



# Timeline of Lake Superior Shipwrecks

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## LESSON ONE

### Subject/Grade:

Grade 2, Social Studies and Math

### Duration:

One class period

### Materials needed:

Per class:

- *The Edmund Fitzgerald: The Song of the Bell* by Kathy-Jo Wargin (or similar story about a shipwreck)
- Computer & LCD projector (for PowerPoint slide show)\*
- Pictures of ships that shipwrecked on Lake Superior (from PowerPoint slideshow posted at [http://wupcenter.mtu.edu/education/great\\_lakes\\_maritime/index.htm](http://wupcenter.mtu.edu/education/great_lakes_maritime/index.htm))
- Shipwreck photos/drawings also at: <http://www.mnhs.org/places/nationalregister/shipwrecks/mpdf/wrecks.html>

Per student group:

- Pictures of 7 ships
- Markers/crayons
- Glue sticks
- Timeline worksheet
- 8-foot sheet of paper

### Room Arrangements:

- floor/table space for the students to work.

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## Lesson Overview

Students organize selected Lake Superior shipwrecks into chronological order and create a timeline showing the ship and the year of the shipwreck.

## Learning Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to

1. Organize pictures of ships according to the date they went down.
2. Construct a timeline of shipwrecks in chronological order by date (year).
3. Orally present completed timelines to classmates.

## Background

Second grade students will have a background in the definition of the word “past” and will be familiar with recording events of the past by using a timeline. Prior to this lesson, they will have had an activity where they have created a timeline of their life using pictures of themselves labeled by year. They will apply this prior knowledge when completing the activity.

## STANDARDS



### Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs) Addressed

#### Grade 2 Math

##### H2.0.1

Demonstrate chronological thinking by distinguishing among years and decades using a timeline of local community events.

##### N.ME.02.02

Compare and order numbers to 1000; use the symbols  $>$  and  $<$ .

##### S.DS.02.04

Plan and deliver presentations using an informational organizational pattern (e.g., descriptive, cause/effect, compare/contrast) providing supportive facts and details to make their point, reflecting the source of information, while maintaining appropriate intonation and tone of voice using a prop.

#### Grade 2 Social Studies

##### 1.1.3

Distinguish among the past, the present, and the future.

## Vocabulary

*past*: relating to a time that has gone by

*history*: a record of past events

*timeline*: a list of important events in the order in which they happened

*shipwreck*: the destruction of a ship, by storm or collision

## Advance Preparation

Cut one 8-foot sheet of paper for each student group.

Make copies of the 7 ship pictures for each student group.

## Procedure

### Focus Questions

- *What can cause a shipwreck on the Great Lakes?*
  - *How can we organize Lake Superior shipwrecks from oldest to most recent?*
1. Read the story *The Edmund Fitzgerald: Song of the Bell* by Kathy-Jo Wargin. Discuss the story with the children and have them imagine what it would be like to be on a ship during a storm. Explain that long ago (the past), many ships crashed on rocky shorelines or sank from taking on too much water or ran into each other during stormy weather or fog.
  2. Introduce students to additional ships that went down in Lake Superior throughout a period of history with a digital slideshow. If you do not have a computer available, then show them with printed laminated pictures. Briefly discuss the ship, the year that it went down, and why it went down.
  3. Inform the students that we can organize the ships according to the year that they went down using a *timeline*.



4. Divide the students into small groups of 3-4 students and distribute a packet of ship pictures, the timeline worksheet, and supplies needed for each group to make a timeline.
5. Together with their group members, have the students organize their pictures in chronological order by laying them out on the table or floor.
6. Using their timeline worksheet, fill in the name of the ship and the year it went down, using their pictures as their guide.
7. Students will then create a timeline by attaching the pictures to the 8-foot sheet of paper, drawing the timeline, and labeling the ships with the year they went down.
8. Members of each group will take turns presenting their timelines to the other group members, pointing out the names and dates of the shipwrecks.
9. Students can compare their timeline dates to those of other groups to evaluate their work.
10. Display the completed timeline projects on a wall inside or outside of the classroom.

## Assessment of Student Learning

Use the students' finished timelines to assess their ability to put the years in the correct order. Students will also be able to self-check their work by comparing it with other students' projects.

## Extensions

Create a bar graph to illustrate a comparison of:  
a) the number of wood-hulled ships versus steel-hulled ships that were involved in Great Lakes shipwrecks; b) the causes of shipwrecks---collisions versus stormy weather. Additional data at: <http://www.mnhs.org/places/nationalregister/shipwrecks/list.html>

Make a bar graph to show the months when shipwrecks occurred. Which month has the most wrecks?

Find out about jobs aboard Great Lakes freighters: <http://www.marad.dot.gov/acareerafloat/employment.htm>

Draw and label the parts of a ship.

Write letters to someone who works aboard a ship. See Adopt-A-Ship program: [http://www.marad.dot.gov/education/adopt\\_a\\_ship/](http://www.marad.dot.gov/education/adopt_a_ship/)

## References

Platt, Richard. (1997) *Shipwreck*. New York: DK Publishing.

Wargin, Kathy-Jo. (2003). *The Edmund Fitzgerald: The Song of the Bell*. Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press.

Soper, Nan and Westfield, Patricia. (2003). *Exploring the Great Lakes: A Logbook of Adventures*. Spring Lake, MI: River Road Publications.



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Swayze, David D. (1992). *Shipwreck! A Comprehensive Directory of Over 3700 Shipwrecks on the Great Lakes*. Augusta, GA: Harbor House.

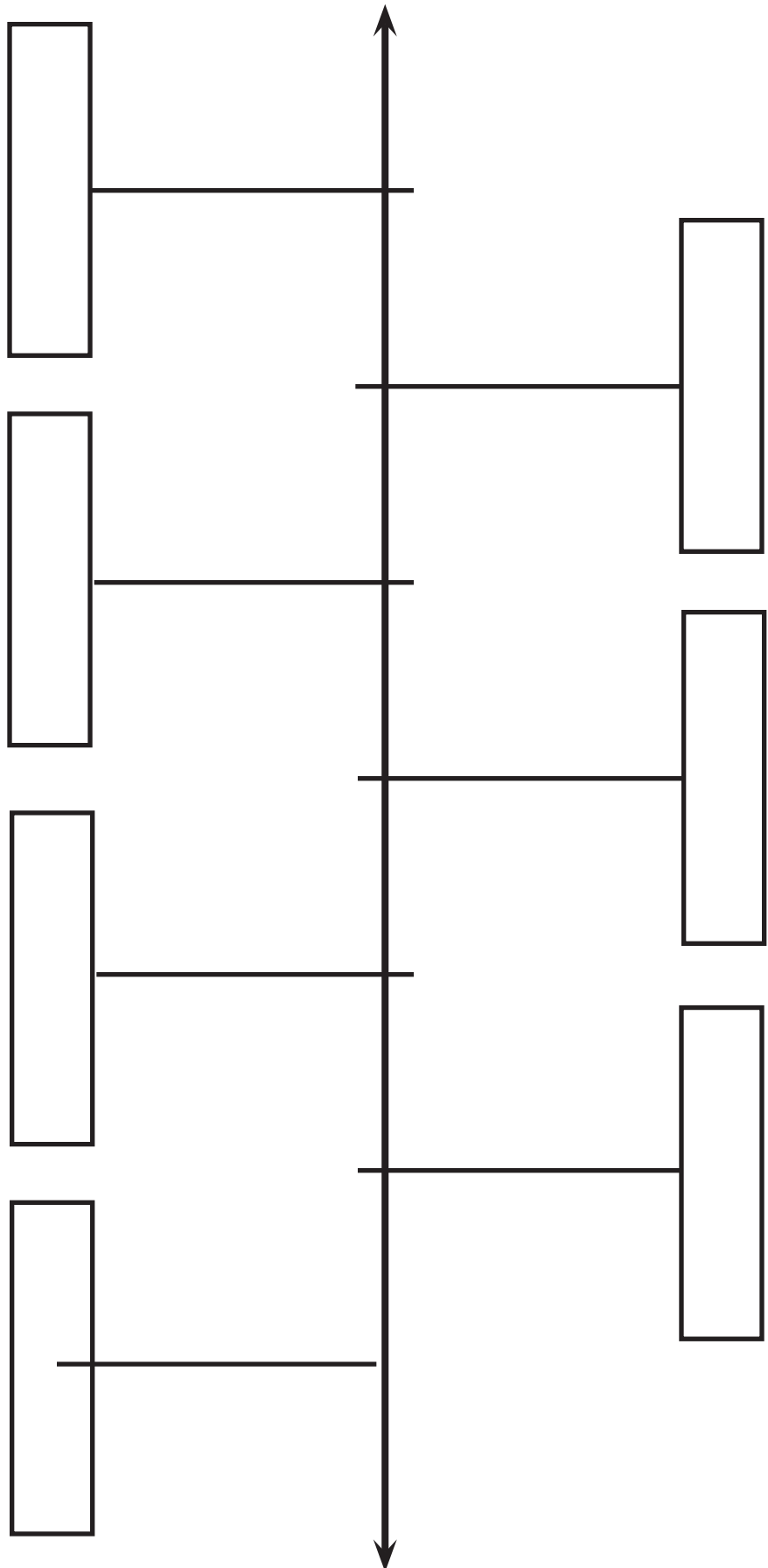
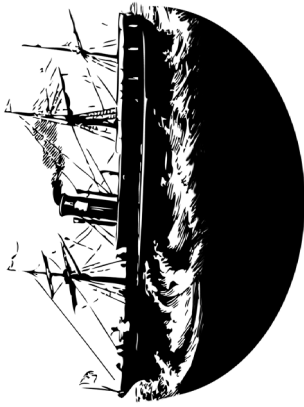
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Edwards, Jack. (2000). *The Big Fitz*. Crystal Lake, IL: Rigby Publishing.

Petcash, Doug. *The Edmund Fitzgerald: 30 Years a Legend*. (2005). Heritage Broadcasting Company of Michigan. 22320 130th Ave. Cadillac, MI. 49601. DVD



# TIMELINE OF GREAT LAKES SHIPWRECKS



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Teacher's copy

