Where are they now?

Carlton Bishop

Lesson Overview
Students complete a hands-on activity that will familiarize them with transportation, history and Lake Superior in the vicinity of Whitefish Point Lighthouse. After a brief review of the Great Lakes and their use for transportation, students will record data and details of shipwrecks in Lake Superior near Whitefish Point.

Learning Objectives
After this lesson, students will be able to
1. Identify and locate the five Great Lakes (HOMES).
2. Describe and discuss the many hazards and dangers of shipping on the Great Lakes.
3. Show the location of the Whitefish Point Lighthouse on Lake Superior.
4. Record data in a table that will allow for quick information retrieval for additional activities.
Advance Preparation
Make copies of student handouts (one copy per student).

Make classroom set of compass roses on an overhead transparency (optional).

Procedure
1. Discuss the names and locations of the Great Lakes (HOMES): Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior. Trace the path that a ship travels from Duluth, MN at the head of the lakes, all the way to the Atlantic Ocean.

2. What are the natural and human-caused dangers for ships on the Great Lakes? Describe some navigational aides to help ships pass safely through the Great Lakes.

3. Show the location of Whitefish Point on Lake Superior? Name a famous shipwreck that occurred on Lake Superior?

4. Show all or part of the video/DVD Superior Lights on the Shipwreck Coast-Lake Superior Lighthouses III (58 minutes).

5. When the video is complete, ask students to list the dangers and hazards of sailing the Great Lakes. What was the main cause of shipwrecks on Lake Superior? (weather, over crowding, obstacles and shoals)

6. Where are some of these shipwrecks located in Lake Superior? Display a State of Michigan map and locate Whitefish Point.

7. Distribute Where are They Now? student page and map of eastern Lake Superior showing Whitefish Point and shipwreck locations.

8. Find the compass rose. What are the points (directions) of the compass rose? N, E, S, W, NE, SE,
SW, NW. Have each student cut out their compass rose (on the map page).

9. Explain that students will determine the direction of each shipwreck from Whitefish Point using the compass rose. Be sure to always point the compass rose North, so that it matches up with the North directional arrow shown on the map.

10. Find the distance scale on the map. Explain that students will measure the distance (as the crow flies) to each of the shipwrecks shown on the map.

11. Record the direction and distance from the lighthouse to each shipwreck.

12. Analyze the data. Are there any conclusions we can draw as to where it is most dangerous for ships in the vicinity of Whitefish Point?
   - Do we have enough data?
   - What would make our hypothesis stronger?
   (Conclusion would be stronger with more data; better to have data for all shipwrecks in this part of Lake Superior, so we can look for patterns or clusters of shipwreck and compare to navigational map to see if there are shoals (shallow areas) present or if this is a ‘wind tunnel’ concentrating the force of the wind into this narrow part of Lake Superior.)

**Assessment of Student Learning**

Check students’ work to be sure that they are accurately able to determine direction using a compass rose, and distance using straight edge and mileage scale.

**References**


*Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum* brochure. Paradise, MI.


WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Name _____________________________________________________________

**Directions:**
Using the compass rose and mileage scale on the map, determine the direction and distance (in miles) of each shipwreck from Whitefish Point. Complete the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Shipwreck</th>
<th>Direction</th>
<th>Distance (miles)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. William F. Sauber 1903</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Neshoto 1908</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Panther 1916</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Pacific 1887</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Nelson 1889</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Starucca 1888</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Atlanta 1891</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Answer Key

Name _____________________________________________________________

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Shipwreck</th>
<th>Direction</th>
<th>Distance (miles)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. William F. Sauber 1903</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>30 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Neshoto 1908</td>
<td>West</td>
<td>12 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Panther 1916</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>10 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Pacific 1887</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>15 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Nelson 1889</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>6 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Starucca 1888</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>19 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Atlanta 1891</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>20 miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>