

What is the REAL Story Behind the Lake Ann Lumber Industry?



Supporting Questions

1. What is the lumber industry and why was it so important to this area? (Northern Michigan)
2. How did the lumber industry affect Lake Ann(or any community) environmentally and economically?
3. In what ways did the lumber industry help the community grow?

What Is The Real Story Behind The Lake Ann Lumber Industry?

Michigan Content Expectations:	<p>2 – H2.0.4 Describe changes in the local community over time.</p> <p>2 – G2.0.1 Compare the physical and human characteristics of the local community with those of another community.</p> <p>2 – G5.0.2 Describe positive and negative consequences of changing the physical environment of the local community.</p>
Staging the Compelling Question:	Show a 1 minute Paul Bunyan clip, (theme song) and what (if anything) they know about him. Lead into a discussion about lumberjacks being real and that the lumber industry was important to our area (Northern Michigan)

Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3
What is the lumber industry and why was it so important to this area? (Northern Michigan)	How did the lumber industry affect Lake Ann(or any community) environmentally and economically?	In what ways did the lumber industry help the community grow?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Draw a picture of you as an adult in a lumberjack camp. Write a picture caption.	Complete a t-chart showing the advantages and disadvantages the lumber industry had on Lake Ann.	Draw a picture/map of Lake Ann at the peak of its growth during the lumber industry.
Featured Sources	Featured Sources	Featured Sources
Source A: Detroit News gallery Source B: Michigan lumberjack camps video clip Source C: Frankfort video clip, lumber industry	Source A: Grand Traverse Journal Source B: Almira Township History	Source A: Grand Traverse Journal Source B: Almira Township History

Summative Performance Task	Argument: What is the REAL story behind the Lake Ann Lumber Industry? With guidance and support construct an argument (outline, poster, essay, etc.) that addresses the compelling question using specific claims and relevant evidence.
	Extension: What might Lake Ann look like today, if the fires had not destroyed the town?
Sample Positions:	It did not affect our area because... It affected our area in positive ways like... It affected our area in negative ways like...

Overview

In this second grade inquiry perfect for a Northern Michigan teacher, students will continue the study of the local community by looking at the lumber industry in the Lake Ann area, and how it affected Lake Ann, back then through today.

Staging the Compelling Question

The author of this unit had a “tall tales” unit and she began by using the read aloud about Paul Bunyan. The Midwest, including Michigan were covered in forests. Lumberjacks were needed, and the lumbering industry began, especially near water/rivers. Show the Paul Bunyan clip below and ask students what they know about him.

Supporting Question 1 Overview

Have students brainstorm ideas to answer the question: “What is the lumber industry?” Make a list of their ideas. Next ask them why they think it was important to our area. Show the video clip of the lumber industry in Frankfort. How were your ideas similar to what was viewed in clip and how would it relate to Lake Ann?

Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source A



Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source B

Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source C



Supporting Question 2 Overview

Show the gallery of lumbering pictures for communities across the state. Discuss terms environment and economic...similar to earlier terms used natural and human characteristics. One is referred to the land/nature and the other to human controlled/made. Pose the question: How do you think lumbering affected an area physically and economically? Possibly in small groups to discuss/record. Come together as whole group to share ideas. Share with students the history of Lake Ann using the written sources.

Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source A

During the lumber era later in the century, Almira Township boasted six school districts. Of the 356-resident population of 1880, 121 were school children.

Source: Almira Township History

Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source B

In terms of social activities, there were barn-raising, sugaring-off parties, logging bees, and get-togethers to husk beets. Any help one neighbor could give another was freely and gladly given. Lake Ann grew into a thriving lumber town. R. J. Ransom owned a saw and gristmill at Ransom Creek. In 1892, the first railroad (the Manistee & Northeastern) threaded its way through the eastern part of the township and the village of Lake Ann sprang up. Lake Ann was organized in 1893 and incorporated in 1914. In a few years it had more than 800 residents and 100 buildings. By 1897, Lake Ann consisted of a general store, restaurant, hotel, drug store, meat market, saloon, livery barn and a depot. Activities centered around the Habbeler sawmill on the lakeshore (which employed 125 men) and the MNE railroad. The Grand Traverse Illustrated described Lake Ann as “a bright little town. Many chances are yet open and money is waiting to roll into the pockets of some more who get there quick... The people of the little burg are wide awake and energetic.” Timbering and agriculture were the economic base of the Township for the first fifty years. After the collapse of the timber industry, many of the offspring of the early settlers were forced to leave the community to find employment and for the next fifty years or so very little recruitment occurred. Lake Ann Village was virtually destroyed by fire three times. The first fire occurred on July 4, 1897 when Lake Ann was in competition with Traverse City as the metropolis of this area of Michigan with 1,000 inhabitants. It is not known whether the fire began in the engine room of William Habbeler’s sawmill or by a spark from a tug anchored near the shore.

Source: Almira Township History

Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source C

Lake Ann’s first huge fire

The first and most devastating fire occurred in July 1897. At that time the village was large and prosperous. Its population was about 1,000, making it one of the larger towns in northwestern Michigan. Logging was a major employer and supported several saw mills. The William Habbler Jr mill on the north shore of Ann Lake was the biggest.

The mills brought in many other businesses, from boarding houses to bakeries, grocery stores, barbers and doctors. As in any town employing so many men, saloons, pool parlors and poker games could be found as well. Some of the buildings and homes were well built and up-to-date architecturally. Businesses were adjacent to one another in the business district. Homes and business buildings were made of wood. Lots were small – often 100 feet deep and 40 feet wide – so homes were close together as well. Other buildings, such as barns, sheds and other out buildings were more rustic and even more flammable.

Once the fire began, apparently from a spark at the Habbler saw mill, a breeze north from the lake spread the fire rapidly through the town. Within minutes it was out of control. Because nearly all the town was north of Ann Lake, just about everything was within the fire’s path.

Because it was Saturday of the Fourth of July weekend, many of the town’s residents had rowed across Ann Lake to a favorite picnic spot on Piney Point. When they saw the smoke and fire in the village, there was little they could do to return home in time to save their belongings.

According to the newspaper accounts of the fire, 50 businesses were lost and 75 homes burned. Most people lost everything they owned.

Source: Grand Traverse Journal

Supporting Question 3 Overview

Show some before and after photos of Lake Ann: during peak lumber boom and today 2018. Ask for observations, make list. Pose the question: In what ways did the lumber industry help the community grow? Can you prove it through the photos?

Supporting Question 3 - Featured Source A

By 1897, Lake Ann consisted of a general store, restaurant, hotel, drug store, meat market, saloon, livery barn and a depot. Activities centered around the Habbeler sawmill on the lakeshore (which employed 125 men) and the MNE railroad. The Grand Traverse Illustrated described Lake Ann as “a bright little town. Many chances are yet open and money is waiting to roll into the pockets of some more who get there quick... The people of the little burg are wide awake and energetic.” Timbering and agriculture were the economic base of the Township for the first fifty years. After the collapse of the timber industry, many of the offspring of the early settlers were forced to leave the community to find employment and for the next fifty years or so very little recruitment occurred. Lake Ann Village was virtually destroyed by fire three times.

Source: Almira Township History

Supporting Question 3 - Featured Source B

Lake Ann's first huge fire

The first and most devastating fire occurred in July 1897. At that time the village was large and prosperous. Its population was about 1,000, making it one of the larger towns in northwestern Michigan. Logging was a major employer and supported several saw mills. The William Habbler Jr mill on the north shore of Ann Lake was the biggest.

The mills brought in many other businesses, from boarding houses to bakeries, grocery stores, barbers and doctors. As in any town employing so many men, saloons, pool parlors and poker games could be found as well. Some of the buildings and homes were well built and up-to-date architecturally. Businesses were adjacent to one another in the business district. Homes and business buildings were made of wood. Lots were small – often 100 feet deep and 40 feet wide – so homes were close together as well. Other buildings, such as barns, sheds and other out buildings were more rustic and even more flammable.

Once the fire began, apparently from a spark at the Habbler saw mill, a breeze north from the lake spread the fire rapidly through the town. Within minutes it was out of control. Because nearly all the town was north of Ann Lake, just about everything was within the fire's path.

Because it was Saturday of the Fourth of July weekend, many of the town's residents had rowed across Ann Lake to a favorite picnic spot on Piney Point. When they saw the smoke and fire in the village, there was little they could do to return home in time to save their belongings.

According to the newspaper accounts of the fire, 50 businesses were lost and 75 homes burned. Most people lost everything they owned.

Source: Grand Traverse Journal