



# Guided Reading Strategies

## Chapter Vocabulary

- Introduce the chapter vocabulary. Write the words on the board and have students read them.
- Have students write the words in their History Journal.
- Have students work in pairs to write definitions for the words using the text and / or a dictionary.
- Have students use each word in a sentence.

You may wish to print the chapter vocabulary cards on card stock and distribute them to students to use for individual study or as a partner activity.

## Chapter Questions

The guided reading questions are meant to

- reinforce facts presented in each chapter,
- develop critical thinking skills,
- develop summarizing skills, and
- foster group discussions.

Read the questions to the students to prepare them for the information presented on the page. Discuss any photographs or diagrams on the page.

Have students read the page silently or read the page to them. Round robin reading, where students each take a turn reading a paragraph, is strongly discouraged as it is not an effective reading comprehension technique. However, choral reading, where the entire class reads together can help struggling readers work through each paragraph. You may also wish to have students pair and read to each other.

Revisit the questions after the page has been read. Have students answer the questions as a group activity. Answers are not provided for teachers for individual questions. Instead, questions are intended to promote student critical thinking, so allow for a variety of ideas to be shared. List ideas on the board when helpful.

Be sure to have students work through each History Detective activity. Allow time for students to take a deep dive into the questions and responses required for them to be effective History Detectives.

At the end of each chapter, have students summarize the information presented in the chapter. You may want to have students write a summary paragraph in their History Journal.



# Chapter 1 Getting Started

## Guided Reading

### Chapter Vocabulary

**primary**      **primary source**      **curators**      **artifacts**      **historians**      **secondary**  
**source**      **storytellers**      **historical fiction**

#### Page 1

1. What did the building of mills and dams in Wisconsin also help build?
2. What did farmers mainly grow beginning in the 1840s?
3. Why would building a dam across a river be difficult?
4. What do you think life was like in the 1800s?

#### Page 2

5. What is the job of a curator?
6. What does a historian use to help us learn about history?
7. How do storytellers share history?
8. What details do you see in the photo?
9. What historical facts does the photo help you to understand?
10. What story could be told from the photo?
11. What is a History Detective?

#### Page 3

12. What will you need to be an effective History Detective?
13. When was this story written?

#### Page 4

14. Why is it a primary resource?
15. What is the story about?
16. How did the building of a mill in Baraboo help the farmer?
17. What do you think it was like to be a farmer in 1914?
18. Why did the farmers decide to grow wheat?
19. What else was being built during this time that would help farmers get their wheat to market?
20. How does the author describe Sauk County at the time he was a boy growing up on a farm?



## Chapter 2 Turning Points in History Guided Reading

### Chapter Vocabulary

turning point    ingenuity    innovation    grit    driving question  
Indigenous People    federal    land patent    scrip warrant

#### Page 5

1. What is a turning point in history?
2. Why are turning points like a set of gears?
3. How were the gears of change in play in Wisconsin in the 1800s?

#### Page 6

4. What do you think was used to build the early dams across Wisconsin's rivers? Why? (Hint: Explore the photo on page 6.)
5. What is a driving question?
6. What is another question that could be asked that will help us discover the answer to the Driving Question on page 6?

#### Page 7

7. What was the Northwest Territory?
8. In what way did the Land Ordinance of 1785 set up the division of land that would become Wisconsin?
9. What is a treaty?
10. What are three things the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 established?
11. When thinking about the various Indian tribes living in Wisconsin, what was the policy of the U.S. government toward the Indians?

#### Page 8

12. What was the result of treaties signed between the U.S. government and the various Indian nations?
13. Who was Chief Yellow Thunder?
14. How was Chief Yellow Thunder able to prevent being removed to west of the Mississippi River a final time?

#### Page 10

15. How many counties are there in Wisconsin?
16. How big is a township?

#### Page 11

17. How many acres are there in a quarter section?
18. What are three things found in the 1820 Land Act?

#### Page 12

19. What is a land patent?
20. Who was given scrip warrants and how were they used?



## Chapter 3 Growth of Farming

### Guided Reading

#### Chapter Vocabulary

lead    cash crop    wheat    Rust Disease    Chinch Bug  
harvesting    threshing machine    steam-powered    close-knit

#### Page 13

1. What did French fur traders begin to trade in regions along the Mississippi River?
2. Why was wheat considered a cash crop?

#### Page 14

3. What limited a farmer's ability to planting and harvesting more than a few acres of wheat at a time in the early 1800s?
4. How did the invention of the steel blade plow change farming?
5. How would you describe horse and oxen power?

#### Page 15

6. What does the painting show? Why is this a primary source?
7. What was the effect of planting the same crop year after year?
8. What was the impact of railroads on wheat farming?
9. Look at the threshing photos on pages 14 and 15. What is the same? What is different?

#### Page 16

10. How would you describe the job of threshing grain?
11. What problems might weather cause for farmers?
12. What problems might insects cause for farmers?
13. What two challenges made growing wheat in Wisconsin in the late 1860s particularly difficult?
14. What are three new types of crops farmers in Wisconsin began planting after wheat farming failed?
15. Which of the crops noted on page 16 do you particularly like? Which do you prefer not to eat?

#### Page 17

16. What new crops became top producers for Wisconsin farmers in the late 1800s?
17. How did the threshing machine change farming?

#### Page 18

18. From the photo on page 17, what can you say about machine maintenance?
19. What was the effect of steam-power on farming?
20. Why were mills needed in Wisconsin's growing communities?



# Chapter 4 Building Dams and Mills

## Guided Reading

### Chapter Vocabulary

water power    interlocking    earthen    volume  
elevation    self-sufficient    industrious

- Page 19**
1. How would you describe a mill?
  2. How were mills powered in the 1800s?
  3. What were the names of the two types of mechanisms that were turned by water?
- Page 20**
4. What might you expect to see in the movie?
  5. What are three things you learned while watching the movie?
- Page 21**
6. What was the purpose of dams built across the rivers in Wisconsin?
  7. Why was it important to create a strong flow when building an earthen dam?
  8. Why did the community come together to rebuild a dam after a heavy rain storm might wash it out?
- Page 22**
9. What are three details you discovered in the photo of the La Valle Mill Dam?
  10. Compare and contrast the two dams on page 22. What is the same? What is different?
  11. Look at a map of Wisconsin. Find your area. How many communities do you think began in the 1800s and had a mill and dam as part of the community?
- Page 23**
12. What two factors must be taken into consideration when choosing a place to build a dam?
  13. Together, what do volume and elevation determine?
  14. What do you notice in the photo of the Mirror Lake Dam? List at least 5 things,
- Page 24**
15. How did the growth of mills lead to a growth of communities?
  16. What is the most interesting thing you learned from the video?
- Page 25**
17. How would you describe a home industry?
  18. What were some products of home industries in the 1800s?
- Page 26**
19. What do you notice in the photo of the men making maple syrup?
  20. Break down making maple syrup into five important steps. What are these steps?



## Chapter 5 The Tale of Two Mills

### Guided Reading

#### Chapter Vocabulary

rural    employment    cooperative    staves    residents  
millrace    oxbow    looms    bygone

#### Page 27

1. Why was the ability to provide employment so important for Wisconsin's growing communities?
2. Do you think all of the employees are shown in the photo? Why or why not?
3. What is meant by a rural community?
4. What might be a clue that at least one mill was once part of your community?

#### Page 28

5. Explore the photo on page 28. What details in the photo help you understand that the mill was part of the community?

#### Page 29

6. Explore the photo on page 29. Compare it with communities today. What is different about the community from the early 1900s and today's communities? What is the same?
7. How do you think the coming of the telephone changed the lives for the people of the Village of La Valle?

#### Page 31

8. Would you say that the mill brought prosperity, or good times, to the people living in and around the Village of La Valle? Why or why not?
9. What did the mill make in 1874? Why do you think this was an important product?
10. What two disasters struck the La Valle Mill in the 1800s?
11. What was the effect of those two disasters?

#### Page 32

12. How do you think the coming electricity changed the lives for the people of the Village of La Valle?
13. Why did the turbine grow silent in 1999? What do you think was the effect on the village when that happened?

#### Page 33

14. In what way was the Island Woolen Mill similar to the La Valle Mill? In what ways was it different?
15. What are three things you discover about the city of Baraboo from the 1872 map?
16. Was the job of a loom?

#### Page 36

17. Why do you think the products made at the Island Woolen Mill were important to those living in other communities? Why was it important to the people of Baraboo?

#### Page 37

18. What happened to the Island Woolen Mill in 1969?

#### Page 38

19. Why is the story found on page 38 a secondary source?
20. What is the difference between a grist mill and a flour mill?



# Chapter 6 The Restoration of Beckman Mill

## Guided Reading

### Chapter Vocabulary

restoration    distillery    investment    grist    ruins  
remarkable    volunteers    engineers    buckwheat

#### Page 39

1. Why do you think the type of products produced in the mill changed over time?
2. Why might a group of individuals want to restore an old mill that no longer produces any products to sell?

#### Page 40

3. Is the map a primary or secondary resource? Why?
4. What does this map show?

#### Page 41

5. What are three different types of details shown on the map?
6. What is shown in the jars pictured on page 41?
7. Explore the before and after photos of the Beckman Mill. What do you notice after looking carefully at both images?

#### Page 42

8. Would you agree that the volunteers needed to work together in order to restore the Beckman Mill? Why or why not?
9. What is a "We can do this" attitude?

#### Page 43

10. Carefully explore the photos of the old and new dam. What improvements were made?
11. Why was it necessary to improve the dam?
12. What was the purpose of the fish ladder?

#### Page 44

13. What did you learn about how a mill works from watching the video?

#### Page 45

14. Why is being listed as on the National Register of Historic Places a special honor?
15. What are three things it will take to ensure that the Beckman Mill does not fall to disrepair again?
16. If you could ask a question of the Friends of Beckman Mill, what would you ask them?

#### Page 47

17. What are some foods that are made with buckwheat flour?

18. Why do some people use buckwheat flour instead of flour made from wheat?

#### Page 48

19. What does the diagram show?

20. What do you think it sounded like when all of the mechanical systems of the Beckman Mill were working? Why?



# Chapter 7 Hydroelectric Dams

## Guided Reading

### Chapter Vocabulary

hydroelectric   generates   renewable energy   reservoir  
penstock   downstream   natural gas

#### Page 49

1. What is a hydroelectric dam?
2. Why is hydroelectric power considered renewable energy?
3. Which hydroelectric dam is closest to where you live?

#### Page 50

4. Why is the flow of water important to the workings of a hydroelectric dam?
5. Why is elevation important to the workings of a hydroelectric dam?
6. Why is volume important to the workings of a hydroelectric dam?
7. What is the job of the generator?
8. Where does the water flow after it moves away from the dam?
9. How does electricity get to nearby businesses and homes?
10. How would you describe the work of a hydroelectric dam in one word?

#### Page 51

11. Thinking back to earthen dams built to power mills, what is different about the look of a hydroelectric dam?
12. Along with hydroelectric dams, what other resource is used to generate electricity in Wisconsin?
13. What is located behind the dam at Prairie du Sac?
14. Why do you think both the hydroelectric dam at Prairie du Sac and Lake Wisconsin are important to the economy of the area?

#### Page 52

15. What does the poet refer to when he uses the term "plant"?
16. What does the poet refer to the men who designed and engineered the dams "pioneers"?

#### Page 53

17. How does the poet describe the work that was done to build the dam?
18. How are the workings of the plant different today from when it was first built?

#### Page 54

19. What does the diagram show?
20. What happens when water flows onto the blades?





# Chapter 8 Paper Mills

## Guided Reading

### Chapter Vocabulary

newsprint    industry    compete    manufacturing    ripple effect

#### Page 55

1. What type of paper products do you use in school? Name three.
2. What type of paper products do you use at home? Name three.
3. What type of paper products do businesses use? Name three.
4. What was once used to make newsprint?
5. What later was used to make newsprint?
6. Why was there a need for more paper mills in Wisconsin?
7. Why was Wisconsin a good place to build paper mills?
8. Where were paper mills mostly built in Wisconsin?

#### Page 56

9. What happened to the paper industry in Wisconsin beginning in the 1920s?
10. Which countries became strong competitors with Wisconsin for the sale of paper products?
11. Why are paper mills important to the local economy? Name three ways a paper mill helps the local economy.
12. What has been the effect of competition from other states and other countries on the Wisconsin paper industry?
13. Why is the paper industry important to the health of the timber industry?
14. Why is it difficult for a mill to change from manufacturing one type of paper product to another type of paper product?

#### Page 57

15. Explore the photo of inside the paper mill. What are three things you notice?
16. What happens to the local economy when a paper mill closes?
17. Why are schools affected when a local paper mill closes?

#### Page 58

18. Why is the closing of a paper mill a turning point?
19. Why is the conversion of a paper mill to a new use a turning point?
20. Do you agree that it is a good idea to repurpose the buildings of an old paper mill into a new use, such as dividing up the building space into apartments? Why or why not?



# Chapter 9 Dam Removal

## Guided Reading

### Chapter Vocabulary

costs and benefits    economy    watershed    springs

#### Page 59

1. Why might a community decide to keep a dam after a mill closes?
2. Why might a community decide to remove a dam after a mill closes?
3. What does the term "cost and benefits" mean?
4. Why is the expansion of a mill, such as the Island Woolen Mill, a turning point for a community?
5. How might a mill power a local economy?
6. What does it mean for a mill to become part of a community's identity?

#### Page 60

7. How many dams were built across the Baraboo River in the 1800s?
8. Why were the dams built?
9. How did the dams help build communities along the river? Describe three ways.
10. Look very carefully at the map. Where does the Baraboo River flow into the Wisconsin River?
11. What is a watershed?
12. How would you describe the watershed of the Baraboo River?
13. In which direction does the Baraboo River flow?

#### Page 61

14. Which dams were removed after 1990?
15. Which dam washed out on its own?

#### Page 62

16. Which dams were removed after 1990?
17. Why do you think the dams in Reedsburg and Baraboo were removed in the 1970s?

#### Page 63

18. Why did engineers believe the remaining dams built across the Baraboo River should be removed?
19. What the lasting impact of the removal of the dams?

#### Page 64

20. What is something you would like to share after watching the movie *Running Free*?