



Humans and the Environment: Outdoor Stories from Michigan

Workbook

Grade: 6
Subject: Social Studies

Michigan Diaries:
Schools
[mi-diaries.org/
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Leah Nodar 2026

Part 1: Maps of Michigan

1.1 Instructions

Today we will hear stories from four Michiganders about activities and adventures they've had outside.

First, look at **Michigan Map #1: Speaker Locations**. Each speaker's area is marked. Compare this map to **Michigan Map #2, #3, and #4**, and answer the following questions for each person.

Brent in Western UP

1. Describe the **elevation** near Brent. (Is it mountainous, hilly, or flat?)
2. What **rivers** and **bodies of water** are near Brent?
3. Describe the **population density** near Brent. (Are there many people nearby, or very few, or in-between?)
4. How might Brent's location shape his lifestyle? How might it shape his community?



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Sally on Mackinac Island

1. Describe the **elevation** near Sally. (Is it mountainous, hilly, or flat?)
2. What **rivers** and **bodies of water** are near Sally?
3. Describe the **population density** near Sally. (Are there many people nearby, or very few, or in-between?)
4. How might Sally's location shape her lifestyle? How might it shape her community?

James in Warren Dunes State Park

1. Describe the **elevation** near James. (Is it mountainous, hilly, or flat?)
2. What **rivers** and **bodies of water** are near James?
3. Describe the **population density** near James. (Are there many people nearby, or very few, or in-between?)
4. How might James' location shape his lifestyle? How might it shape his community?



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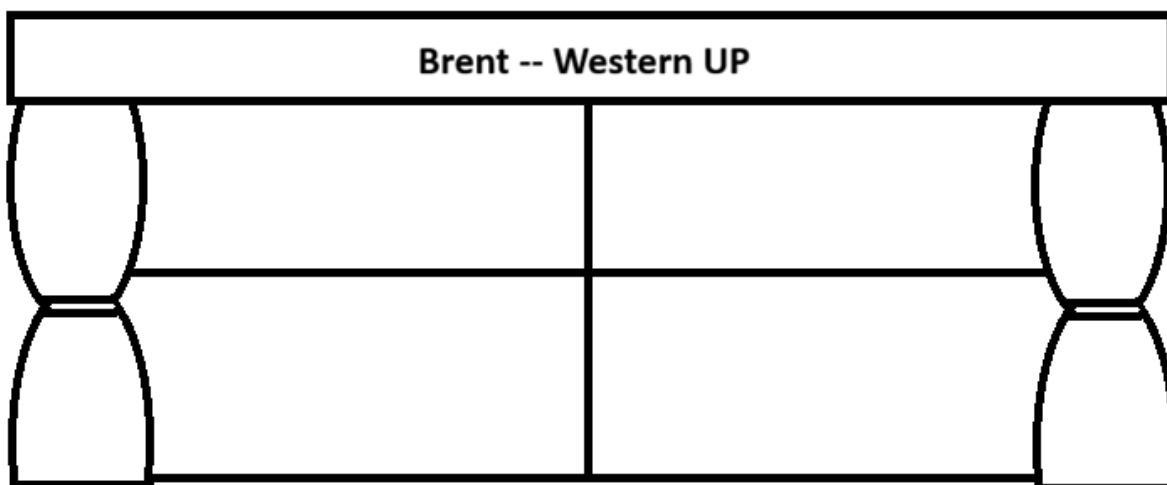
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Alice in Tahquamenon Falls

1. Describe the **elevation** like near Alice. (Is it mountainous, hilly, or flat?)
2. What **rivers** and **bodies of water** are near Alice?
3. Describe the **population density** near Alice. (Are there many people nearby, or very few, or in-between?)
4. How might Alice's location shape her lifestyle? How might it shape her community?

1.2 Instructions

Based on what you learned from these maps, what do you think the view looks like from each person's window? Draw a picture of your idea.





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Sally -- Mackinac Island

James -- Warren Dunes State Park

Alice -- Tahquamenon Falls



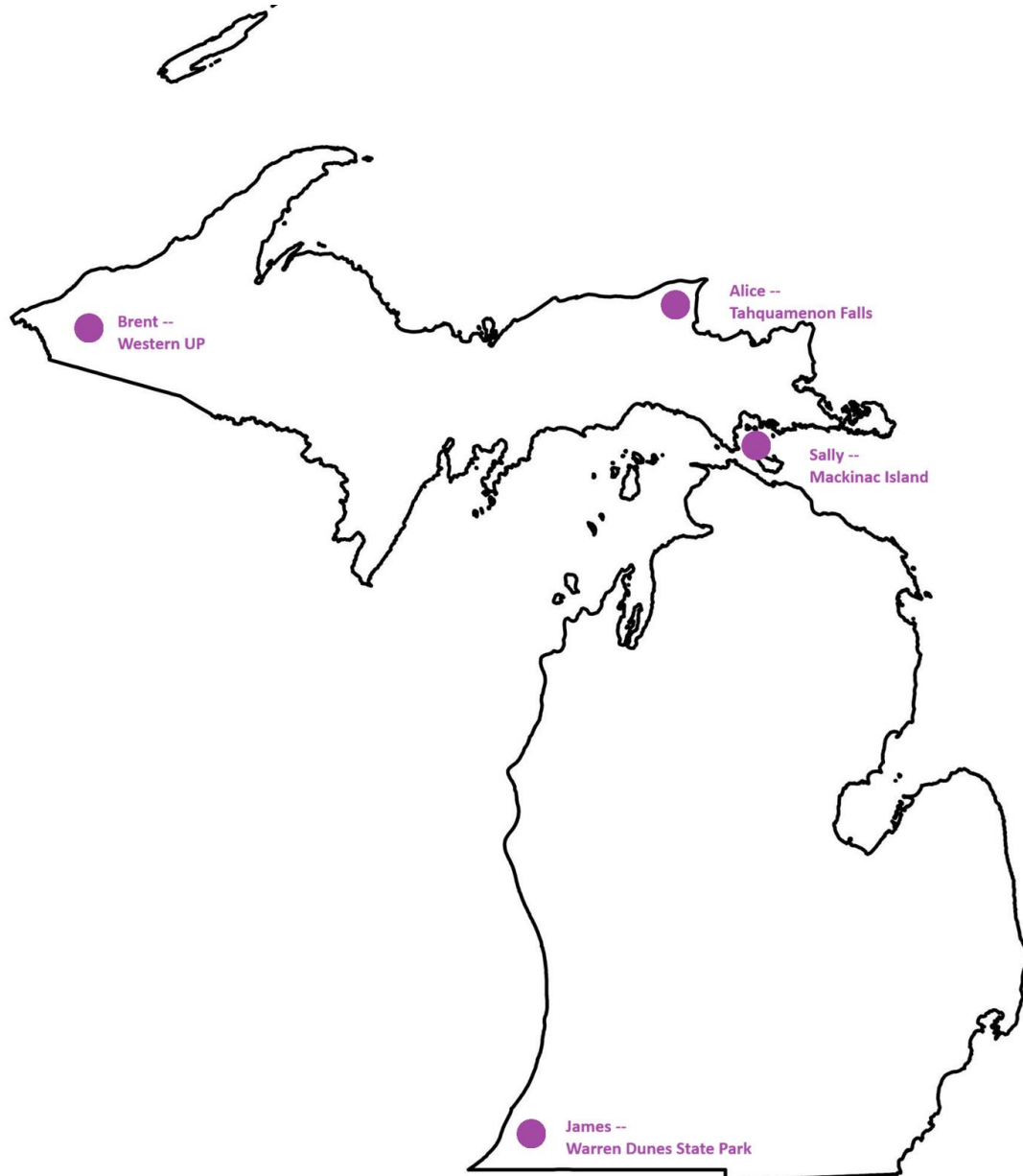
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Map of Michigan #1: Speaker Locations



<https://gisgeography.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Michigan-Outline-Map.jpg>



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Map of Michigan #2: Elevation



<https://www.freeworldmaps.net/united-states/michigan/michigan-mountains-map.jpg>



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Map of Michigan #3: Hydrography



<https://www.freeworldmaps.net/united-states/michigan/michigan-rivers-map.jpg>



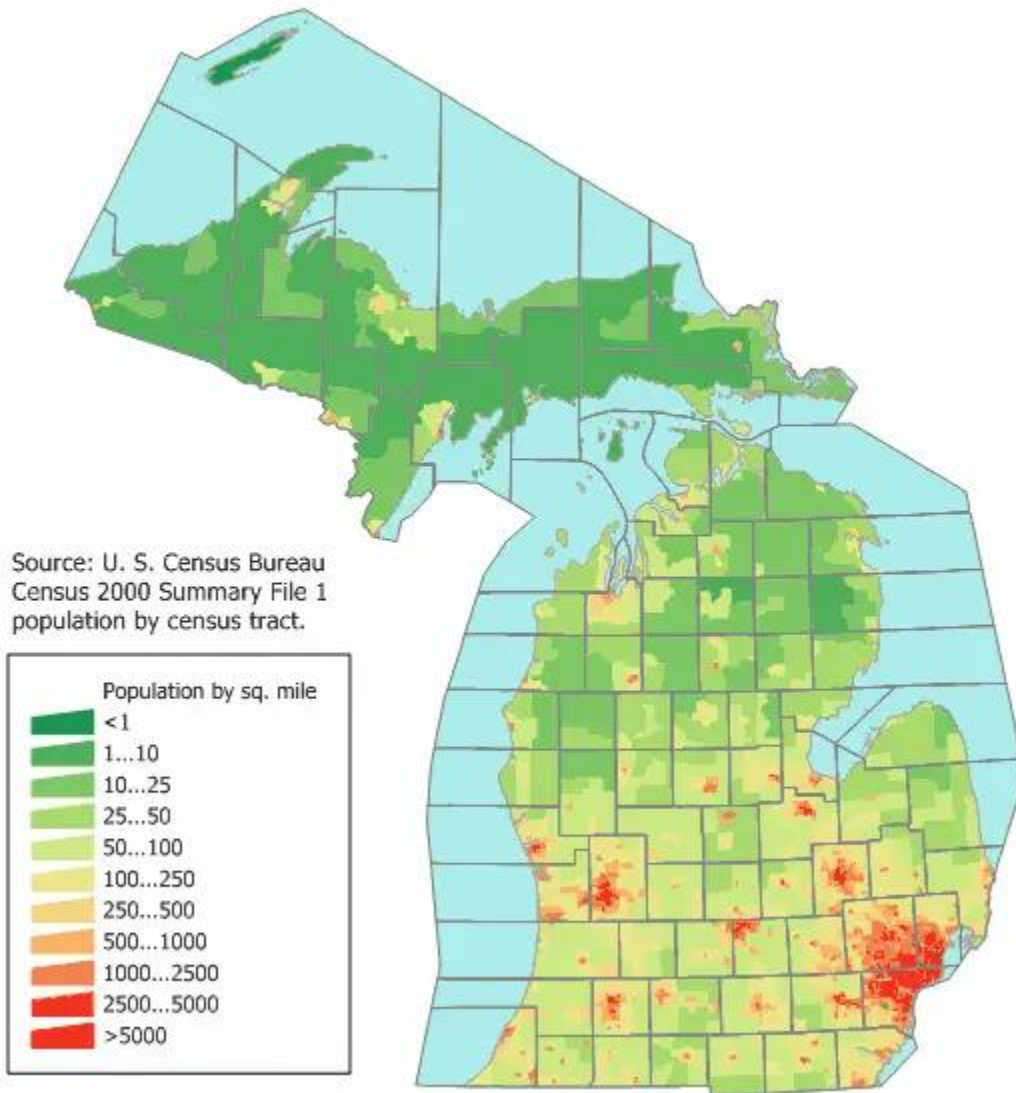
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Map of Michigan #4: Population



<https://www.mapsof.net/united-states/michigan-population-map?image=full>



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Part 2: Outdoor Stories in Michigan Diaries

2.1 Instructions

Now let's hear their stories. First, read the questions below.
Then, as you listen, respond to the following questions.

Brent in Western UP

<https://mi-diaries.org/2022/04/10/6307/>

1	What natural features does Brent describe?
2	What kinds of activities does Brent do outside?
3	How did the environment affect what Brent was able to do?
4	Did Brent also affect the environment around him? Why or why not?

Sally in Mackinac Island

<https://mi-diaries.org/2024/04/24/11102/>

1	What natural features does Sally describe?
2	What kinds of activities does Sally do outside?



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3	How did the environment affect what Sally was able to do?
4	Did Sally also affect the environment around her? Why or why not?

James in Warren Dunes State Park

<https://mi-diaries.org/2021/01/31/4173/>

1	What natural features does James describe?
2	What kinds of activities does James do outside?
3	How did the environment affect what James was able to do?
4	Did James also affect the environment around him? Why or why not?

Alice in Tahquamenon Falls

<https://mi-diaries.org/2023/05/21/9346/>

1	What natural features does Alice describe?
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2	What kinds of activities does Alice do outside?
3	How did the environment affect what Alice was able to do?
4	Did Alice also affect the environment around her? Why or why not?

Part 3: Wrap-Up

3.1 Instructions

Answer these questions about your own area and life.

_____ [your name] in _____ [your area]
1. Describe the elevation near you. (Is it mountainous, hilly, or flat?)
2. What rivers and bodies of water are near you?
3. Describe the population density near you? (Are there many people nearby, or very few, or in-between?)
4. How does your location shape your lifestyle? How does it shape your community?
5. List at least four times that you were outside and something interesting happened!



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Part 4: Extension Activity: My Outdoor Story

4.1 Instructions

Look at your list of interesting things that happened outdoors. Choose the one that you think makes the best story. Find 1, 2, or 3 partners. Take turns sharing your stories. When it is your turn to listen, answer the questions below about your partners' stories.

Outdoor Story from _____ [first partner's name]

1	Where does my partner's story take place?
2	In the story, what kinds of activities did my partner do outside?
3	How did the environment affect what my partner was able to do?
4	Did my partner also affect the environment around them? Why or why not?
5	What are the strongest parts of my partner's story?
6	How can my partner improve the way they tell their story?



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Outdoor Story from _____ [second partner's name]	
1	Where does my partner's story take place?
2	In the story, what kinds of activities did my partner do outside?
3	How did the environment affect what my partner was able to do?
4	Did my partner also affect the environment around them? Why or why not?
5	What are the strongest parts of my partner's story?
6	How can my partner improve the way they tell their story?

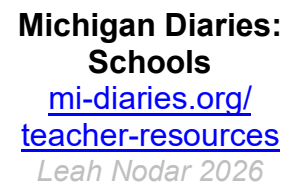


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Outdoor Story from _____ [third partner's name]	
1	Where does my partner's story take place?
2	In the story, what kinds of activities did my partner do outside?
3	How did the environment affect what my partner was able to do?
4	Did my partner also affect the environment around them? Why or why not?
5	What are the strongest parts of my partner's story?
6	How can my partner improve the way they tell their story?



Now that you've had some advice from your partners on your story, write it out below.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

BECOME A *MI DIARIST!*

This workbook was made with stories from the **Michigan Diaries Project**, and we would love to hear **your stories** too!

If you are a **Michigan resident** and **at least 13 years old**, you can sign up today. If you are **under 13**, talk to your caretaker about joining us.

Diarists earn \$5 each week that you talk to us for **15 minutes or more!**



Scan the QR code or visit mi-diaries.org to get started!



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