Title
Lost Iron Range

Intended Grade Level
Grades 5 / 6

Subject Area(s) Integrated
General Social Studies

MN State Curriculum Standards Grade 5-6

Strand 3 Geography, Sub strand 3 Geospatial Skills
Standard 3 People use geographic representations and geospatial technologies to acquire, process and report information within a spatial context.

6.3.1.1.1 Create and use various kinds of maps, including overlaying thematic maps, of places in Minnesota; incorporate the “TODALS” map basics, as well as points, lines and colored areas to display spatial information. Title, Organization, Date, Author, Legend, Source

6.3.3.6.1 Geographic factors influence the distribution, functions, growth and patterns of cities and other human settlements.

I. Instructional Objective
Create and use various kinds of maps, including overlaying thematic maps, of places in Minnesota and locate, identify and describe major physical features in Minnesota; explain how physical features and the location of resources affect settlement patterns and the growth of cities in different parts of the Iron Range region of Northern Minnesota.

II. Concept/Main Idea of Lesson
Students will develop a concrete basis for the changes in a community as influenced by human systems associated with the development of economy. Students will identify and analyze the interconnectedness of the environment and humans including the positive / negative impacts to each. Students will show their findings through maps.

III. Learning Activities Sequence

a. Set Induction/Lesson Initiating Behavior:
Trivia Quiz:
List three characteristics of the white pine that made it valuable.
For what would the white pine be used
In the town of Virginia, MN a sawmill was known for what unique characteristics.
What is physical barrier created a challenge for the timber industry that would be solved with railroads?
Where do we use steel?
Where did the Steele Industry start?
What is meant by the “Iron Range”?
Where is the “Iron Range”?
List in order the people who live in an area by length of time: Fur traders, Natives, Explorers, Miners
What is another name for Gitchi Gumi?
What Language is the term Gitchi Gumi From?
What is a reservation?

b. Learning Activities:
1. After taking the trivia quiz, watch the video “Lost Iron Range.” Students will correct their information during the video.
2. Using topography maps and Google Earth, students will create an overlay map showing the Iron Range Region with the following cities: Duluth, Virginia, Gilbert, Hibbing, Chisholm, Sparta, Ely, Mt. Iron, Buhl on the first layer
3. The second layer or first overlay will show the lakes, rivers and laurentian divide
4. The third layer will show the electric car path on the Mesabi Iron Range
5. The Fourth layer will show the various “Iron Ranges” of Minnesota: Mesabi, Cyuna, Vermilion
6. The fifth layer will show the mining communities that disappeared: Section 30 (by Ely), Genoa (by Sparta),
7. The sixth layer will show the street car route
8. The final or seventh layer will show the American Indian Nations (reservations) in and around the three “Iron Ranges”
9. Students must remember to use “TODALS” map basics, as well as points, lines and colored areas to display spatial information. Title, Organization, Date

c. Closure:
1. Evaluation: Using the overlay maps, students will write an explanation explaining the positive and negative effect topography and business had on the development of communities and business
2. Final Evaluation: Students share their previous misconceptions after viewing the “Lost Iron Range” video

IV. Materials and Resources

- Tracing Paper
- Maps of Minnesota
- Template of Minnesota
- Lost Iron range Video by WDSE/WPRT