



Surf the Mississippi at St. Anthony Falls

Instructions for students:

Visit the following internet sites and answer the following questions.

- A. Explore Archaeology in Twin Cities at: <http://www.fromsitetostory.org>
First click on "Twin Cities Metro Area", then "Bridgehead (Federal Reserve Site)"

1. Before beginning an archaeological dig, archaeologists must first _____
the history of the site.

2. Scroll down to the excavation findings (Step 4) for 28 1st Street North (Knoblach Boot and Shoe Manufacturer).

Name two items found at this site that might also be found at your home:

_____ and _____.

Name two items found at this site that probably would NOT be found at your home:

_____ and _____.

3. What is a privy? _____.

Many clues to what the Knoblach family ate were found in the family's privy. Where would future archeologists find clues to what your family eats?

- B. Explore St. Anthony Falls at: <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil>
First click on "History," then "Historical Publications," then "Engineering the Falls."

1. Click on the diagram of the falls to enlarge it. What is the main idea shown by the diagram?

2. Read the first paragraph in the "Overview" section, then name four values or uses that people have had for St. Anthony Falls.

3. Scroll down to the part about "Geology."

1) 12,000 years ago a huge waterfall over 175 feet tall existed near what present-day place?

2) From its origins near _____, St. Anthony Falls retreated slowly upstream at about _____ feet per year until it reached its present location.

3) Geologists estimate that the waterfall was originally about _____ feet high, but by the early 19th century, explorers described it as only about _____ feet high.

- C. Explore historical river vessels (boats) at: <http://www.mnhs.org/>
Click on "Search." Then type in "Mississippi River vessel types." Find and click on "Vessel Types on Minnesota's Inland Waters."

1. Name three ways of powering a vessel on the Mississippi River without fuel.

2. Describe a flatboat. How was it propelled and steered? What were its uses?

Teachers' notes

re: "Surf the Mississippi at St. Anthony Falls"

A.1. research.

A.2. (Answers will vary.) Items that might be found in student's homes might include toys, dishes, toothbrush, cooking items. Items unlikely to be found in student's homes might include a slate, shoemaking supplies, pigs feet bones, beads

A.3. A privy is an outdoor toilet. The waste falls into a pit dug into the ground. Future archaeologists would most likely need to go to a municipal dump to find evidence of what people ate but they would not be able to connect the evidence to a particular family.

B.1. The diagram shows the recession, or erosion, of the waterfall from 1660 to 1887.

B.2. The falls have been valued for religious significance, a landmark, geological interest, scenic beauty, water power, and navigation.

B.3. 1) 12,000 years ago the predecessor of St. Anthony Falls was located near downtown St. Paul. (It is referred to as River Warren Falls.)

B.3. 2) what is now Ft. Snelling; four

B.3. 3) 180; 16-20

C. The exact web site location is...

<http://www.mnhs.org/places/nationalregister/shipwrecks/mpdf/incraft.html>

C.1. Ways to power vessels on the Mississippi River without fuel include: wind, water, hand (human power or paddle), and horse. (Indicated in first subtitle of this web site.)

C.2. Flatboats are strong, box-like boats with flat bottoms, perpendicular sides, and upturned ends. They sometimes were covered throughout their entire length. They were constructed to float with the current (they were water-powered) and were steered by large oars or sweeps placed at the ends. Most flatboats never returned after descending the river; often, they were dismantled and used or sold for lumber at their downstream destination.

D. Optional: Explore other river-related web sites:

For students:

1. <http://discovery.mnhs.org/ConnectingMN/> (Forest, Fields and Falls- MHS site)
2. <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/navigation/default.asp?pageid=166> (Boat animation through a lock.)
3. <http://education.usace.army.mil/> (Educational resources and games for kids)

For teachers:

1. <http://www.shakopeedakota.org/crp/crp.html> (*Learning from the Dakota* 5th grade social studies unit and map of Dakota historic presence in MN River valley)
2. <http://www.mrdbridges.com/stoneArch.php> (St. Anthony Falls area bridges- photos, history, descriptions)