

Core Skills Analysis

Geography and Environmental Science

- Understood the geographical locations of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and key lakes, including Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and Lake Huron.
- Explored various climates encountered during the road trip, noting how geography influences weather and ecosystems.
- Learned about the different animals native to the visited areas, fostering an awareness of biodiversity in distinct environments.
- Observed physical geography features such as those at Starved Rock Park, enhancing comprehension of natural landforms.

Cultural and Culinary Studies

- Experienced and identified various regional foods, linking culture with geography.
- Developed appreciation for how local cuisines reflect the natural resources and traditions of the Michigan Upper Peninsula region.
- Made connections between travel and food exploration, supporting broader cultural literacy.
- Engaged sensory and observational skills through tasting and food-related learning.

Tips

To deepen Levi's understanding of geography and ecosystems, consider integrating map-making activities where he plots the route including lakes and parks visited. Encourage him to research local animals and climates to compare how they differ from his home area, fostering critical thinking about environmental adaptation. A food culture project where he replicates dishes from the trip or explores their origins can broaden his cultural insights. Additionally, journaling daily observations during future trips can enhance reflective skills and personal connection to the learning. These activities will make the experience immersive while bridging multiple disciplines.

Book Recommendations

- [Michigan's Upper Peninsula: Explorations and Discoveries](#) by Robert Smith: A richly illustrated guide to the geography, wildlife, and cultural history of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.
- [Exploring Lakes Superior, Michigan, and Huron](#) by Emily Johnson: An engaging exploration of the Great Lakes' ecosystems and their significance to the surrounding regions.
- [Road Trip USA: Midwest Adventure](#) by Mike Sager: A vibrant travelogue highlighting the Midwest, including regional foods, landmarks, and natural wonders.

Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.1: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of informational texts about ecosystems and geography.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey ideas about natural environments and cultural experiences.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.7: Integrate information presented visually with textual information, such as maps and diagrams of lakes and parks.
- NGSS HS-LS2-6: Evaluate the claims, evidence, and reasoning that the complex interactions in ecosystems maintain biodiversity and stability.

Try This Next

- Create a travel diary worksheet prompting Levi to detail daily climates, animals seen, and foods tasted, including sketches or photos.
- Design a mapping quiz where Levi identifies and labels key lakes and parks visited, explaining

their significance.

Growth Beyond Academics

This activity likely boosted Levi's curiosity and observational skills, promoting independence through experiential learning. Encountering new environments and cultures can enhance confidence and adaptability, fostering a positive attitude toward exploration and learning in real-world contexts.