**Settler Family**

Read this passage aloud with your group:

You are part of a settler family who recently immigrated to New York City from Germany. The year is 1880 and you have decided to travel by steamship to Port Oneida, Michigan in what is now known as Sleeping Bear Dunes. In New York there is little opportunity for a person to acquire land. In Michigan, however, rumor has it that plenty of land is available for settling. The government is encouraging you to go. Furthermore, there is talk of work available at lumbermills in the area. The journey is long, beginning with an overland trip to Buffalo, NY on the shore of Lake Erie, followed by a journey around the Lower Peninsula of Michigan by steamship. You will arrive in late Spring. You’ve heard that winters in northern Michigan can be very cold with significant snow accumulations.

The land is covered with dense deciduous and coniferous forests. Wildlife abounds, including bear, deer, bobcats, passenger pigeons, and wolves. There is a resident population of Indians in the area, but the settlers have had little contact with them.

Farming in Port Oneida is marginal at best. The sandy glacial soils and unreliable water supply will make things difficult. Farmers here grow an assortment of crops with potatoes as the primary cash crop. Grain is used to sustain small herds of dairy cattle. Most of the people are employed outside their farms, usually in seasonal jobs. You have brought with you vegetable and grain seeds, a few hand tools, and a plow.

As a family, you must now have a discussion about the things you have to do to establish a home in the Michigan wilderness before the arrival of winter. Discuss the five items listed below and write your answers on the back of this sheet.

1. Make a list of things that must be done in your first year

1. Arrange the items in your list in the order which they must be accomplished

1. Who will do what?

1. Evaluate your list to make sure it’s realistic in terms of season and weather.

1. Discuss and make a second list describing the environmental impact each activity will have.

**Odawa Family**

Read this passage aloud with your group:

You are part of an Odawa family native to Northern Michigan. The year is 1880 and you have recently arrived in the Platte Plains area of what is now known as Sleeping Bear Dunes for spring camp. The last snow of the season has passed, and temperatures are mild with frequent rainstorms. Although conditions are pleasant now, you are all too familiar with the fact that winters in northern Michigan can be very cold with significant snow accumulations. You are keen to begin gathering and growing food, and several members of your family are experienced hunters and fishermen as well.

The land is covered with dense deciduous and coniferous forests. Wildlife abounds, including bear, deer, bobcats, passenger pigeons, and wolves. There are settler communities in nearby areas, but your tribe has had little contact with them.

You have brought with you materials for your wigwam, a sturdy birchbark canoe, nets made from basswood fiber and a variety of birchbark baskets for gathering food. Additionally, you have some beans, corn and squash seeds for planting.

As a family, you must now have a discussion about the things you have to do to establish a camp in the Michigan wilderness. Discuss the five items listed below and write your answers on the back of this sheet.

1. Make a list of things that must be done in your first year

1. Arrange the items in your list in the order which they must be accomplished

1. Who will do what?

1. Evaluate your list to make sure it’s realistic in terms of season and weather.

1. Discuss and make a second list describing the environmental impact each activity will have.