

Teacher Notes

The theme of this lesson is the natural characteristics of Michigan in the form of our state symbols. It also introduces the core democratic value of common good and being a responsible citizen by helping to keep Michigan clean.

The main GLCEs are

3G5.0.1 natural resources and their use

3P3.1.1 identify public issues

Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Lesson 2



Ideas To Explore

common good: what is best for *everyone*, not just yourself. (13)

state flag: Each state has a state flag. What does ours look like? (12)

state symbols: Which symbols (SIM bols) stand for Michigan? (9)



Places To Discover

Isle Royale (sounds like- eye I • roy al) (10)

Lansing (lan sing) (10)



Words to Welcome

coral (KOR al) (10)

deposit (dee pos it) (14)

fossil (fos el) (11)

Kalkaska (kal KAS ka) (10)

Latin (LAT n) (13)

human characteristic (hu man • kar ak ter iz tik) (12)

natural characteristic (11)

nature (11)

opinion (15)

state game mammal (11)

state seal (12)

Tuebor (TOO-a-bor) a Latin word (13)

Michigan
Social
Studies
GLCEs
3G1.0.2
3G5.0.1
3C1.0.1
3C5.0.1
3P3.1.1
3P3.3.1
3P4.2.1
3P4.2.2

OUR STATE SYMBOLS

Think about this question while you read.
How do our state symbols help people learn about Michigan?

Check out our **state symbols** (SIM bols)! The symbols are things which are special to Michigan. Here are some examples.

The **robin** is the *state bird*. People said it is the best known and most loved bird here.



Our *state flower* is the **apple blossom**. It has been the state flower since 1897. In the spring the apple blossoms are beautiful on the trees. Our climate helps this tree grow well here.



The **white pine** is our *state tree*. It is an evergreen. Many were used for lumber long ago. The lumber helped to build lots of homes. Michigan does not have nearly as many white pine trees today. Our climate and soil help this tree grow well here. It grows best in the north part of the state.

The colorful **brook trout** is our *state fish*. It is about eight to ten inches long. Blue, green and red spots cover its sides.



Big Idea

The Warm Up

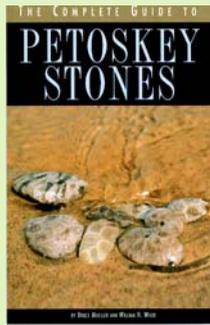
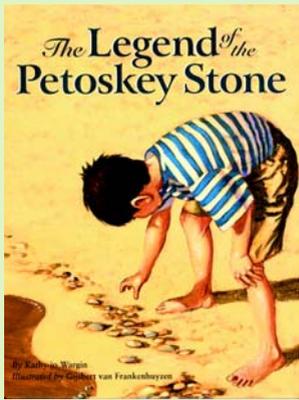
Does your school have school symbols? If it does, talk about them and why they represent your school. If you do not have school symbols, ask your students to choose 4 things that can represent your school and talk about why they want to use those things as school symbols. They might choose an oak tree because there is a big oak in front of the school and so forth. This activity can help lead into the discussion of symbols that represent our state.

3G5.0.1 natural resources and use

Pine trees can be used for Christmas trees and they can give us wood to build houses.

Trout are resources since they can be food.

Teacher Notes



The Legend of the Petoskey Stone is a good story, but does not have much geology. If you want to try to find Petoskey stones for yourself, check out the *Guide to Petoskey Stones*.

If you have a wall map, point out Isle Royale in northern Lake Superior and Kalkaska, which is a bit east of Traverse City.



Chapter 1



Our state symbols are natural characteristics of Michigan. They are a part of nature - the outdoors.



The *state stone* is the **Petoskey stone**. Many are found on the beaches near the city of Petoskey. This stone is very old. Each stone is a piece of ancient **coral**. Coral grows in seas and oceans.

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You may wonder how pieces of coral got here. It means a sea once covered this land! That was a very long time ago. Without that great sea, there would be no Petoskey stone today. Look closely. You can see the coral pattern in the stone.

How do we get a state symbol? Our state government in **Lansing** votes and says so. In 1973 it voted to have a *state gem*. They chose the **green-stone**. You can find these little green stones on **Isle Royale** (eye l roy al). This is an island in Lake Superior. The stones are often on the beaches there.

We even have a *state soil*. This is the **Kalkaska** (kal KAS ka) **soil**. The state government chose this special soil. That was in 1990. This helps people remember how important soil is to all of us. Without soil there would be no farms. We could not grow our food.

A while ago some students felt we should have a *state reptile*. The students thought about it. Then they said the painted turtle would be the best choice. In 1995 the **painted turtle** became Michigan's state reptile!

Lesson 2

The **whitetail deer** is Michigan's *state game mammal*. Over a million deer live here. They are found in every part of the state. Many of you have seen one.

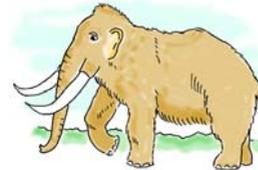


Our *state wildflower* is the **dwarf lake iris**. This kind of flower is hard to find. It is very small.



Dwarf Lake Iris-
Courtesy
Dr. Dennis
Albert

We also have a *state fossil*.
What is a **fossil**? A *fossil was once a living thing that has changed to stone*. It takes a very long time to make a fossil. Most fossils are found in the ground.



a mastodon

Mastodon bones are often found here. Those animals lived here a very long time ago. They looked like hairy elephants. The mastodon was voted the *state fossil* a few years ago.

Made by Nature or by People?

Each state symbol is special to us. Each is found here. Each one is made by **nature**. It is a **natural characteristic** of our state. The robin is made by nature. The apple blossom is made by nature. The Kalkaska soil is made by nature.



Hillsdale College student Chase Beck holds two bones from a mastodon. The bones were found in Hillsdale county.

Teacher Notes



Options for Lesson 2

Your Michigan Quilt
(Worksheet)

State Symbol Time Line
(Get Into the Act!) on CD

Playground Pickup-
(Get Into the Act!) see below

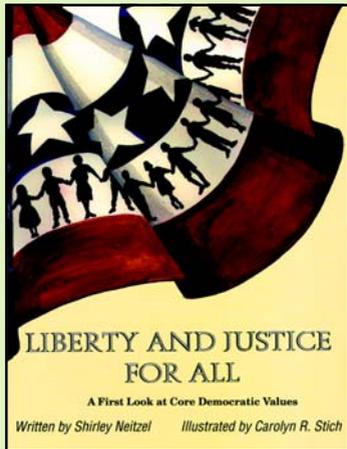
Meet Your Michigan Map
Map activity 1 from ML-3)

Get Into the Act!

Playground Pickup 3P3.1.1
The student who picks up the most litter from the playground gets the "Keep Michigan Clean Award" which we have designed. A picture of the Keep Michigan Clean Award is supplied as a PDF on the teacher CD.



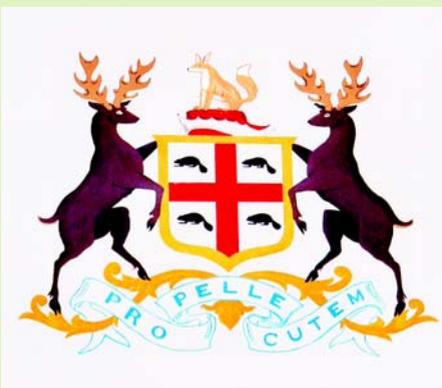
Teacher Notes



You may find the kid friendly approach in *Liberty and Justice for All* by Shirley Neitzel to be helpful in explaining core democratic values.

You may direct students to use the Internet or an encyclopedia to review other state flags.

Below is the seal of the Hudson's Bay Company. Notice the similarities.



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Michigan has **human characteristics** too. These are things made by humans. Men and women made them. Buildings and bridges are human characteristics. A road is a human characteristic. People made it. Another example is a school. On the other hand, a river is a natural characteristic. It was made by nature.



Michigan's Flag

Michigan has its own **state flag**. Have you ever seen it? Most of the flag is bright blue. In the middle is the Michigan **State Seal**.

The state seal is a picture. This picture is used by our state government. You may see it on government papers or at state offices.

The seal has an eagle holding arrows and an olive branch. There is an elk and a moose too. There is also a man with one hand raised. This means peace. In his other hand is a rifle. This means we will



The state seal.

Lesson 2

defend our state. There is also a rising sun and a lake on the state seal.

The seal has several words on it. These words are from an old language called **Latin** (LAT n). One of the Latin words on the flag is “**Tuebor**” (sounds like- TOO-a-bor). It means “I will defend.”



How can you defend Michigan? Have you ever thought about it? One way is to help keep it clean. Do not leave litter along the sidewalk or playground. Pick up after yourself. Do not drop gum and candy wrappers on the ground. Do not leave pop cans at the park. Recycle them instead.



Keeping Michigan clean is good for everyone. It is thinking about the **common good**! Thinking about the common good is thinking about what is good for everyone. It is not thinking just about yourself. It is not being selfish. Helping to keep Michigan clean is helping to defend it. It is also working for the common good.



COMMON GOOD

Thinking about the **COMMON GOOD** is a lot more than thinking about just yourself.

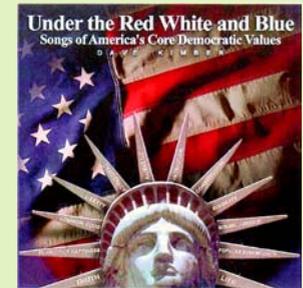
It is thinking about what is good for everyone!

Not just

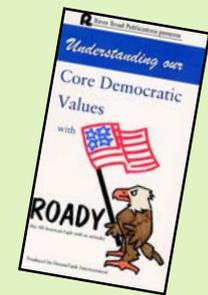


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Teacher Notes



Dave Kimber's *Under the Red, White and Blue* music CD may be a stimulating way to help your students remember the core democratic values.



Showing segments of the *Understanding Core Democratic Values* video produced by Dream Tank Entertainment may also help students understand these values. Both products available through Hillsdale Educational Publishers.

3C5.0.1 rights and responsibilities of citizens

3P3.1.1 identify public issues

Teacher Notes

3C1.0.1 purposes of government

You might ask students if someone who throws trash from their car is thinking about the common good. What are they thinking about? Why would they do that?

3G1.0.2 use thematic maps

Ask what do the yellow states have that the other states do not have? (bottle deposit laws)

3P3.1.1 identify public issues

Chapter 1



The Bottle Bill

Once there were lots of bottles and cans thrown along our roads. It was a mess! People said this made Michigan ugly.

Our state did something. It made a new law in 1976. This is often called the "Bottle Bill." It put a **deposit** on soda pop and other fizzy beverages. *A deposit is money paid up front and given back when the item is returned.* Today the deposit on each bottle or can is 10 cents. People pay an extra 10 cents each. They get it back when they return the bottles and cans to the store. It was felt the deposit would help people take the bottles and cans back.

10¢



Over four billion bottles and cans go back to Michigan stores each year. Wow! The bottle bill is one reason for this. The deposit helps people do what they should do anyway. Our state was one of the first to have deposits. Eleven states now have this kind of deposit law.



States that have bottle and can deposits.

There is still trash on our roads, but not as many bottles or cans. Should we have laws to get rid of other kinds of trash? Why don't more states have deposit laws? What do you think?

Think About It. Write About It!

1. Name three of our state symbols. **3G5.0.1 (p 9-11) Any three of the following:**
 1. The robin is the state bird.
 2. The apple blossom is the state flower.
 3. The white pine is our state tree.
 4. The brook trout is our state fish.
 5. The Petoskey stone is our state stone.
 6. Greenstone is our state gem.
 7. Kalkaska soil is our state soil.
 8. The painted turtle is our state reptile.
 9. The whitetail deer is our state game mammal.
 10. The dwarf lake iris is our state wildflower.
 11. The mastodon is our state fossil.

2. The Petoskey stone is interesting. What does it tell us about Michigan a very long time ago? **3H3.0.1 (p 10)**

The Petoskey stone is coral. Coral grows in seas and oceans. This means that our land was once covered by a sea or ocean. Without water once covering our land, we would not have Petoskey stones.

3. Think about a road and a river. Which one is a natural characteristic? Which one is a human characteristic? **2G2.0.1, 3G1.0.2 (p 12)**

Human characteristics are man-made, like a road. Natural characteristics are made by nature, like a river.

4. How can you help defend or protect Michigan? **3P3.1.1 (p 13)**

I can help protect Michigan by keeping it clean. I can do this by recycling instead of littering.

Brain Stretcher

Draw a picture of a new state flag for Michigan. Include at least one human characteristic and at least one natural characteristic. **3G5.0.1**

Students might pick from our state symbols. They could include other things



like the Mackinac Bridge, the state capitol or a car.

Think Like a Historian

Use the Internet to learn more about how the state seal was made. Who made it? When was it made? Was it made with ideas borrowed from other places? **3H3.0.1**

Lewis Cass designed the state seal. He borrowed parts from the Hudson Bay company seal. The state seal was approved in 1835.

Take a Stand!

How can we have less litter at our parks and playgrounds? Explain your **opinion**. **3P3.3.1**

The best thing to do is to be a good example and not litter and even pick up after others. Students may also have ideas to make rules against those who litter. For example, a student caught littering on the school playground may have to help clean it up during recess.



Make a Plan

Make a “do not litter plan.” What will you say? What is the best way to share your ideas with others? **3P4.2.1, 3P4.2.**

Students may mention putting up signs, having posters in the schools, making radio or cable TV announcements, passing out “Do Not Litter” buttons, etc.