

MICHIGAN

HISTORY

Michigan has been home to Native nations, French fur traders, British soldiers and American settlers. Each of them shaped the state you see on the map today.

The First Peoples

People have lived in Michigan for about 12,000 years. By the 1600s, three related nations lived around the lakes: the Ojibwe, the Odawa and the Potawatomi. They called themselves the Anishinaabek and were allies in the Council of Three Fires. They fished, hunted, grew corn, made maple sugar and traveled in birchbark canoes. The name Michigan comes from the Ojibwe word mishigami, which means great water.

The French and the Fur Trade

French explorers reached Michigan around 1620. They came for beaver fur, which sold for high prices in Europe. In the **fur trade**, Native hunters traded furs for kettles, cloth, tools and guns. In 1668, Father Jacques Marquette started a mission at Sault Ste. Marie, now Michigan's oldest city. In 1701, Antoine Cadillac built a fort and town named Detroit.

Pontiac's War

Britain took Michigan from France in 1760. In 1763, the Odawa leader Pontiac led many tribes against the British. Ojibwe warriors played a ball game outside Fort Michilimackinac, chased the ball through the open gate and captured the fort. Pontiac held Detroit under **siege** for more than five months but could not take it.

The War of 1812

Michigan became part of the United States after the American Revolution. In the War of 1812, the British

captured Detroit. After a battle on the River Raisin in 1813, Native warriors fighting for Britain killed dozens of wounded American prisoners. "Remember the Raisin!" became a battle cry, and American troops won Detroit back that year.

From Territory to State

Congress made Michigan a **territory** in 1805. In **treaties** signed between 1807 and 1842, the tribes gave up nearly all of their Michigan land to the United States in exchange for payments, goods and smaller areas set aside for them. Some Potawatomi were moved west of the Mississippi River. Many Native families stayed, and twelve tribes have their governments in Michigan today. When the Erie Canal opened in 1825, settlers could travel from New York by water. Michigan grew from about 9,000 people in 1820 to more than 212,000 in 1840. It became the 26th state on January 26, 1837.



Building Michigan

Settlers cleared farms and built towns, roads and schools. From about 1870 to 1900, Michigan cut more lumber than any other state. Miners dug copper and iron in the Upper Peninsula. In the 1900s, Detroit's factories put the country on wheels. During World War II those factories built tanks and planes instead. At Willow Run, workers finished a B-24 bomber about every hour.

MICHIGAN THROUGH TIME

1668	1701	1763	1805	1825	1837	1847	1913	1957
Sault Ste. Marie is founded	Cadillac founds Detroit	Pontiac's War	Michigan Territory is created	The Erie Canal opens	Michigan becomes the 26th state	Lansing becomes the capital	Ford starts the moving assembly line	The Mackinac Bridge opens

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Pontiac	Odawa war leader. The city of Pontiac is named for him.
Henry Ford	Born on a farm near Dearborn. Built the Model T.
W.K. Kellogg	Started his cereal company in Battle Creek in 1906.
Gerald Ford	Grew up in Grand Rapids. The 38th president.
Stevie Wonder	Born in Saginaw. Joined Motown Records at age 11.

WORDS TO KNOW

fur trade	swapping animal furs for other goods
siege	surrounding a fort or town to force it to give up
territory	land run by the United States that is not yet a state
treaty	a written agreement between nations