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## Michigan's Remarkable Icons: Famous People from the Wolverine State

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Henry Ford played a pivotal role in revolutionizing the automotive industry through the introduction of the Model T and innovative assembly line production. The Model T, also known as the "Tin Lizzie," was the first mass-produced, affordable automobile. This invention made car ownership accessible to the average American and transformed transportation. The assembly line production method significantly reduced the time and cost of manufacturing, setting a standard for industrial efficiency. Ford's innovations changed American society by promoting mobility, impacting manufacturing processes, and contributing to the growth of suburbs. The Model T became a symbol of innovation and individual freedom, leaving a lasting impact on transportation worldwide.
2. Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her bus seat in Montgomery, Alabama, on December 1, 1955, was a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement. Parks, a seamstress and NAACP member, defied racial segregation laws and inspired the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a year-long protest against segregated buses. Her act of civil disobedience symbolized the collective resistance to racial injustice. The Montgomery Bus Boycott, led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., marked the beginning of a new era in the struggle for civil rights. It ultimately led to a Supreme Court ruling that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional. Rosa Parks' courage and determination became an enduring symbol of peaceful protest and the fight for racial equality.
3. Thomas Edison's invention of the phonograph in 1877 revolutionized the world of entertainment. The phonograph, also known as the record player, allowed sound to be recorded and reproduced for the first time. Edison's innovation made it possible to capture and preserve music, speeches, and



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other audio recordings. This invention laid the foundation for the modern music industry, enabling the production and distribution of recorded music. It also had a significant impact on communication, education, and entertainment. Edison's contributions to technology and entertainment have left an indelible mark on modern life, shaping how we experience and share music and audio recordings.

4. Aretha Franklin, known as the "Queen of Soul," made a lasting impact on the music and entertainment industry through her powerful voice and influential music. She earned her title through her remarkable singing talent and emotional delivery. Aretha Franklin's hits, such as "Respect" and "Natural Woman," transcended genres and became anthems of empowerment and self-expression. Her music contributed to social and cultural movements, including the Civil Rights Movement and the feminist movement. Aretha Franklin's influence extended beyond music; she was an iconic figure in American popular culture, and her legacy continues to inspire artists and audiences worldwide.

