



## ***Friends Good Will's*** **Great Lakes Journey**

*Friends Good Will* was built in Michigan at the River Rouge in 1810 as a **merchant vessel**. In the summer of 1812, she was **chartered** by the federal government to take military supplies to **Fort Dearborn**, a small military and trading post at what is now **Chicago**. She was returning with furs and skins when she was **lured** into the harbor of **Mackinac Island**. The British, having taken the island just days before on July 17, were flying false colors above the fort **ramparts**. The British **confiscated** the vessel and **cargo**, imprisoned the crew, and renamed the vessel *Little Belt*. She was armed, taken into service, and fought with the Royal Navy until September of 1813, when she was recaptured by United States Master Commandant Oliver Perry at the Battle of Lake Erie. Within an hour after the great guns fell silent, Perry mentioned her in his now famous **dispatch**, "We have met the enemy and they are ours: Two Ships, two brigs, one schooner and one sloop." That **sloop** was *Friends Good Will*.

*Friends Good Will* then served in the United States Navy, transporting General William Henry Harrison's troops across Lake Erie in the successful **invasion** of **Upper Canada**. She was driven ashore in a storm south of Buffalo in December 1813. In early January 1814, during American efforts to re-**launch** the ship, the British **unceremoniously** burned the once-proud vessel while conducting a raid on Buffalo.

### **Places and People**

#### **River Rouge**

A river near Detroit where ships were built.

#### **Fort Dearborn**

A fort near present-day Chicago.

#### **Mackinac Island**

An island in a strategic location near the straits of Mackinac.

#### **Upper Canada**

A large area in Canada, part of which is just east of Detroit.

#### **Master Commandant Oliver Perry**

An American naval commander in charge of a fleet of ships during the War of 1812.

#### **General William Henry Harrison**

An American army general who successfully invaded Upper Canada and eventually became president.



# The Great Lakes Journey Lesson

**The Great Lakes of Michigan were not always the playground of power and sail boats. The first crafts on the Great Lakes were Native American canoes. In the 1700 and 1800's, French traders, British soldiers, and finally American merchants claimed her waters. *Friends Good Will's* journey through the Great Lakes was during a time of trade, conflict, and Westward movement.**

## Quest:

Michigan Core Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks alignment:

English Language Arts: ELA.V.7.LE.1, ELA. IX.11.LE 1-4, ELA.VI.8.LE 1-2

Social Studies: SS.I.2.LE.1-4

**Dispatch:** students read and comprehend expository text

Provide a copy of *Friends Good Will's* Great Lakes Journey to students. Assist students to read and understand the story. As a group, use a reading strategy such as KWL to help students comprehend the events of the text.

**Vocabulary Challenge:** students learn to use new vocabulary words

**Merchant vessel** A boat used to transport items for sale or trade

**Charter** To hire or rent a vessel to transport items or people

**Lure** To attract, entice, or tempt

**Ramparts** A wall-like ridge used as a means of protection or defense

**Confiscate** To seize by or to use authority to take something

**Cargo** The items carried by a ship

**Dispatch** A written message, particularly an official communication, sent with speed

**Sloop** A single-masted, sailing boat

**Invasion** The act of taking over or conquering a territory by armed force

**Launch** To put (a boat) into the water in readiness for use

**Unceremoniously** To do something in an informal manner

## Twenty Questions Vocabulary Game

Help students learn new vocabulary using this game.

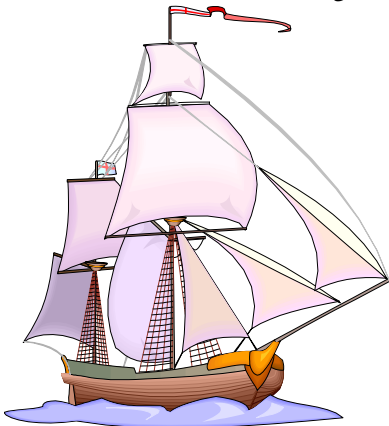
1. Write vocabulary words on index cards with one card for each word.
2. Divide students into four teams.
3. Each team takes a turn selecting a card.
4. The team that is "it" must answer "yes" or "no" questions from the other teams as they are taking turns guessing the vocabulary word.
5. When the vocabulary word is guessed correctly, the card is given to the team that guessed it.
6. The team with the most cards at the end of the game – wins.

**Geography Journey:** students develop map reading skills

1. Display Michigan maps and charts in your classroom.
2. Ask students what maps and charts are used for.
3. Are there different types of maps? Can they name some different kinds of maps and their purposes?
4. Ask students to compare and contrast the 3 maps. How and why are the maps different?
5. Help students identify known places and landmarks on the map. Can they identify where they live?
6. Distribute a copy of the Great Lakes During the War of 1812 map to each student.
7. Using the displayed maps ask the students to identify on their map the following locations:
  - River Rouge
  - Mackinac Island
  - Fort Dearborn
  - Upper Canada
8. Read *Friends Good Will's* Great Lakes Journey. Ask students to draw her journey on their map as you read it a second time.
9. Ask students to keep their maps because, as they learn more about her journey, they will want to add to their maps.

**Commission:** student use research, problem solving, and writing skills

1. Ask students to imagine that *Friends Good Will* is making the same journey today and she will take passengers on this cruise of the Great Lakes stopping at the same ports – but this time for pleasure.
2. Tell the students that their job is to create a cruise brochure to encourage people to buy a ticket to sail the Great Lakes on *Friends Good Will*.
3. Working in groups or individually, ask students to make decisions about:
  - The length of the cruise
  - What passengers will do and see in the ports of: Detroit, Mackinac Island, and Chicago
  - How much the tour will cost and what amenities are included
4. Provide students with 8 ½ x 11 colored paper and demonstrate how to make a tri-fold. Supply students with sample cruise ship brochures, if available.
5. Ask students to present their brochures to the class. Display their work on a class bulletin board. Which cruise would most students like to go on? Why?



**What You'll Need:**

- Great Lakes Maps and Charts available to your classroom – if you do not have access to any, try these websites:
  - Links For Great Lakes Region Maps
    - [www.great-lakes.net/gis/maps/](http://www.great-lakes.net/gis/maps/)
    - [www.epa.gov/glnpo/atlas/images/bigo6.gif](http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/atlas/images/bigo6.gif)
    - [www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/naamerica/greatlk.htm](http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/naamerica/greatlk.htm)
    - [www.canadainfolink.ca/greatlksbasin.jpg](http://www.canadainfolink.ca/greatlksbasin.jpg)
    - [www.canadainfolink.ca/Ports1.jpg](http://www.canadainfolink.ca/Ports1.jpg)
    - [www.seagrant.wisc.edu/communications/greatlakes/glacialgift/map.html](http://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/communications/greatlakes/glacialgift/map.html)
- Great Lakes During the War of 1812 Map
- Student copies of Great Lakes During the War of 1812 Map

**Student self-assessment:**

- ✓ Did you research what sights and scenes a passenger might see in each port?
- ✓ Did you use pictures, diagrams, or other visual aides in your brochure?
- ✓ Did you use persuasive language and new vocabulary?

**Exploration:** activities to extend learning

### History:



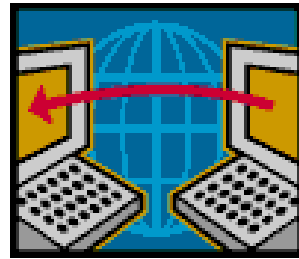
Ask them to think about what types of artifacts may remain from this period of Michigan’s history. Explain to your students the term replica and that the Michigan Maritime Museum has a replica of *Friends Good Will*. Brainstorm what objects and equipment found on a ship of today have changed from 1810. What modern conveniences do we have today that were not available in 1810? What did people do without electricity, automobiles, and telephones?

Ask students to contrast journeys on the Great Lakes aboard the *Friends Good Will* of 1810 and the replica *Friends Good Will* of today. Which one would they rather sail on and why?

**www.MichiganMaritimeMuseum.org:**

Use the Michigan Maritime Museum website as a learning resource. The *Friends Good Will* page has a section entitled, “Education and Training.” This section contains:

- Glossary of Terms
- *Friends Good Will* Timeline
- *Friends Good Will* Children’s Booklist
- Great Lakes During the War of 1812 Map
- West Lake Erie to Lake St. Clair 1813 Chart
- Battle of Lake Erie Chart



**Set Sail:** reflection after visiting *Friends Good Will*

Imagine you are on the crew of *Friends Good Will* as she sails from River Rouge on her journey to deliver military supplies to Fort Dearborn. Write a letter home to your family describing a typical day aboard *Friends Good Will*. Describe for your family what sights you have seen as you sail on Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. Let them know about any encounters you’ve had with Native Americans, French traders, British soldiers, and American merchants.



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