

Evidence From The Past

MN Studies 6
Unit 1 Notes 4

Learning Target 4: I can explain how the land use has changed over time.



Jeffers, MN

Read Northern Lights page 12



Nature Changes the Landscape



Long ago, the climate of Minnesota was very cold and the land was covered in glaciers. As the glaciers receded north, they left scratches on the outcroppings of rocks.

Glaciers are heavy ice sheets that once covered Minnesota and melted away about 12,500 years ago.



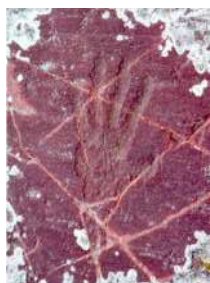
Messages From the Past

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Messages From the Past

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Ancient man-made rock carvings of symbols are called Petroglyphs.

These carvings are symbols that provide records of histories and traditional stories.

Many American Indian elders believe Jeffers is a sacred place of guidance and healing.

Elders are older members of a community respected for their knowledge and wisdom.

Messages from the Past

Read Northern Lights page 15



Special scientists called Archaeologists study human history by looking at the evidence people left behind.

Petroglyphs are examples of evidence of human history. Archaeologists have been studying the petroglyphs at Jeffers to learn about the people who lived in Minnesota thousands of years ago.



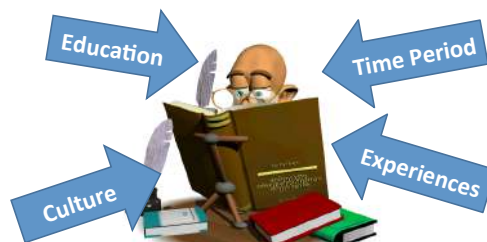
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Messages from the Past

When people examine historical objects like primary sources, they interpret them based on their perspective.

A Perspective is the way a person sees and understand the world.



Read Northern Lights page 17 (Top)

One Way of Knowing



For centuries native people have kept their history alive through Oral History.

Oral History is the purposeful retelling of stories about the past events and legends of a group in order to teach about that group's culture.

There are oral histories shared by American Indian elders that can help us understand more about the possible meanings to the petroglyphs at Jeffers.

Another Way of Knowing

Archaeologists at Jeffers have found many types of physical evidence of human history to use in their scientific research to learn more about the humans who created the petroglyphs.

Archaeologists study artifacts- any object made, used, or altered by humans.



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Comparing Perspectives



American Indian Elders' Perspective:
There are multiple American Indian oral histories that could explain the meaning of the hand carving at Jeffers.

1. Friendship

- Shaking hands is a sign of friendship and trust.
- Pledging friendship to someone.
- Leaving a sign of friendship to people who would come later.



Read Northern Lights page 17 -18

Comparing Perspectives



American Indian Elders' Perspective:
There are multiple American Indian oral histories that could explain the meaning of the hand carving at Jeffers.

2. Grief

- When Dakota women lose their husbands, they hold their hand to their faces and wipe tears away using their palm.



Read Northern Lights page 17 -18

Comparing Perspectives



American Indian Elders' Perspective:
There are multiple American Indian oral histories that could explain the meaning of the hand carving at Jeffers.

3. Death

-The Hand Constellation (also recognized as Orion) is believed by many tribes to be the place in the sky where the souls of the dead leave the world or begin a spiritual journey.



Read Northern Lights page 18-19

Comparing Perspectives



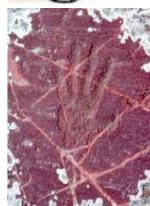
Archaeologists' Perspective:
Archaeologists studying the petroglyphs ask questions about the artifacts and conduct experiments to try to answer those questions and learn more about the people who lived long ago.

1. Question:

How long did it take the Jeffers rock carvers to make a handprint?

2. Make a Hypothesis

The rock is pretty hard but it might take several hours to carve a handprint if they used quartzite to hit the stone.



Read Northern Lights page 18-19

Comparing Perspectives



Archaeologists' Perspective:

3. Perform an Experiment

1. Paint their hand onto quartzite slab.
2. Find a stone to use as a hammer.
3. Record the time they started and begin hitting the slab over and over following their painted hand outline.

4. Record Findings

It took 42 minutes to make a handprint.



Read Northern Lights page 18-19

Comparing Perspectives



Archaeologists' Perspective:

5. Conclusion

The people who made the Jeffers petroglyphs could have carved a handprint in less time the archaeologists originally predicted.

