

Name _____

Michigan's Rich History: From Native Tribes to Statehood

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The Great Lakes have played a pivotal role in Michigan's history and economy. These vast bodies of freshwater—Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario—have provided Michigan with a unique identity as the "Great Lakes State." The lakes have been crucial for transportation, trade, and industry. They facilitated the movement of goods, people, and natural resources, including timber and minerals, during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Great Lakes also support a thriving fishing industry. Today, they remain vital for shipping, tourism, and recreation, shaping Michigan's culture and economy.
2. The automotive industry has been central to Michigan's history and economy. It emerged as a major force during the early 20th century, with companies like Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler leading the way. The industry's growth led to urbanization as people moved to cities like Detroit to work in automobile factories. This urbanization brought about economic growth and job opportunities, attracting workers from various parts of the country. Detroit, in particular, became known as the "Motor City." The automotive industry had a profound impact on Michigan's economy, making it a manufacturing hub and significantly contributing to the state's prosperity.
3. Rosa Parks and Malcolm X made significant contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her bus seat in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955, sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a pivotal moment in the movement. Although not originally from Michigan, Rosa Parks moved to Detroit, Michigan, and continued her civil rights activism there. She became a symbol of resistance against racial segregation, inspiring many in Michigan and across the nation. Malcolm X, born in Omaha, Nebraska, spent a significant portion of his life in Michigan, particularly in Detroit. He became a prominent civil rights leader and advocate for Black empowerment. Malcolm X's teachings and speeches, often delivered in Detroit, encouraged self-determination and pride among African Americans. Both Rosa Parks and Malcolm X left a lasting legacy in Michigan, influencing the fight for civil rights and racial equality.
4. Michigan's population is incredibly diverse today, reflecting its history of immigration and settlement. Over the years, people from various ethnic backgrounds have made Michigan their home. For example, Detroit has a significant Arab-American population, and Dearborn, a suburb of Detroit, hosts the Arab American National Museum. The city of Grand Rapids has a growing Hispanic and Latino community. Michigan celebrates its cultural diversity through various cultural festivals and events. The Detroit International Riverfront hosts the annual International Jazz Festival, showcasing music from around the world. The Detroit Cultural Center in Midtown offers a range of cultural experiences, including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Detroit Institute of Arts. Additionally, the annual Detroit Caribbean Cultural Festival and the Ann Arbor African American Downtown Festival celebrate African and Caribbean heritage. Michigan's diversity enriches its cultural landscape and fosters understanding among its residents.

