these changes.

Brainstorm with the students how they think we shape our environments.

Also, introduce vocabulary words such as, communities, marketplace, environment, and modify.

Supporting Question 1 Overview

How do we modify our environment over time?- This shows the concept that humans modify and adapt their environment by building and developing housing, structures, transportation systems, marketplaces, and recreational areas. The featured sources are before and after pictures of Cadillac’s changes through the years so the students can imagine the kinds of environmental changes that communities undergo. In the first formative performance task students will complete a graphic organizer comparing how Cadillac was to what it is now.

Supporting Question 2 Overview

Describe the physical characteristics of Cadillac such as rivers, parks, and lakes. The featured sources of Cadillac’s lakes, rivers and parks. There is a short video on Cadillac on the Visitor Bureau Site. The formative tasks ask the student to create a map showing the local buildings, sites and physical characteristics.

Supporting Question 3 Overview

How did the use of our land harm or improve our community? The featured sources are pictures of the Cadillac Commons Area before and after. A connection to their website to view more pictures and watch a short video on what it means for Cadillac. The formative tasks are they first will create a t chart on the pro’s and con’s of the Cadillac Commons area. Second they will write an opinion paper on whether they think it should have been built and what the impacts to the local environment it had.

Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source A

Visit website: <https://www.imagesofmichigan.com/the-early-history-of-cadillac-michigan>



You are here: Home > The early history of Cadillac, Michigan

The early history of Cadillac, Michigan

WRITTEN BY **ALAN TEELANDER** | CATEGORY: UNCATEGORISED | PUBLISHED: 23 FEBRUARY 2011 | HITS: 14177

The first clearings in the forest which predate the rising of the future Village of Clam Lake and City of Cadillac were made for the camps which were used in the the Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad through the county in 1871 to 1872.

In March, 1871 Messrs. Holbrook and May start at a store in a little log building on the eastern shore of little Clam Lake, the first permanent structure of any kind erected on the present site of Cadillac.

The same gentleman afterward built a two-story store on the corner of Mason and Mitchell streets in which they conducted a thriving business for a number of

Early Logging Train Cadillac Michigan

Col. J. C. Hudnutt was the civil engineer in active charge of the road survey and when he received orders from his superiors to swing around the eastern end of little Clam Lake, instead of passing between the two lakes as was first intended, he rightly concluded that a town would arise at that point area.

Being a forehanded man, he acted accordingly, in the words of John H. Wheeler who was personally cognizant of the incident which he relates:

"With this idea in view, he decided to buy any or all land bordering on the shore of the lake and for this purpose he started for the government land office, then located at Traverse City, in the fall of 1871, to ascertain what there was in that locality that could be purchased."

The only road to Traverse City that was the state road running through Sherman and as the stage was the only conveyance it took two days to make the trip from the northern end of the road, which was then just this side of big Rapids, to the land office.

"The colonel stopped over night in Sherman and in conversation with some of the businessmen of that village casually remarked that he was on his way to the United States land office 'to buy a city.'



Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source B



Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source C



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Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source D (Video)



Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source A (Website)



Area Agriculture

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Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source B (Photo, Kenwood Beach)



Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source C



Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source D (Kenwood Today)



Supporting Question 3 - Featured Source A (Cadillac Commons)



Supporting Question 3 - Featured Source B (Cadillac Commons)



Supporting Question 3 - Featured Source C (Cadillac Commons)

CADILLAC COMMONS IS A PLACE FOR COMMUNITY.

A collaboration between the City and community has transformed a nondescript parking lot and park district into a year-round destination evoking all the historical charm and sophistication that makes Cadillac unique. The lakeside block will serve as a vibrant hub connecting downtown businesses and Lake Cadillac with seasonal events and attractive amenities, to draw in both visitors and residents.

A common space for all to enjoy!