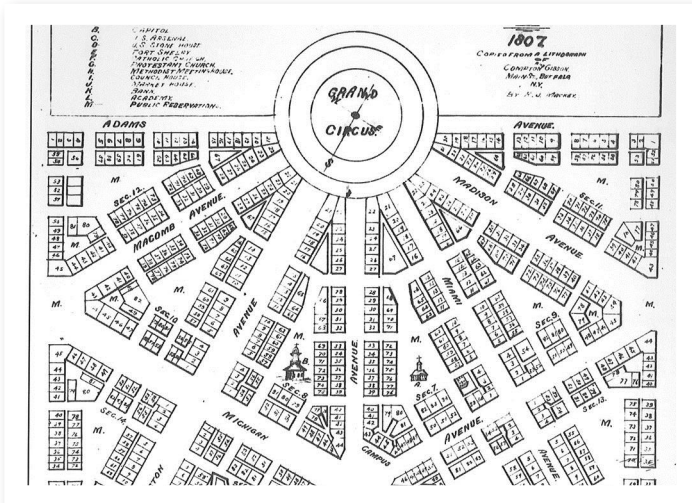


Where
the past
is present

DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TEACHER RESOURCE LESSON PLAN

PROFILES OF INFLUENTIAL DETROITERS



INTRODUCTION

This lesson helps third grade students understand the life and culture in Detroit after the Americans took control of the settlement in 1796, through its involvement in the War of 1812. The lesson includes a comprehensive background essay, a list of additional resources, and copies of worksheets and primary sources.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Who were key early Detroiters, and how did their actions help the city of Detroit grow and develop?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Understand the role selected individuals played in the development and growth of Detroit.
- List the characteristics and personal values needed to be an influential leader in the community.
- Understand the historical beginnings of Detroit chronologically and in a specific time frame.

MI GLCES – GRADE THREE SOCIAL STUDIES

H3 – History of Michigan Through Statehood

- 3-H3.0.1 – Identify questions historians ask in examining the past in Michigan.
- 3-H3.0.7 - Use a variety of primary and secondary sources to construct a historical narrative about daily life in the early settlements of Michigan.
- 3-H3.0.8 – Use case studies or stories to describe how the ideas or actions of individuals affected the history of Michigan.

COMMON CORE ANCHOR STANDARDS - ELA

Reading

- 1 - Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- 9 - Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Writing

- 1 - Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

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BACKGROUND ESSAY

The Great Fire of 1805

The community of traders, farmers, tradesmen, and families at the edge of the Detroit River grew to almost 500 people during the 1700s. In 1802, Territorial Governor St. Clair incorporated Detroit as a town with five Trustees to make laws, levy taxes, and keep order. John Askin, a successful fur trader who owned a vast shipping fleet, was one of the first trustees. Detroit was scheduled to become the capital city of the newly formed Michigan Territory on July 1, 1805.

Just as Detroit's future looked promising, a terrible disaster occurred – the Great Fire of 1805. A baker was in his stable and he knocked ashes from his pipe. It was a hot, windy day at the river's edge, and the wind blew the hot ashes into a pile of hay and fanned the flames until both the barn and the bakery were ablaze. The alarm sounded and Detroit's only fire engine arrived. Townspeople formed bucket brigades, but they could not stop the brisk wind from spreading the fire.

Many citizens frantically gathered their animals, loaded up their most prized possessions, and fled through the gates of the town. In just six hours nothing was left where the houses once stood but a blanket of ashes, with black chimneys rising up through the smoke. Only Fort Lernoult, on the hill above the city, and one warehouse at the river was spared. A century of community growth was destroyed.

Some people moved across the river to Sandwich (Windsor), Ontario or to other nearby towns. But almost two thirds stayed nearby. In just three weeks William Hull, the new Michigan Territorial governor, planned to arrive. Many townspeople decided to wait for his advice and make plans to rebuild the city.

One of the Governor's officials, Judge Augustus Woodward, argued that the old city was badly planned, and should not be rebuilt again. He had

just come from Washington, D.C., a city with a street plan based on Paris, France. He offered to create a new city design based on the hexagon with diagonal roads radiating out from the city's center. He promised property to the townspeople if they agreed to wait for a survey to design the new plan. They agreed to the plan. Among these citizens were the first African American property owners in the city.

As the new city was constructed, the complete hexagonal design of Woodward's survey became too complex. The City was still designed around three main diagonal spokes - Gratiot, Michigan and Grand River Avenue - which remain major thoroughfares of Detroit today. Grand Circus Park, in downtown

Detroit, is another piece of Woodward's plan.

In just 14 years, the population of Detroit doubled and the city was rebuilt, with broader streets and more brick buildings. New industries – fishing, lumber, textiles, gristmills, and breweries began to do business. Steamboats transported passengers all over the Great Lakes. The new

City of Detroit would become very important to the history of Michigan.

The War of 1812

In the midst of Detroit's rebirth, conflict was brewing between the United States and England. The British were fighting the French in the Napoleonic Wars in Europe, and the tensions affected the new United States of America. There were several reasons why America declared war on England in 1812. A few of the more important reasons included:

The British were stopping American ships from trading with their enemy, France, by passing trade restrictions. The Americans said the restrictions were illegal under international law, but the British continued to stop trade.

The British were boarding American merchant



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vessels, kidnapping crew members and forcing them to fight for the British in the war. Britain claimed that the crew members they grabbed were not American citizens because they had been born in England. However, several Americans had been pressed into service for Britain.

The British were helping the Native Americans in the Northwest Territory, who wanted to push the Americans out of the land they considered theirs.

The United States government knew that their forts and settlements in the Northwest Territory, including Detroit, were threatened by the British, who were supporting Native American raids. The governor of Michigan

Territory at the time was William Hull, who had few soldiers to defend against a British invasion or attacks by Native American tribes. President James Madison ordered an army to be sent to protect Fort Detroit.

Madison also appointed William Hull to the rank of brigadier general, and set him in charge of moving the new army from Ohio to Detroit. He took command of three regiments of

Ohio militia led by Colonels Lewis Cass, Duncan McArthur, and James Findlay. As they moved north to Detroit, they were joined by Lieutenant Colonel James Miller's 4th US Infantry.

While Hull and the troops were moving north to Detroit, war was officially declared. Unfortunately, Hull did not receive word of the declaration, and he sent a ship ahead of him filled with his dispatches, personal correspondence, medical supplies and sick soldiers. However, the British in Canada knew that war had been declared and they captured the ship off Fort Malden as it attempted to enter the Detroit River.

When he reached Detroit on July 5, 1812, Hull's troops gained an additional 140 Michigan militia members, which brought his force to around 2,200 men. Though short on food and supplies, Hull was commanded to cross the river and strike against

Fort Malden and Amherstburg in Canada. However, when they went to move on July 12, several of Hull's soldiers refused to serve outside of the United States. As a result, he stopped his advance, even though his smaller force would have outnumbered the British, which had only 300 soldiers and 400 Native Americans.

Hull heard that a group of British and Native Americans were attacking forts north of Detroit. He feared that a large number of Native American warriors would attack Detroit from the north. He decided to attack Fort Malden on August 6, but he changed his mind and ordered American soldiers

back to Detroit on August 8. He also was concerned about running out of necessary food and supplies, since the supply lines to the south were under attack by British and Native American forces.

Hull spent early August trying to re-open his supply lines, but was not successful. Meanwhile, more British troops were arriving at Fort Malden. Major

General Isaac Brock, the commander for Upper Canada, moved troops across Lake Erie from Niagara. He arrived at Amherstburg on August 13 and met with Shawnee leader Tecumseh. They instantly became allies against the Americans. With a combined force of 730 soldiers and 600 warriors, the British army was still smaller than the American troops in Detroit.

Brock read through the documents and dispatches that had been captured from Hull's ship. He then knew the details about the size and condition of Hull's army. Brock also learned that Hull was deeply afraid of an attack by Native Americans. Playing on this fear, he wrote a letter to other British commanders that asked them to stop sending Native Americans to Amherstburg because they already had 5,000. This letter, which was a lie, was allowed to fall into American hands.



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Shortly thereafter, Brock sent Hull a letter demanding his surrender. Part of the letter stated: “The force at my disposal authorizes me to require of you the immediate surrender of Fort Detroit. It is far from my intention to join in a war of extermination, but you must be aware, that the numerous body of Indians who have attached themselves to my troops, will be beyond control the moment the contest commences...”

Brock continued to deceive Hull by ordering the militia to put on the extra uniforms that belonged to the British army. In addition, Brock had soldiers light individual campfires and conducted several marches to make British force appear larger. These efforts undermined Hull’s weakening confidence.

On August 15, Brock attacked Fort Detroit using canons on the east bank of the river. The next day, Brock and Tecumseh crossed the river with the intention of blocking the American supply lines and laying siege to the fort. Brock was forced to change these plans when he learned that Hull had dispatched Colonels MacArthur and Cass with 400 men to re-open communications to the south.

Rather than be caught between this force and the fort, Brock moved to assault Fort Detroit from the west. As his men moved, Tecumseh repeatedly marched his warriors through a gap in the forest as they emitted loud war cries. This movement led the Americans to believe that the number of warriors present was much larger than there actually was. As the British approached, a ball from one of the canons hit the officer’s mess in Fort Detroit, killing four people. Fearing a massacre, Hull began negotiating a surrender of the fort and town.

During the siege and surrender of Detroit, seven Americans were killed and 2,493 were captured by the British. The local Michigan militia was permitted to return home, but the American army soldiers were taken to Quebec as prisoners.

The loss of Detroit was an embarrassing defeat for the Americans. As a result, the war’s situation in the Northwest deteriorated. Americans could no longer anticipate a triumphant march into Canada. Fort Detroit remained in British hands for over a year until being re-taken by Major General William Henry Harrison in the fall of 1813.

MATERIALS USED:

Data Element

- *Profiles of Influential Detroiters*

Worksheet

- *Profiles of Influential Detroiters*

LESSON SEQUENCE:

1. Explain to the students that they will be learning about a few important early Detroiters. People are what make history real and exciting. By learning about these people, they will gain a sense of early life in Detroit and how early Detroiters coped.
2. Hold a brainstorming session. Ask the students what they remember about some of the important events in Detroit’s history (e.g. Great Fire of 1805, founding of the city in 1701, etc.) Write their answers on the board in the appropriate place on a timeline.
3. Then, explain that this study of important Detroiters will include people who made a difference after the Americans took control of the city in 1796 to 1837. Some questions that can help students recall events during that time period are:
 - When was Detroit involved in wars? And why?
 - What major disaster destroyed the whole village of Detroit?
 - Under what circumstances did the British take control of Detroit for the second time?
4. Explain that people were involved in these events who assumed leadership and responsibility. Ask your students to name important Detroiters from this time period and write their names on the board. Examples can include General Anthony Wayne, Lewis Cass, and any of the Detroit mayors.
5. Distribute copies of *Profiles of Influential Detroiters* data element and worksheet. Divide the class into four groups. Assign each group one of the biographies.
6. Ask each group to read their biography and

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complete the worksheet. The sheet contains the following questions:

- What did he contribute to Detroit's growth?
 - What important events happened during his lifetime?
 - What were his major accomplishments?
 - What characteristics did he possess that made him a leader?
7. One by one, have each group present their report on their influential Detroiters.
 8. Hold a class discussion. Ask the students:
 - What are the personal characteristics that made these individuals leaders in their community?
 - Are these characteristics important for leaders today?
 - What can you learn about being a leader from reading about these Detroiters?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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LINKS

1802 Map of Michigan. May-Journal Website. 22 November 2011. <http://bay-journal.com/maps/1802-mi.html>

History Detroit, 1701-2001. 22 November 2011. <http://www.historydetroit.com/>

"I Arrived at Detroit..." Clarke Historical Library. Central Michigan University. 22 November 2011. http://clarke.cmich.edu/resource_tab/information_and_exhibits/i_arrived_at_detroit/i_arrived_at_detroit_index.html

Michigan History: The Detroit News. 22 November 2011. <http://detnews.com/history/>

For more information about the
Detroit Historical Society,
or to schedule a field trip to the
Detroit Historical Museum or
Dossin Great Lakes Museum,
visit detroithistorical.org

PROFILES OF INFLUENTIAL DETROITERS

Use *Profiles of Influential Detroiters*, your textbook, and the Detroit Timeline on the *Building Detroit* website to work as a group to answer the questions below. Include as much information as possible. Use complete sentences.

Name of Detrouiter: _____

Year of birth: _____ Year of death: _____

How did he contribute to Detroit's growth?

What important events happened during his lifetime?

What were his major accomplishments?

What characteristics did he possess that made him a leader?



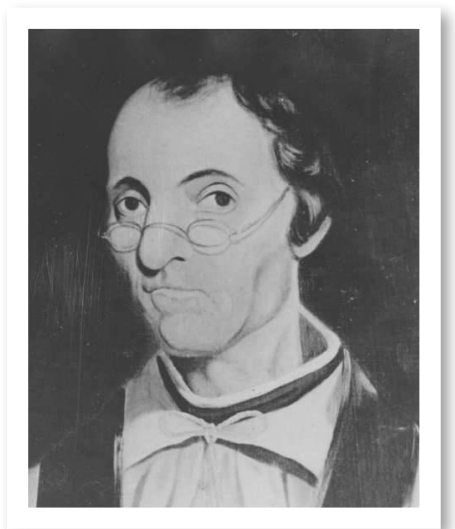
PROFILES OF INFLUENTIAL DETROITERS (PAGE 1)

FATHER GABRIEL RICHARD (1767 - 1832)

Bonjour mes ami. Good day friends. My name is Father Gabriel Richard. I was born in 1767 in France. I came to Detroit in 1798 to become a Catholic priest at Detroit's St. Anne's Church. I am also a former representative to Congress from the Michigan Territory. I was the first priest to serve in the United States Congress!

In 1805 when a fire destroyed our entire settlement, the Heavenly Father gave me strength to assist our good citizens. I have since founded six primary schools and two academies. And my printing press has published many books for our children. I have helped Judge Woodward to found the University of Michigan.

Even now my heart is filled with new plans and projects. In this very year of 1825, the Erie Canal has opened and Congress has authorized a new road from Detroit to Chicago. Several thousand immigrants have arrived ready to buy land here. As we grow, our needs will grow also. We'll need more schools, homes, and libraries. But with God's blessing, Detroit will continue to flourish.



JUDGE AUGUSTUS WOODWARD (1774 - 1827)



Welcome. I am August Woodward, born in New York in 1774 and baptized in a Dutch Reformed Church. I moved to Virginia to study law in 1795, and that's where I became friends with former president Thomas Jefferson. In 1805, Jefferson appointed me as Chief Justice of the Michigan Territory. I knew I was leaving the city to head out to the frontier, and I was surprised to learn that town had been destroyed by fire right before I arrived!

I knew the future of Detroit was important to the future of Michigan, and I saw an opportunity to make it the grandest city in the west. I drew up a plan for a new city similar to our nation's capital of Washington D.C., complete with large public squares connected by avenues like spokes from a wheel. Ah, but few villagers understood my full plan, and only a little was ever built. Woodward Avenue from the river to Grand Circus Park was part of my plan.

Now it is 1824 and Detroit has been transformed from village of French farmers to a center of booming commerce with a capitol building and courthouse, and a steamboat line, which I promoted. Land is selling quite nicely now and trade routes will soon open to the Great Lakes. And I have built the University of Michigania, which will help educate our citizens. My friends, I urge you to take advantage of our growth. Detroit has much to offer. It is a place of opportunity and it is a place that will become a great city.

PETER DENISON (C.1760 - C.1815)

My name is Peter Denison. I don't know what exact year I was born, but I have been in Detroit since 1784 when Mr. Tucker bought me from Mr. Macomb. You see, I was a slave. In 1785, I married my wife Hannah. She was a slave, too. We both worked on Mr. Tucker's land.

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Today, in 1808, we are both free. We served our time as slaves, you might say. However, my four children are still owned by Mrs. Tucker. Last year I went to court to sue for their freedom. I've heard people say that I was the first person in America to sue for freedom. Judge Woodward ruled that slavery is now illegal in Detroit, and that helped some African Americans in Michigan. Those born after 1796 cannot be enslaved. But that didn't help our family much. Judge Woodward ruled that our son Peter Jr. will be a slave until he is 25. But since Elizabeth, James and Scipio were born before 1796, they are the property of the Tucker family for life.

After the court case went against us, some folks say I helped two of my children escape to freedom in Canada. I won't say if I did or if I didn't. Things could be worse; at least Hannah and I are free. And I have earned the respect of many Detroiters. Just this year the Territorial Governor, Mr. Hull, made me commander of the Black Militia. Detroit does have opportunities for some of us African Americans and maybe someday for all of us. But I still miss my children.

JOSEPH CAMPAU (1769 - 1863)

My name is Jacques, and it is a sad day for me: July 27, 1863. I just heard of the death of Joseph Campau. He was a good man who lived a full life of 94 years. Mr. Campau owns the house that my family and I lived in for years and the land we cultivated. Why, if it were not for his charity, I would not have been able to live here in Detroit. You see, my wife and I came here as a poor couple looking for someone to give us a chance. Mr. Campau rented us a ribbon farm in the early days. When the crops were bad and we couldn't pay rent, Mr. Campau lowered the payment or forgave the debt altogether!

He used to come and have dinner with us and tell us stories of earlier times here in Detroit. His grandfather came here with Cadillac in 1701 when the first fort was built. He told us about how the whole town was burnt to the ground by fire in 1805. While many people got discouraged and left Detroit, Mr. Campau quickly rebuilt his house - it's the modest yellow one over on Jefferson Avenue between Griswold and Shelby. And, oh, how he loved children! He had twelve of his own with his wife Adelaide.

It is true that he was the wealthiest citizen and largest landowner in Detroit. But he never let that go to his head. He used to say that the Lord taught him to do unto others as he would have others should do unto him. He did many things to help Detroit become the great city it is today. He was indeed a great pioneer merchant of Michigan. He had many branch stores throughout the territory where he bought and sold goods to Frenchmen, immigrants and Native Americans alike. He had a very large Native American trade for about 40 years.

I seem to remember he did some business with the Northwestern Fur Company. He was one of the original stockholders of the first territorial bank with his friend, General John Williams. He and Williams also helped start the *Democratic Free Press* newspaper. He even owned stock in the Detroit and St. Joseph Railroad.

Mr. Campau was a hard-working, but frugal man. He dressed simple and was very organized. You could ask him for a copy of any receipt and he could go to a cabinet and pull it right out.

I hear the funeral will be held in two days. Many are talking about how this will be the largest affair we have seen in Detroit for a long time. I can't think of a single Detroiter who wouldn't want to go and pay his last respects to such a great man as Joseph Campau.