

Lesson 1: Ship to Shore Communication

By: Robert Palmer

Target: 4th grade

Lesson Overview:

Through technology students will practice e-mail, research and computer skills, as well as mapping the progress of a freighter on its journey north and the return trip.

Objectives:

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

1. Discuss various communication possibilities between a working freighter and shore.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical and modern day importance of moving resources by shipping.
3. Independently research information for, and create a computer generated tri-fold brochure focused on shipping.

State Standards:

State Technology Standards grades 3-5:

Basic Operations and Concepts:

#9. *identify which types of software can be used for different types of data or for different information needs.*

#10. *identify search strategies for locating needed information on the internet.*

Technology Productivity Tools:

#2. *know how to insert various objects (photos, graphics) into word processing documents, presentations, or web documents*

#3. *use a variety of technology tools and applications to promote creativity*

Technology Communications Tools:

#1. *use basic telecommunication tools (e.g. e-mail etc.) for collaborative projects*

#2. *use a variety of media and formats to create and edit products (e.g. brochures) to communicate information and ideas to various audiences*

Technology Research Tools:

#1. *use Web search engines and built-in search functions of other various resources to locate information*

State Social Studies Benchmark:

Economic Perspective: Content Standard 2

#3. *Examine the historical and contemporary role a major industry has played in the state of Michigan and the United States*

Materials Needed:

- Students will need access to computers: Microsoft Publisher for brochure layout, e-mail, internet.
- Bulletin board
- Map of the Great Lakes region
- Two colors of string or yarn

Vocabulary Words

See attached sheet

Background Information

To present this lesson, teachers will need to have sufficient computer skills and find available maritime resources in their geographic area. I contacted friends, local marinas, the Army Corps of Engineers, local maritime tour operators, and local museums for information and contacts. *See classroom, internet, and field activity below.*

Attention getter/focus question:

While discussing the local community, remind students of the freighters they see as they play and swim at the local park. Ask: “Where do you think those freighters are going?” “What might they be carrying in their holds?” “How do the captain and crew members stay in contact with shore while traveling?” The possible answers can also be an informal **pre-assessment** of student knowledge.

Describe activity:

1. Captain Billy, from the Diamond Jack River Tours Company has agreed to come to school for an afternoon. He will present information on the Detroit River as a link in the freighter routes through the Great Lakes. He will discuss current and historical information on the Great Lakes shipping industry. He will also present general terminology of shipping, as well as language specific to freighters.
2. Captain Mike, head of dredging in the Great Lakes for the Army Corps of Engineers will connect our classroom with a ship captain. The captain will e-mail our class twice daily, informing students of their cargo, current location, destination, and information concerning life on a freighter. He will also answer questions the students may pose to him. Students will keep track of the ship’s progress thru the lakes using string on a bulletin board map. When the freighter arrives at its destination port, the captain will keep the students informed about the unloading process and what the ship will be loading as a new cargo for the return. The captain will also e-mail pictures of the process.
3. Students will investigate freighter/ shipping information on the internet, including pictures of the shipping industry, and begin work on their tri-fold brochure.

Assessment:

Students will complete a computer generated tri-fold brochure. This will be graded. *See attached template.*

Lesson 2: Writing a Friendly Letter

By: Robert Palmer

Target: 4th grade

Lesson Overview

Students will follow guidelines to write a friendly letter.

Objectives

At the end of this lesson students will be able to:

1. Follow time honored guidelines for writing a friendly letter.
2. Edit for proper spelling and punctuation.
3. Demonstrate their best cursive writing.
4. Demonstrate appropriate behaviors with guest speakers.

Michigan State Content Expectations

State ELA Benchmarks (Writing):

Writing Process:

W.P.R.04.03 *draft focused ideas using a variety of drafting techniques composing coherent and mechanically sound paragraphs when writing compositions.*

W.P.R.04.04 *revise drafts based on constructive and specific oral and written responses to writing by identifying sections of the piece to improve sequence and flow of ideas (e.g., arranging paragraphs, connecting main and supporting ideas, transitions).*

W.P.R.04.05 *proofread and edit writing using appropriate resources (e.g., dictionary, spell check, grammar check, grammar references, writing references) and grade-level checklists both individually and in groups.*

Handwriting

W.H.W.04.01 *write neat and legible compositions*

State ELA Benchmarks (Listening and Viewing):

L.CN.04.01 *ask substantive questions of the speaker that will provide additional elaboration and detail*

L.CN.04.02 *listen to or view critically while demonstrating appropriate social skills of audience behaviors (e.g., eye contact, attentive, supportive) in small and large group settings.*

L.RP.04.05 *respond to and summarize the major ideas and evidence presented in spoken messages and formal presentations.*

Materials Needed:

Notebook paper for rough draft of letter

Unlined paper with lined under sheet for final draft

Pencil or pen

Model of a “friendly” letter (*see attached*)

Envelope

37 cent stamp

Mail By the Pail, by Colin Bergel Wayne State University Press ISBN 0-8143-2891-1

Attention Getter:

Read aloud Mail By the Pail and prepare for upcoming field trip.

Describe activity:

1. Mail By the Pail, by Colin Bergel, will be read aloud to the students. Students will then follow the established guidelines for writing a friendly letter to one of the crew aboard our

classroom freighter. The letters will be sent to the J.W. Westcott mail boat for delivery on the return through the Detroit River of our freighter.

2. Meanwhile, (continued from lesson one) the captain will e-mail twice daily, with the students continuing to mark the progress on the classroom map with string of a different color for the return trip.

3. We will spend a morning aboard the Diamond Jack traveling through the Detroit River, where the students will experience first hand and through narration from the captain the history of Detroit as a port and the freighter traffic. This trip lasts 1 ½ hours for school groups. The cost is \$7.00 per person (including all chaperones).

4. In the afternoon we will visit the J.W. Westcott offices, where the mail boat is docked, for another talk by James W. Hogan, Vice President and General Manager of the company. Hopefully (but not guaranteed), our freighter will go by and students will watch from the pier as the letters they wrote are delivered to the crew.

5. The captain will continue to e-mail the classroom until this cargo is delivered.

Assessment

Students will complete a friendly letter, including the envelope and mail it to the J.W. Westcott for delivery to our freighter.

Extension

Using red push pins students will mark port cities on the map. Using yellow push pins students will mark locations of lighthouses on the map.

Contacts:

Diamond Jack River Tours (Detroit)
(313) 843-9376 extension 100

The J.W. Westcott Company
Detroit, Michigan 48222
James Hogan (313) 496-0555

Websites:

Adopt a Ship Program
[www.marad.dot.gov/education/adopt a ship/](http://www.marad.dot.gov/education/adopt%20a%20ship/).

American Steamship Company
www.americansteamship.com/routes.html

Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping
www.boatnerd.com

Freighter Vocabulary

berth-	a place where a ship anchors or ties up to a dock.
bow-	the front of the ship.
buoy-	a floating object moored to the bottom to mark a channel or something lying under the water.
cargo-	the load of goods carried by a ship. General cargo is boxed, bagged, crated or on a pallet. Bulk cargo is loose usually granular cargo such as grain, iron ore, taconite pellets, and coal.
channel-	the deeper part of a river or harbor.
commodity-	anything that is bought and sold.
danger-	five short toots.
deck-	the flat surface on the upper part of the ship where the crew and passengers can walk. Passenger ships have several decks.
dock-	a long platform built next to the water as a landing place for ships.
entry-	a way or passage by which to enter.
elevator-	a building for storing grain.
export-	to send goods from one country for sale in another.
foghorn-	a horn blown during a fog to warn ships of danger.
harbor-	a place where ships may anchor and be safe from storms.
import-	to bring goods into one country from another.
longshoreman-	a person who works on a waterfront loading and unloading ships.

marina	a small harbor where boats can dock, pick up supplies, etc...
maritime-	having to do with sailing or shipping on the water.
nautical-	having to do with sailors, ships, or sailing.
navigate-	to steer, to control the course of a ship.
port-	another word for harbor; a city with a harbor where ships can load and unload; the left side of a ship as you face the bow, also equipped with a red light.
ship-	any vessel larger than a boat, for traveling on deep water.
shipwreck-	the remains of a wrecked ship; the loss or ruin of a ship as in a storm or crash.
shipyard-	a place where ships are built or repaired.
starboard-	the right side of a ship as you face the bow, also equipped with a green light.
stern-	the rear of a ship.
terminal-	facilities at either end of a carrier line with management offices, storage warehouses, freight and passenger facilities central to a considerable area and serving as a junction point with other lines or methods of transportation.
vessel-	a ship or large boat.
warehouse-	a building where goods are stored.

Shipping Terminology

**Ports
on the
Great Lakes**

**Your
Title**

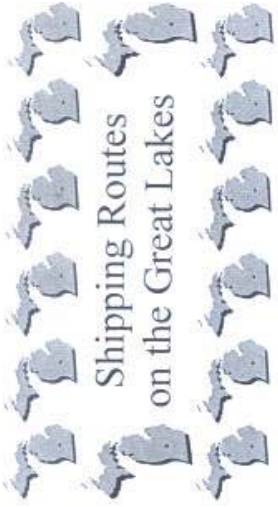
Your Name



**History of Shipping
on the
Great Lakes**



Freighter Cargo



**Shipping Routes
on the Great Lakes**

Writing Friendly Letters



Model Friendly Letter

Tracy introduced herself in this letter to her new pen pal, Grace.

123 Wixom Road
Wixom, MI 48386
January 8, 1994

Dear Grace,

My name is Tracy, and I am your new pen pal. I'm in the fifth grade at Wixom Elementary School in Wixom, Michigan.

I'll start by telling you about some of my hobbies. I am taking keyboard lessons because I got a keyboard for Christmas, and I think it will be fun. I'm not very good, yet, but I can play two songs. Have you ever played a keyboard?

Another hobby of mine is horseback riding. Have you ever been horseback riding? When my dad was 15, besides school, he worked at a horse ranch. I think that is neat.

I really like to draw, paint, and read stories. I also love to read mystery books and fiction books. My favorite mystery series is Nancy Drew. Do you like to read?

I have three people in my family: my mom, my dad, and me. My mom is in advertising, and my dad is in sales. I also have ten pets: seven fish, two parakeets, and a dog. My dog's name is Hershey. My family and I named her that because she's all brown, like a Hershey's chocolate bar. My two birds, Sammy and Tweedy, are green, blue, yellow, and black. Tweedy bites, and because of that, it's really hard to train her. Sammy is trained and can ride on my shoulder in the house.

As you probably have noticed, I love animals. I want to work with animals when I grow up, especially with whales. What do you want to be when you grow up?

Sincerely,

Tracy Randlett

P.S. Write back soon!

Address the Envelope

Address the envelope clearly and correctly so it is sure to reach its destination. Also make sure to fold your letter so that it fits neatly into the envelope.

Miss Tracy Randlett
123 Wixom Rd.
Wixom, MI 48386



Miss Grace Jackson
682 State St.
Springfield, IL 62704