

The Story of Minnesota

Timeline Cards



Core Knowledge®

CHAPTER 1: A Place Called Minnesota



Minnesota is the land of ten thousand lakes, as well as thick forests and open plains.

Big Question: What are the land and culture of Minnesota like?

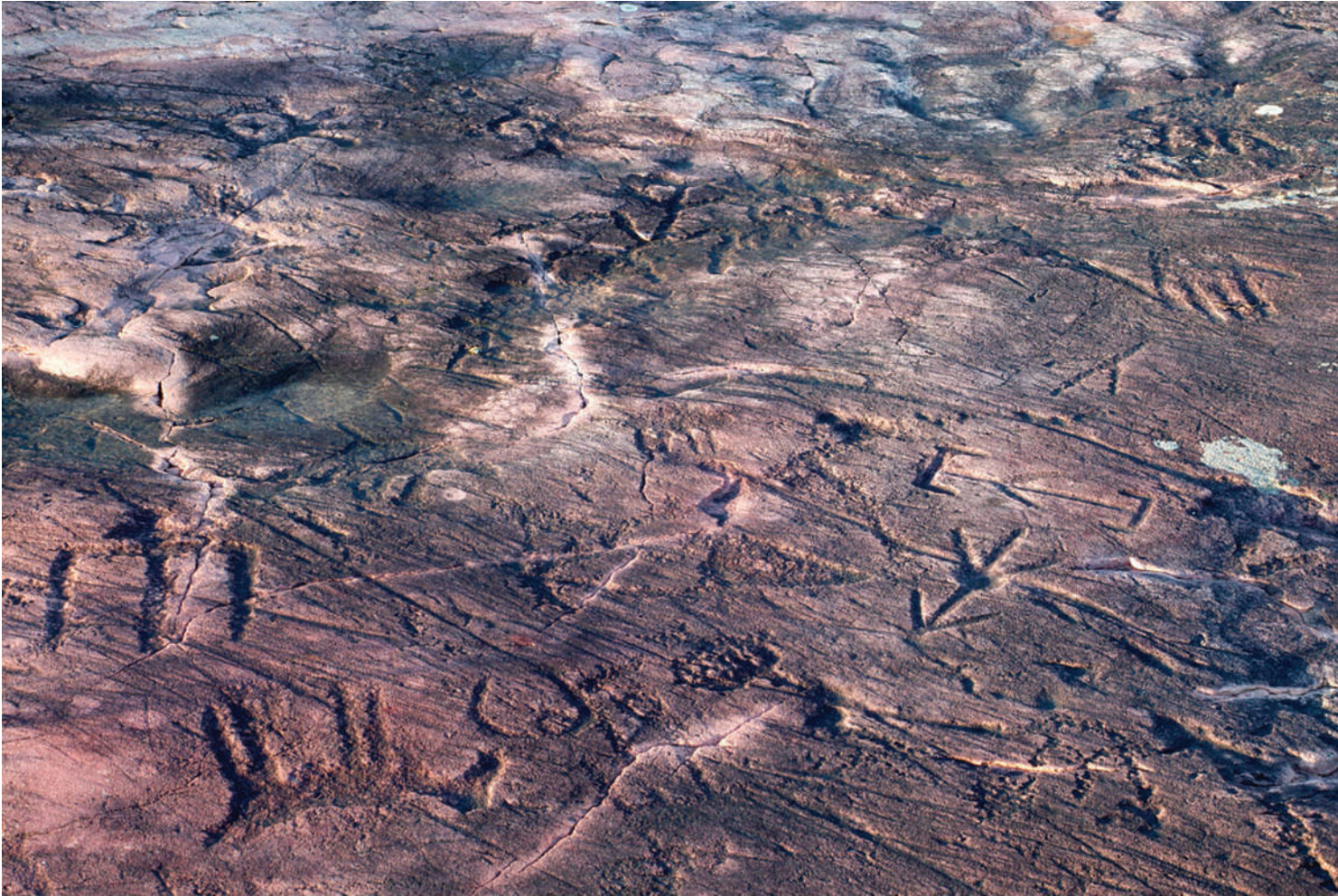
CHAPTER 1: A Place Called Minnesota

Minnesota is home to many different communities.



Big Question: What are the land and culture of Minnesota like?

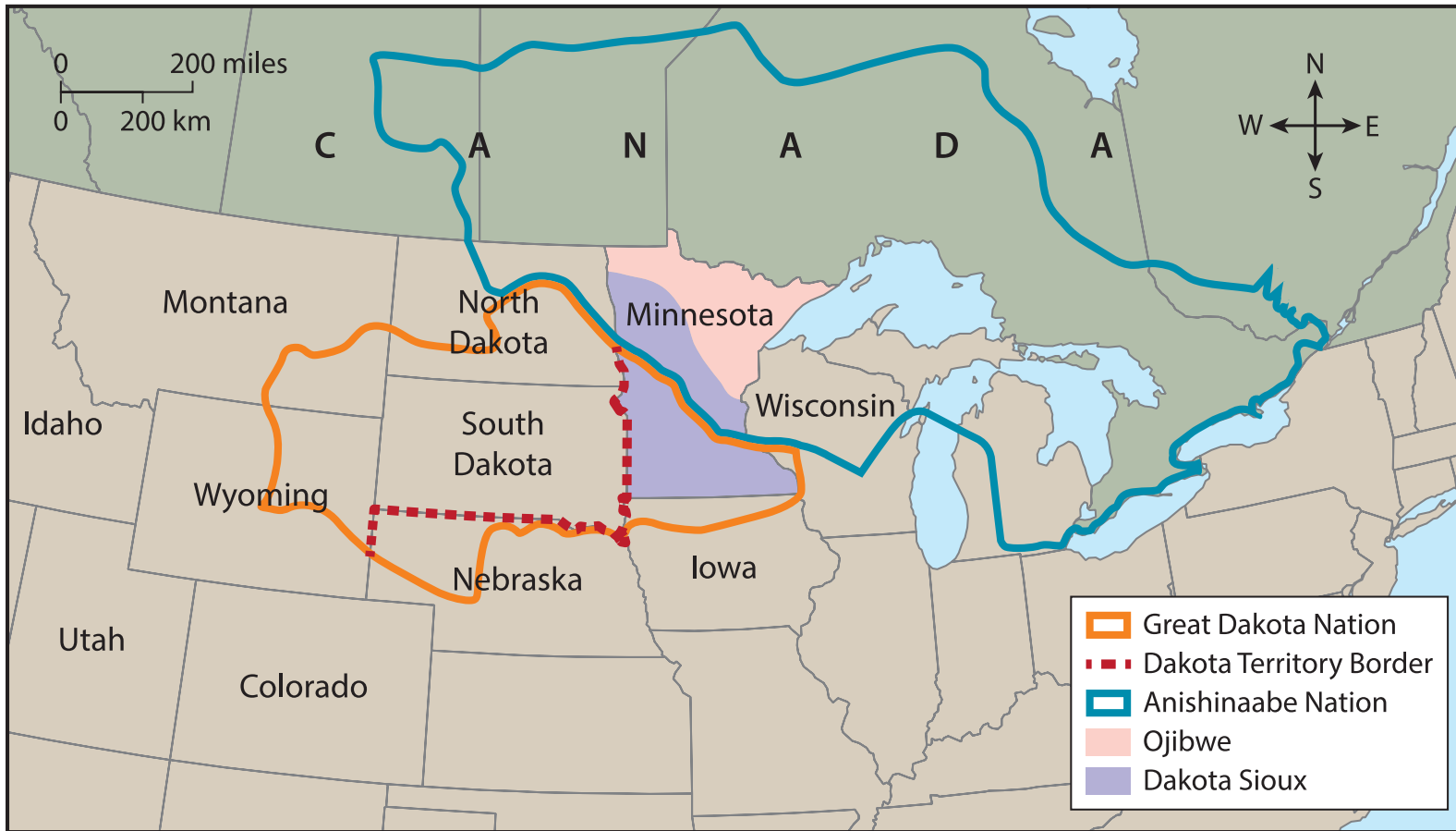
CHAPTER 2: The First Peoples of Minnesota



The first people to live in what would become Minnesota arrived more than eleven thousand years ago during the Paleoindian period.

Big Question: Who were Minnesota's first peoples, and how did they live before European contact?

CHAPTER 2: The First Peoples of Minnesota



The Dakota people have called Minnesota home since at least 1000 CE. They were later joined by the Anishinaabe people.

Big Question: Who were Minnesota's first peoples, and how did they live before European contact?

CHAPTER 3: Europeans Come to Minnesota

Searching for the Northwest Passage, European explorers entered what would become Minnesota in the early seventeenth century.



Big Question: How did Minnesota change with the arrival of European traders and settlers?

CHAPTER 3: Europeans Come to Minnesota



The fur trade became a central feature of the relationship between the French and Minnesota's indigenous peoples. In 1679, the French government renewed a trade agreement with the Dakota and Anishinaabe peoples.

Big Question: How did Minnesota change with the arrival of European traders and settlers?

CHAPTER 4: Minnesota Joins the United States



In order to secure Anishinaabe and Dakota land and repel the British, the United States completed the construction of Fort Snelling in 1825.

Big Question: How did Minnesota become a U.S. state?

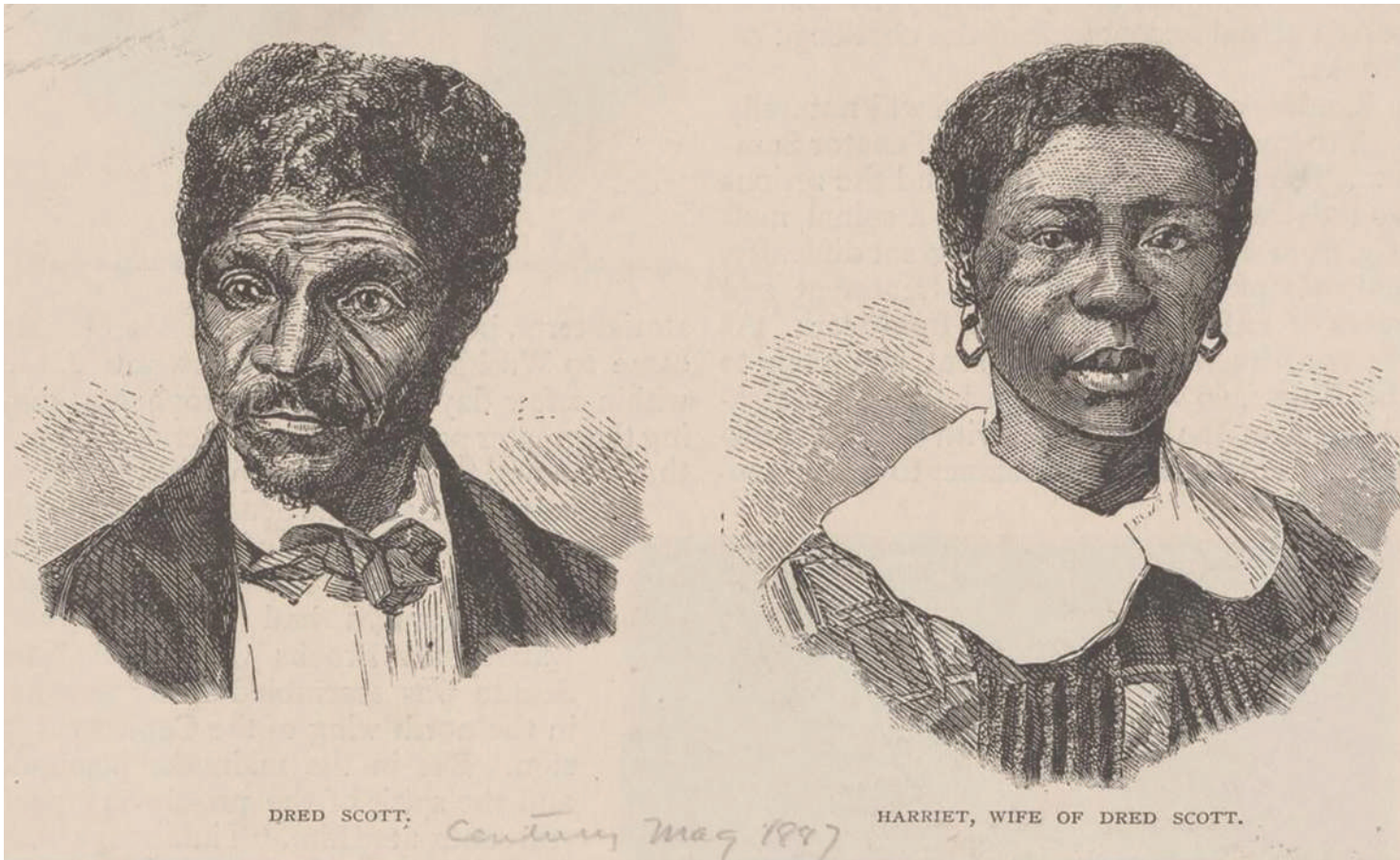
CHAPTER 4: Minnesota Joins the United States



The Minnesota Territory was established in 1849. With an exploding population, Minnesota achieved statehood only nine years later, in 1858.

Big Question: How did Minnesota become a U.S. state?

CHAPTER 5: Minnesota and the Civil War



In 1846, after living for two years in Minnesota, Dred and Harriet Scott sued for their freedom.

Big Question: How was Minnesota involved in and affected by the Civil War?

CHAPTER 5: Minnesota and the Civil War

In 1850, the Fugitive Slave Act was passed, requiring that escaped enslaved people be returned to slavery, even if they were in a free state.



Big Question: How was Minnesota involved in and affected by the Civil War?

CHAPTER 5: Minnesota and the Civil War



During the Civil War, the U.S. government passed the Homestead Act of 1862. The act brought more settlers to Minnesota.

Big Question: How was Minnesota involved in and affected by the Civil War?

CHAPTER 5: Minnesota and the Civil War



Minnesotans took part in many Civil War battles, including Antietam, Gettysburg, and Shiloh. By the time the Confederate army surrendered on April 9, 1865, nearly 10 percent of Minnesota's population had fought in the war.

Big Question: How was Minnesota involved in and affected by the Civil War?

CHAPTER 6: The U.S.-Dakota War



Throughout the early and mid-1800s, the Anishinaabe and Dakota signed treaties transferring the vast majority of their land to the United States.

Big Question: What happened in the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862?

CHAPTER 6: The U.S.-Dakota War



In August 1862, the Dakota went to war with the United States. By September, they had been militarily defeated and faced brutal retribution from the U.S. government.

Big Question: What happened in the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862?

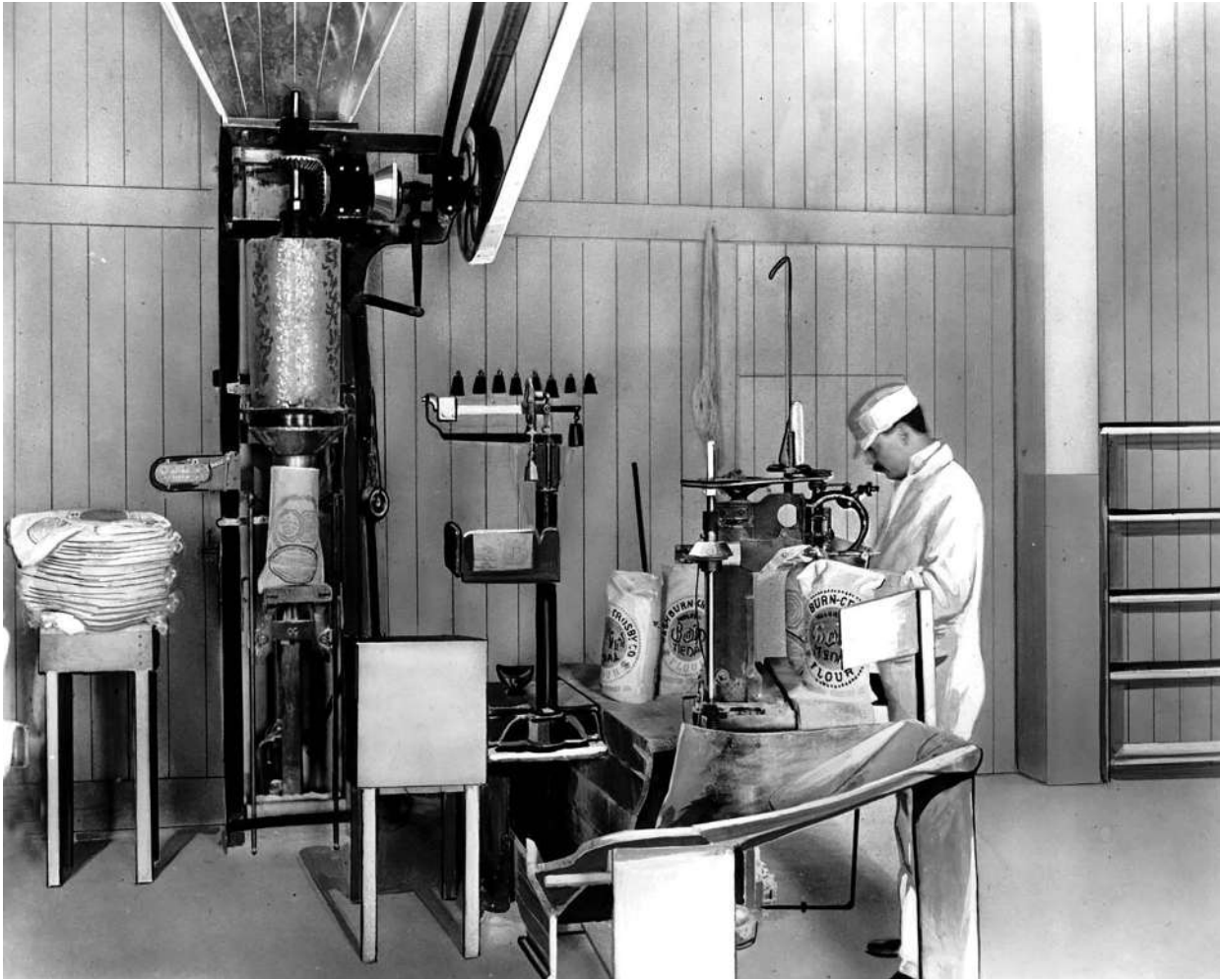
CHAPTER 7: An Era of Growth and Change



In 1882, the National Woman Suffrage Association held a convention in Minnesota. Almost forty years later, the Nineteenth Amendment gave women the right to vote.

Big Question: How did Minnesota change in the late 1800s and early 1900s?

CHAPTER 7: An Era of Growth and Change



From 1917 to 1918, Minnesotans supported the U.S. war effort during World War I by raising money, consuming fewer critical goods, and fighting overseas.

Big Question: How did Minnesota change in the late 1800s and early 1900s?

CHAPTER 7: An Era of Growth and Change



From 1933 to 1942, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) put more than seventy-seven thousand Minnesotans to work on public lands.

Big Question: How did Minnesota change in the late 1800s and early 1900s?

CHAPTER 8: Fighting for Freedom



During World War II, Fort Snelling became a recruitment and training center for new service members.

Big Question: How did Minnesotans fight for freedom in the second half of the twentieth century?

CHAPTER 8: Fighting for Freedom



Many Minnesotans took active roles during the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Big Question: How did Minnesotans fight for freedom in the second half of the twentieth century?

CHAPTER 8: Fighting for Freedom



The Hmong people arrived in the United States in 1975, fleeing war and communist takeover in Laos.

Big Question: How did Minnesotans fight for freedom in the second half of the twentieth century?

CHAPTER 9: Minnesota in the Twenty-First Century



Minnesota is home to a large Somali population, mostly in Minneapolis.

Big Question:

What challenges does Minnesota face in the twenty-first century?

CHAPTER 9: Minnesota in the Twenty-First Century



In 2020, George Floyd's murder led twenty-six million Americans to take to the streets to protest racial injustice.

Big Question: What challenges does Minnesota face in the twenty-first century?

CHAPTER 10: Minnesota's Governments



Minnesota's state government is located in St. Paul.

Big Question: How do Minnesota's governments work?

CHAPTER 10: Minnesota's Governments

CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

Adopted October 13, 1857. Ayes, 30,055; Noes, 571.

Preamble. We, the people of the State of Minnesota, grateful to God for our civil and religious liberty, and desiring to perpetuate its blessings and secure the same to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution:

Preamble.

The Minnesota constitution established the structure and functions of Minnesota's state government. It also protects the rights of Minnesotans.

Big Question: How do Minnesota's governments work?

CHAPTER 11: Minnesota's Economy

Manufacturing, innovation, and small businesses remain important to Minnesota's economy. From March 2022 to March 2023, more than twenty thousand new businesses opened in Minnesota.



Big Question: How does Minnesota's economy work?

Subject Matter Experts

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