

Prairie State Mapping

Grade Level: 4-8

Lesson Overview

It's a hot summer day and the clouds are getting more grey and ominous. Your cell phone sounds an emergency alert and you are notified that the counties of Livingston, Grundy and LaSalle are under a tornado alert. Do you know if you live in one of these counties and should seek cover immediately? Let's learn about Illinois geography and history and prominent landmarks.

Student Objectives

1. Become familiar with the location of counties in Illinois.
2. Identify specific locations in Illinois and hypothesize the reasons for the names of these locations.
3. Research the origin/history of a location's name.

Materials

- ✓ County Conundrums worksheet and answer key (optional interest approach)
- ✓ Prairie State Mapping worksheet
- ✓ Illinois County Map
- ✓ Illinois County Name Origin Information Sheets

Vocabulary

- **county** – a region created by territorial division for the purpose of local government.

Background Information

There are many excellent books written about unique locations and history of Illinois. Many titles can be found in your school and public libraries. Check them out!

Procedure

1. As an optional interest approach to help students become familiar with Illinois county names, the County Conundrums worksheet and answer key is provided.
2. Ask your students if they know what county their school is located. After arriving at the county's name, students can find the county on the Illinois County map. Identify the location and make note of the surrounding counties.
3. Refer to the Illinois County Name Origin Information Sheets, found in the Background Information to discuss the origin of the county name.

4. Students refer to the Illinois County map in to identify all counties that border their school county. Discuss the naming of these counties.
5. Instruct one group to name a town in the school's county. This town name should be one that the students find has an interesting name. If needed, names of towns in Illinois and in specific counties can be researched on the internet.
6. Assign other groups to locate interesting town names in counties that border the school county.
7. Have students complete the Prairie State Mapping Worksheet and share their answers with the other groups.

Extension Activities

1. Obtain Illinois State Highway Maps for your classroom. Maps are distributed at no charge through the Illinois Department of Transportation. Instruct groups of students to locate the mileage scale on this map. Identify how far is 50 miles, 100 miles, 150 miles, etc. Students will then use a compass or a length of string with a pencil to mark off this distance in a circular arc from their home location. Students will identify the counties inside this circle and any interesting town names. Research the history behind these names.
2. Have students identify any Illinois town names that they find particularly intriguing. Assign groups of students to contact various tourism boards, historical societies or other such organizations in that community/county to learn the history of their chosen town and research the origin of these names.
3. Provide your students with the scenario that a new town is being proposed to be built near a large urban area. Your students have been given the task of providing this town with its name. Have them decide upon the name and provide reasons for their decisions.
4. The Illinois Road Trip lesson correlates well with this lesson.

Additional Resources

- Illinois State Highway Map (available free of charge at most Illinois Secretary of State facilities)
- *Illinois* by Erik Brown, (State Shapes Series) ISBN 978-1579121013
- *All Around Illinois: Regions and Resources* by Andrew Santella ISBN 978-1403405685
- IDNR Poster: Illinois Natural Divisions
<https://dnr2.illinois.gov/teachkids/DNRtitles.asp>

Standards

Illinois Social Science Standards

SS.G.1.6-8.MdC. Use mapping and graphing to ^{[[[]]]}_{[[SEP]]} represent and analyze spatial patterns of different environmental and cultural characteristics.

SS.G.3.6-8.LC. Explain how environmental characteristics impact human migration and settlement.

SS.H.2.4. Using artifacts and primary sources, investigate how individuals contributed to and the founding and development of Illinois.

Illinois English Language Arts Standard

CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

The **M**ultidisciplinary **A**gricultural **I**ntegrated **C**urriculum (mAGic) was created in 2004 under the leadership of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education Project (FCAE). Funding was made available through the FCAE grant budget from the agricultural education line item of the ISBE budget. This revision, as printed, was developed in January 2021.



These mAGic lessons are designed to bring agriculture to life in your classroom. They address the Illinois Learning Standards in math, science, English language arts and social studies.

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Name _____

Prairie State Mapping Worksheet

Directions: Answer the following questions about the town you selected.

1. What is the name of the town you selected?
2. In what county is this town located?
3. Why do you think this town was given this name? Is it named for a person, a Native American tribe, a plant, an animal, etc.?
4. Why do you think this location was selected by the town's founders? Is the location near a lake, river or stream? What is the name of this water source? Is it named for a person, a Native American tribe, a plant, an animal, etc.?
5. When this town was settled, do you think it was located near a woodland or was it on a prairie?
6. What geographic factors do you think were important in the 1800's when selecting a site for a town?
7. Are these factors as important today? What other factors would be taken into consideration today that may not have been considered in the 1800's?
8. Using resources that are available, were you able to learn about this town's founders, important events that have occurred at this site, or important roles this town plays in Illinois today?

Prairie State Mapping ANSWER KEY

1. What is the name of the town you selected?
Answers will vary for each group.
2. In what county is this town located?
3. Why do you think this town was given this name? Is it named for a person, a Native American tribe, a plant, an animal, etc.?
4. Why do you think this location was selected by the town's founders? Is the location near a lake, river or stream? What is the name of this water source? Is it named for a person, a Native American tribe, a plant, an animal, etc.?
Most often, towns were located near sources of water and woodlands. Lumber was needed for homes and for heating. Many towns were also located along railroad lines.
5. When this town was settled, do you think it was located near a woodland or was it on a prairie?
6. What geographic factors do you think were important in the 1800's when selecting a site for a town? Are these factors as important today?
7. What other factors would be taken into consideration today that may not have been considered in the 1800's?
Access to good roads and/or rails. Service for water, electricity, gas, high speed Internet
8. Using resources that are available, were you able to learn about this town's founders, important events that have occurred at this site or important roles this town plays in Illinois today?

Illinois County Map



Illinois County Name Origin Information Sheet

Making of Illinois by Irwin F Mather, 1900, pages 263-268

- Of the one hundred and two counties into which the state of Illinois is divided, six were named in honor of presidents of the United States. These are **Washington**, **Jefferson**, **Madison**, **Monroe**, **Adams** (named for John Quincy Adams, not for his father), and **Jackson**.
- **Bond** County was named for Shadrack Bond, who later became the first Governor of Illinois; while **Coles** (Edward Coles, second Governor of the State) **Edwards** (Ninian Edwards, 3rd Governor of the State) and **Ford** (Thomas Ford—8th Governor of the State) also took their names from chief executives of the state.
- Of those who have figured in the history of Illinois, or who were, for one reason or another, prominent in the early days, the following men have given their names to counties:
 - William M. **Alexander**, a state senator in the second and third general assemblies.
 - Daniel P. **Cook**, first attorney general of the state and a representative in Congress from 1819 to 1827.
 - Stephen A. **Douglas**, whose name will ever be associated with that of Lincoln; orator, political leader, representative in Congress, United States senator, and Democratic candidate for the presidency.
 - John **Edgar**, pioneer merchant, politician and land speculator.
 - Elias Kent **Kane**, Democratic leader, pro-slavery advocate, member of the first constitutional convention, judge of the territory, first Secretary of State and second United States senator.
 - John **Logan**, M.D., father of General John A. Logan.
 - William **McHenry**, who served in both the War of 1812 and the Black Hawk War; member of the first, fourth, fifth and ninth general assemblies.
 - John **McLean**, lawyer, territorial judge and first representative in Congress in 1818 and senator in 1824.
 - Pierre **Menard**, a French Indian trader, a colonel of militia and first Lieutenant Governor of Illinois.
 - Joseph **Ogle**, politician and lieutenant of militia in the territorial days.
 - Benjamin **Piatt**, attorney general of the territory from 1810 to 1813.
 - Nathaniel **Pope**, first territorial Secretary of State and last territorial delegate in Congress. But for his efforts the north tier of counties of Illinois would be in Wisconsin and Chicago a city of that state.
 - Benjamin **Stephenson**, Adjutant general of the territory in 1813.
 - Leonard **White**, a gallant soldier; major of militia, member of constitutional convention, state senator in the second and third general assemblies; killed in the battle of Tippecanoe.
 - Samuel **Whiteside**, colonel of territorial militia, representative in the first general assembly and brigadier general of militia during the Black Hawk War.
 - Conrad **Will**, territorial recorder of Jackson County, member of the constitutional convention of 1818, and member of the general assemblies from the first to the ninth, inclusive.

- Among the brave soldiers whose names are perpetuated in those of our counties are:
 - Jacob **Brown**, major general in 1812.
 - George Rogers **Clark**, who as colonel of Virginia militia established control in the Illinois country by capturing Kaskaskia and Fort Vincennes.
 - Baron Jonathan **DeKalb**, the German nobleman who served the colonies and was killed at Camden, S.C. in 1780.
 - Major General Nathaniel **Greene** of revolutionary fame.
 - William **Jasper**, the famous sergeant of the revolution who replaced the flag shot away at Fort Moultrie and was later killed at Savannah.
 - Joseph Hamilton **Daviess**, the Kentucky lawyer who gave his name to Jo Daviess County, United States district attorney and major of militia.
 - Richard M. **Johnson**, colonel of Kentucky militia, veteran of the War of 1812, representative in congress, United States senator from Kentucky and Vice President of the United states from 1837 to 1841.
 - Henry **Knox**, major general and Secretary of War under Washington.
 - Francis **Marion**, soldier of the revolution.
 - Hugh **Mercer**, American officer killed at the battle of Princeton.
 - Richard **Montgomery**, revolutionary general, killed before Quebec in 1775.
 - Daniel **Morgan**, commander of the "rifle brigade" during the revolution.
 - William **Moultrie**, who built and defended the fort bearing his name.
 - Zebulon **Pike**, soldier and explorer.
 - Count Casimir **Pulaski**, a Polish exile who espoused the cause of the colonies during the revolution and was killed at Savannah in 1779.
 - Major General Israel **Putnam** was an American army general who fought with distinction at the Battle of Bunker Hill.
 - Major General Philip **Schuyler**, member of the continental congress and United States senator from New York.
 - Major General John **Stark** of revolutionary fame.
 - Major General Arthur **St. Clair**, commander in chief of the army after the revolution and governor of the territory of the United States northwest of the Ohio.
 - Joseph **Warren**, major general, killed at the battle of Bunker Hill.
 - Anthony **Wayne**, major general during the revolution, commander in chief of the army after St. Clair.
- Three counties bear the name of naval officers:
 - **McDonough**, named for Commodore Thomas McDonough, who commanded the fleet on Lake Champlain in a successful engagement with the British near Plattsburg in 1814.
 - **Lawrence**, Captain James Lawrence, commander of the Chesapeake, was mortally wounded in an engagement between that vessel and the British ship Shannon, in the War of 1812.
 - **Perry**, for Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, hero of the battle of Lake Erie in 1813.

- The following statesmen and soldiers who were not citizens of Illinois are represented in the names of counties:
 - John C. **Calhoun** of South Carolina, representative, senator, Secretary of War, Vice President and "father of nullification".
 - Charles**Carroll** of Carrollton, signer of the Declaration of Independence.
 - Lewis **Cass**, soldier, statesman, minister to France, senator from Michigan, Secretary of War under Jackson, Secretary of State under Buchanan and candidate for the presidency
 - Henry **Clay**, senator and representative from Kentucky.
 - William H. **Crawford**, senator from Georgia, minister to France, Secretary of War and of the Treasury and a candidate for the presidency.
 - Benjamin **Franklin**, American Statesman, scientist and inventor.
 - Albert **Gallatin**, Secretary of the Treasury.
 - Felix **Grundy**, senator from Tennessee and Attorney General of the U.S.
 - Alexander **Hamilton**, American Statesman, financier, first Secretary of the Treasury, creator of National Bank.
 - John **Hancock**, first signer of the Declaration of Independence.
 - Patrick **Henry**, American Statesman and Virginia Governor.
 - Amos **Kendall**, Postmaster General under Jackson.
 - Richard Henry **Lee**, member of the continental Congress and senator from Virginia.
 - Edward **Livingston**, Mayor of New York, representative in Congress from that state, afterward representative and senator from Louisiana, Secretary of State under Jackson and minister to France.
 - Nathaniel **Macon**, colonel in the revolution, representative and senator from North Carolina.
 - John **Marshall**, chief justice of the Supreme Court.
 - Edmund **Randolph**, soldier of the revolution, member of the Continental Congress, Attorney General and Governor of Virginia, Secretary of State of the U.S. and Attorney General under Washington.
 - Isaac **Shelby**, Governor of Kentucky.
 - Lyttleton W. **Tazewell**, lawyer, governor, representative and senator from Virginia.
 - From **DeWitt Clinton** of New York, mayor, governor, senator, lawyer, financier and chief promoter of the Erie Canal, two counties - DeWitt and Clinton - have taken their names.
- Through the influence of immigrants from three other states, nine of our counties are named after counties in those states:
 - **Champaign** and **Richland** from Ohio;
 - **Christian** (Originally Dane County (for Nathan Dane of Massachusetts who had been a member of Congress and as the author of Northwestern Ordinance) (changed in 1840) named after William Christian, Revolutionary War Veteran killed in Southern Indiana), **Hardin**, (named for John Hardin, an officer in the Revolutionary War), **Henderson**, (named for Richard Henderson,

founder of the Transylvania Company, an early attempt to organize what later became Kentucky), **Mason** (The County is named in honor of George Mason, a member of the Virginia legislature), **Scott** (named after a local family named Scott) and **Woodford** (for General William Woodford—with Washington at Valley Forge) from Kentucky.

- **Williamson** (Hugh Williamson, a physician in the Revolutionary War and North Carolina delegate to the United States Constitutional Convention) from Tennessee.
- **Iroquois, Kankakee, Macoupin, Peoria, Sangamon, Wabash and Winnebago** counties recall the red men (*sic*), the original owners of the land now comprised in the State of Illinois.
- **Boone** County is named for Daniel Boone.
- **Bureau** for Pierre Buero, a French trader.
- **Cumberland** takes its name from Cumberland in Maryland.
- **Du Page** from a small river.
- **Effingham** is named for Lord Effingham, who resigned his commission in the British army, refusing to serve in a war against the colonies.
- **Fayette** is named for the French General La Fayette.
- **Fulton**, for Robert Fulton, inventor of the steamboat.
- **Jersey**, for the state of New Jersey.
- **Lake** for Lake Michigan.
- **LaSalle** for the celebrated French explorer.
- **Massac**, from Fort Massac.
- **Rock Island**, from an island in the Mississippi River.
- **Saline** from the salt springs of the vicinity.
- **Union** for the federal Union.
- **Vermilion** from the river which flows through the county.

County Conundrums

Either work individually, in pairs or in groups to complete the following worksheet. Using the clues listed on the left, find the Illinois County described, using the Illinois County Map in this lesson, and write the answer on the right.

A piece of furniture

A fishing place

Boy's name

Breed of dairy cattle

Colorful county

Well known fruit jar

Person who prepares food

A state or variety of apple

Our state capital is here

Indian tribe

Two presidents with this last name

President on \$20 bill

Railroad

First signer of the Declaration
of Independence

A girl's name

42nd President of the U.S.

Brand of tissue

County you live in

Brand of car

Form of money or interest

Mountain range

A famous mountain

County Conundrums (Answer Key)

A piece of furniture	Bureau
A fishing place	Lake
Boy's name	Will, Henry, Scott, Warren (and more)
Breed of dairy cattle	Jersey
Colorful county	Greene, Brown, White
Well known fruit jar	Mason
Person who prepares food	Cook
A state or variety of apple	Washington
Our state capital is here	Sangamon
Indian tribe	Masaac, Iroquois
Two presidents with this last name	Adams
President on \$20 bill	Jackson
Railroad	Union
First signer of the Declaration of Independence	Jefferson
A girl's name	Shelby, Carroll, Morgan (and more)
42 nd President of the U.S.	Clinton
Brand of tissue	Scott
County you live in	will vary
Brand of car	Ford
Form of money or interest	Bond
Mountain range	Cumberland
A famous mountain	Pike