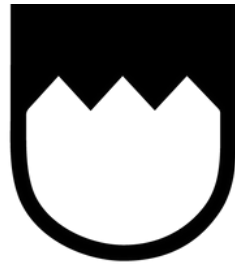




# HISTORY AT HOME



**FRANKENMUTH  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**



THE FOUNDING OF MICHIGAN'S  
LITTLE BAVARIA: K-6



THE FOUNDING  
OF MICHIGAN'S  
LITTLE  
BAVARIA

Educational Learning Packet  
for Teachers and K-6 Grade  
Students

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# Introduction

The study of history provides crucial lessons about the past that are relevant to the present and future. The purpose of the Frankenmuth Historical Association's (FHA) Learning Packets and History at Home virtual learning program is to serve as a link between the past and the future, by interpreting the lives of the people of Frankenmuth and the community itself. They also fulfill the mission of the Frankenmuth Historical Association, which is to preserve, communicate, and celebrate the heritage of the Franconian communities and to promote a greater appreciation for local, regional, national and world history among the residents of and visitors to Frankenmuth.

*The Founding of Michigan's Little Bavaria* is designed for students in grades K-6, but is easily adaptable to other grade levels. Teachers are encouraged to use the readings, lessons, questions, and activities contained within in the way most appropriate for their students.

The Frankenmuth Historical Association's Learning Packets are designed to enhance the educational offerings of the FHA and are incorporated within the larger History at Home virtual learning program. History at Home contains other valuable educational materials, such as our podcast, "Historians in Lederhosen," and blogs. These learning materials, along with the in-person educational programs the FHA offers, tell a more complete story of Frankenmuth and its residents.



# State of Michigan Curriculum

Our History at Home program is designed to teach increasingly important skills *through* the study of history. Our program and these learning packets will enhance student skills such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, public speaking, writing, and reading comprehension and interpretation.

Teachers and parents are encouraged to use the History at Home program. The Frankenmuth Historical Association has worked with educational experts and the State of Michigan to ensure that these packets align with state curriculum standards. Students will meet the following learning outcomes in this learning packet:

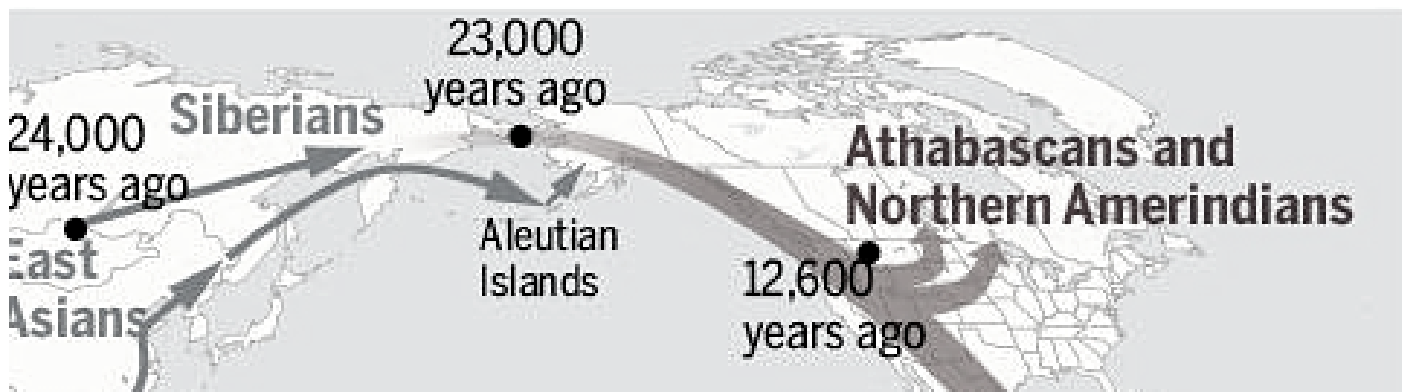
1. Distinguish among the past, present, and future.
2. Identify questions historians ask in examining the past in Michigan.
3. Describe ways people learn about the past.
4. Explain the challenges people have faced and actions they have taken to address issues at different times and places.
5. Create a timeline.
6. Compare life today with the past.
7. Describe changes in local community over time.
8. Construct a historical narrative about the history of the local community from a variety of sources.
9. Describe the causal relationships between multiple events in the past (German push factors, immigration, and settlement in Frankenmuth).
10. Identify the events and factors that led to European immigration to the United States.



# Long, Long, Ago...

It is hard to believe that mammoths once roamed through the grasslands, swamps, and thick forests that make up Michigan today. But thousands of years ago, wildlife and plants flourished in the Great Lakes State before humans ever inhabited North America. While nobody knows exactly why mammoths disappeared, we do know that they lived in the region as late as 11,000 years ago. Archaeologists, or people who study history by excavating sites, artifacts, and remains, have uncovered the remains of 30 mammoths in Michigan.

Archaeologists have also discovered that the first humans to live in Michigan arrived no earlier than 23,000 years ago. Around that time, an ice age and lower sea levels allowed easy passage across the Bering Strait Land Bridge that connected what is today Russia and Alaska. The first humans were hunters and gatherers who moved from place to place when their food supplies ran out.



## Comprehension Question

How do we know that mammoths once roamed Michigan?

# Anishinaabe

Anishinaabe means "Original People." It is a collective name for groups of indigenous people who live in the United States and Canada. Several groups comprise the Anishinaabe, one of them being the Ojibwe (also known as Chippewa), which was the largest Native American group to live in what would become Frankenmuth. Ojibwe lived in small groups, usually consisting of 5 to 25 families, who sustained themselves by hunting, fishing, gathering berries, and harvesting wild rice and corn. Their religion was also extremely sophisticated. They thought of themselves as being one of many elements of nature, rather than apart from it. They believed that a Great Spirit, Kitchi Manitou, created the heavens and earth, and then summoned lesser spirits to control the wind, water, and natural environment. Anishinaabe preserved their culture through word of mouth and passed it down for centuries.

What values do you share with the Anishinaabe? What are some traditions that your family has?



Treaty of Saginaw, 1819

In 1819, territorial Governor Lewis Cass negotiated the Treaty of Saginaw with the Anishinaabe. The treaty signed over a large swath of land for the price of \$3,000, and the promise of \$1,000 to be paid annually. Many of the Anishinaabe moved Northwest to what is today the Mt. Pleasant area. By the time the first German settlers arrived, there were only a few small groups left in the area.

## Activity.

### Part A: Leaving Home

**Directions:** If you were told you had to leave your home and live somewhere else far away, how would you react? Write your reflections below.

### Part B: Removal?

**Directions:** Write below. What does "removal" mean to you?



Now, watch the following video on removal. After watching the video, has your idea of removal changed? What are your thoughts on Native American Removal?

### Part C: Mapping Removal

Directions: Watch the following video. Write a concluding statement on removal below. What does this video show? How does it change your perspective on Native American removal, and the Treaty of Saginaw in 1819.

By all accounts, the Anishinaabe that remained maintained friendly relations with the earliest German settlers. In fact, our collection holds oral histories of some of these encounters. Frankenmuther Anita Boldt (1911-2003) recalled in her memoirs, “My Great-Grandparents also lived in a log house for a number of years after they came to Frankenmuth from Germany. Their property was in the area across the road from our present public schools. This entire area was still virgin forest and wilderness that they had to clear, so they would be able to plant crops and survive. Great-Grandmother finally had a little plot cleared for her garden. She had a little hand-hewn table between her log house and garden, where she would clean her vegetables before bringing them inside. One warm sunshiny day she sat outside at her table peeling potatoes when she heard a noise in the brush that still was all around their property. She looked up and saw about twenty Indians standing there and watching her. Nobody was around, she was all alone. Great-Grandfather was out in the fields. So she waved for them to come and as she entered her little cabin they followed. She had some bread that morning and there was meat in the cabin. So she gave them all something to eat. When they were finished they started to leave and kept saying, “Bushee-ni-Kawnee,” till they disappeared into the wood. When an interpreter came along some time later, she asked him what they said. He said that it means, “Thank you dear friends, Thank you dear friend.” A few weeks later, Great-Grandmother got up early in the morning to get a pail of water to make coffee for breakfast. As she opened the door, she found a big hunk of venison on the step. She smiled and said, “I know where this comes from. My dear friends were back, but did not care to disturb me during the night, but left this meat to pay me back for feeding them.”



The Thunderbird is a symbol of the Anishinaabe people

### Discussion Question

What were relations like between the Anishinaabe and first German settlers of Frankenmuth?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# FRANKENMUTH WORD SEARCH

Look for the words listed below.

B	C	A	B	I	N	P	U	A
E	L	B	A	E	M	P	L	L
N	O	T	V	W	C	U	O	U
I	R	N	A	U	E	E	T	T
L	E	W	R	R	H	Y	N	H
O	N	N	I	E	H	S	D	E
R	Z	M	A	E	A	C	H	R
A	G	E	R	M	A	N	Y	A
C	Z	M	I	S	S	I	O	N

Loehe

Lutheran

Lorenz

Bavaria

Mission

Cabin

Germany

Caroline

Muth



"HE WHO HAS NOT SEARCHED THE PAST HAS NO AUTHORITY TO PRESENT PROPOSALS FOR THE PRESENT OR FUTURE."

Words of Pastor Wilhelm Loehe, Lutheran Preacher who organized the first settlers to Frankenmuth. What does this quote mean to you?

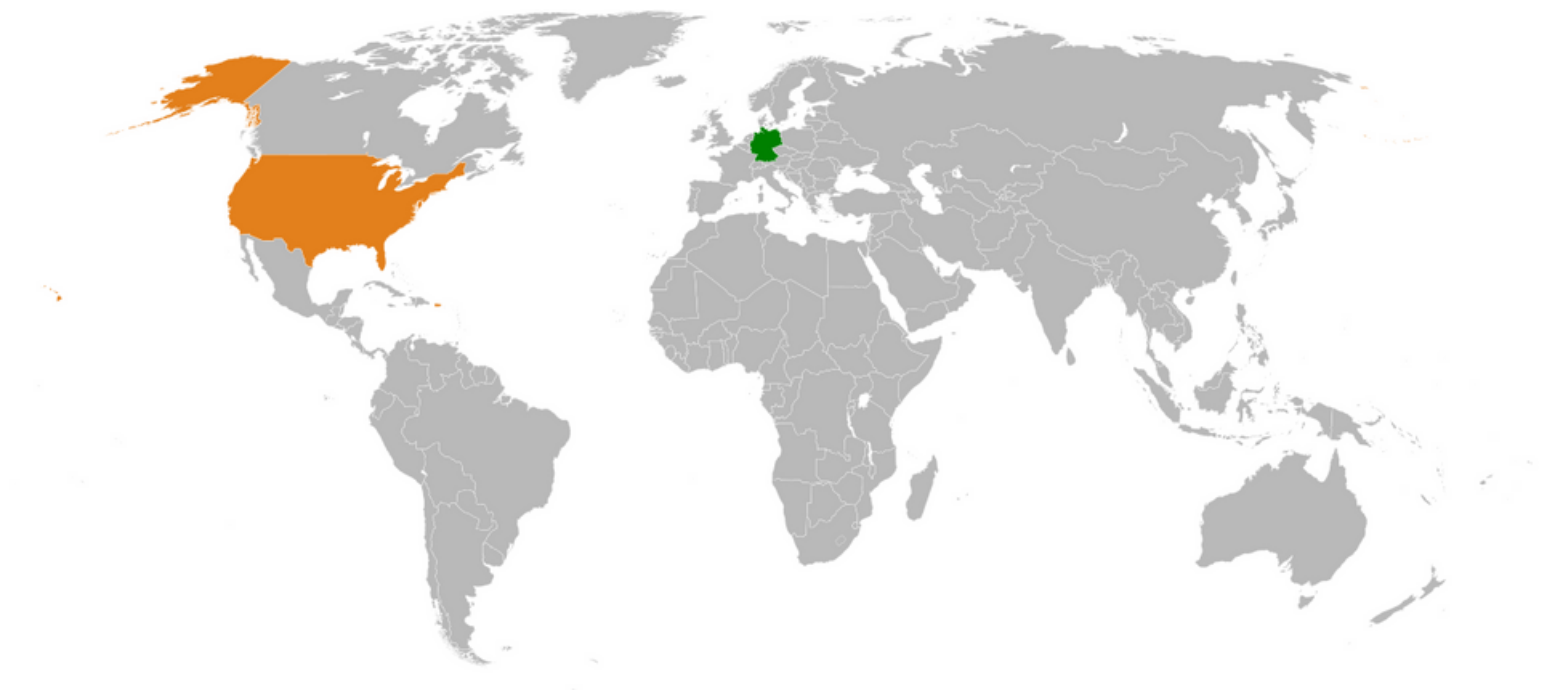
Many people were instrumental in founding Frankenmuth, but perhaps none more instrumental than Lutheran Pastor Wilhelm Loehe. In 1845, Loehe reached out to his little village in Germany called Neuendettelsau. He told them of an opportunity to spread the Lutheran faith in the United States. 15 Germans agreed to make the journey and leave their homes and families to come to the United States.

Around this time, a young 22-year old man, Lorenz Loesel, approached Loehe. He volunteered to lead a missionary colony in Michigan. Loehe organized a group of fifteen, led by Loesel and preacher Friedrich August Craemer, to take the maiden voyage.

## German Roots



Lutheran Pastor Wilhelm Loehe



The group of fifteen spent the winter of 1844 studying the Lutheran faith. After intense sessions to prepare them to evangelize, they began their journey in the Spring of 1845. On April 20, 1845, the group boarded the *Caroline* and set sail for the United States.

Above: The first settlers left Germany to come to the United States. It took over 3 months to travel 4,000 miles.



Comprehension Question  
What items did the first settlers bring with them? Why did they bring them?

In addition to food, supplies, and clothing, settlers brought religious items with them. This included two church bells, a large painting of the crucifixion, a black funeral procession cross, red altar paraments, an altar crucifix, two candlesticks, Communion vessels, a large pulpit Bible, a catechism, a small hymn book, and prayer books.





# St. Lorenz

*Below:* Replica of the first log structure in which church services were held. On the right are the original bells which the settlers brought with them from Germany. It is said that the toll of the bells could be heard for miles.



Many Germans settled in Frankenmuth to evangelize their Lutheran faith. In fact, some of the earliest records indicate that among the first recorded acts of the church are baptisms of Native Americans. Thus, Frankenmuth was considered a “missionary colony.”

In the Spring of 1846, an estimated 90 settlers made a similar voyage from Germany to Frankenmuth. Among them were many who constructed St. Lorenz Church. The name St. Lorenz comes from St. Laurentius, a Christian who was martyred (killed for his faith) in the third century.

## Comprehension Question

What is a "missionary colony?"

And how important was the Lutheran faith to the first settlers?

When the second group arrived in 1846, Frankenmuth became 100 strong. They immediately began planning the construction of a larger, sturdier church and school, which they finished later that year. A replica of this structure stands in its original location on St. Lorenz's grounds.

# Settler's Letter Home

## Background

Margaretha Walther Loesel was born in 1821 in Rostall, Germany. She married Lorenz Loesel aboard the *Carolina*. The following letter is from 1846, the year following their arrival to Frankenmuth. In this letter to her family back in Germany, she details what life was like for the earliest settlers.



Beloved Mother, Brothers, and Sisters,

Our sister, together with all friends has safely arrived. We have received your letter and gifts, for which we thank you. In our previous letter we could tell you much about our activities, sermons, bells, etc. because our dear pastor had the fever in Saginaw for several weeks and later in Frankenmuth too. The fever lasted 11 weeks and kept him weak for a long time. And yet, he performed daily services in the morning and evening whenever possible.

Our first task was to build the parsonage where we succeeded in having our first sermon on Christmas Eve. It required much work for it is 1 and a half floors high, 30 feet long and 20 feet wide, and much has still to be done. But we are happy that we can listen indoors to God's words and receive the Holy Sacraments. As soon as possible we shall start with the church. The bell was put in place on New Years eve and we rang it from mid-night for 1/2 hour and we all sang happily "Glory to God in the Heaven under the open sky."

On Easter Tuesday, our pastor was able to hire an interpreter who speaks English, French, and Indian and is doing very well. They both visited the Indians and invited them to visit our school.... The pastor, his wife and all of us are very happy about them and we understand very well the language of friendly gestures. They are obedient, eager to learn, friendly, very lively and have confidence in us. We are especially happy about the 17 year old boy, who is ready to be baptized.... You can imagine how this sweetens our lives and daily troubles and labors, because God's words are becoming true when He says: "Whosoever wants to be my disciple must negative himself and carry daily his cross."

Lorenz was very weak after the fever, but it was bearable and he was able to work, although with several rests during the day. I have been quite well, the Lord has blessed me with motherhood, I am expecting in about 6 weeks. God will help us. We have been toiling on our land, clearing 7 acres which we seeded partly with wheat, corn, potatoes, and vegetables; for the time being, all looks well.... Don't get the idea that this is paradise on Earth. No, here too you have to earn your daily bread by hard work, but we have good tools so that one man can accomplish as much as 2 men in the old country. In Spring we bought a 3 year old cow with a calf for \$15, and a 8 year old with calf for \$14... In Spring we made about 36 lbs. of sugar, 8 buckets of syrup, 30 buckets of vinegar from our sugar trees. Together with Haspel we bought a pair of 6 year old strong oxen for \$58.50. Up until now we consumed flour, meat, potatoes, as well as some other items for our daily life.

One more thing. We understand there is some gossip at your end about us, namely that we are dressing in the English fashion, in long dresses and hats. Do not believe this. We have other things on our mind. We are Germans in religion and moral, in our jobs and fashion, in work and in housekeeping. We wish our German garments would last long.... The Lord of our fathers is our Lord and we are his children. May He be with you.

Mrs. Lorenz Losel  
June 26, 1846.



Comprehension Questions

1. What struggles did the first settlers face?
2. What kind of food did they eat?
3. What seems to be the most important part of settling in Frankenmuth to Margaretha?
4. What does Margaretha most concerned about? Why?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Write Your Own Settler Letter

## Write Your Own "Settler Letter"

After reading Margaretha's letter, write a letter to someone your family or a friend that you have not seen in a long time. Using the next page, tell them about one room in your house. Describe the size of the room, the furniture, the floor, the walls, what you can see from the windows, and any objects in the room.

## How Well Do We Remember?

Take the letter home with you and compare the description of your room with the actual room. Are there things you remembered incorrectly? What did you remember correctly? Historical letters were also written by people who may not have remembered everything correctly. In fact, our memories can reshape how we remembered what actually happened. This is why it is always best to have two or more people tell about the same place or event.

Historians have to always consider how a person's memories have correctly or incorrectly remembered moments in history. This is called the study of historical memory.

## Objects Hold Special Meanings

Look around the room you have described in your letter.

1. Can you find an object that was given to you or another family member by a close friend or relative?
2. Can you find an object that reminds you of a special event in your life?
3. Look at furniture and other objects in the room. Find one that is damaged, frayed, or dirtied. Is there a story behind the damage that tells something about your life or your family's life?
4. Look for 3 examples of objects that could not have existed in the 1850s. Remember that plastic and electricity were not around then. After you've found the 3 objects, think about what early settlers used instead of those objects.





St. Lorenz church grew in the 1860s and 1870s as families grew and more settlers came to Frankenmuth. During the earliest days, locals travelled by horse and buggy for church services.

As town grew in the late 1800s, the little log church was not big enough to hold its entire congregation. Members debated whether they should build another church miles away, but wanted to keep the community together. So, in 1879, builders constructed a new, much larger church. In 1965, another major addition was added, completing today's version of St. Lorenz.



St. Lorenz is one reason that locals in Frankenmuth have remained so close together. Their histories are forever tied together.



# Bibliography



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## **FRANKENMUTH** **HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

For more learning packets, or for more virtual learning resources, visit [FrankenmuthMuseum.org](https://www.FrankenmuthMuseum.org) and our [YouTube](#) page.