**Ameer** - Hello Everyone, Mrs. Keebler’s class will be telling you about the history and culture of the Midwest.

**Native Americans – Chief Pontiac- Aref, Leah, Sukayna B., Soukanya Z**

**Leah** - Native Americans, or American Indians, were the first people in Michigan and the Midwest.

**Sukayna**-The very first Native Americans lived in Michigan and the Midwest about 10,000 years ago. They left behind artifacts like spear points and arrowheads that have helped us learn more about their culture.

**Soukayna**-The Hopewell, or Mound-builders, lived in parts of Michigan after these early people.

**Sukayna**- After the Hopewell came “The People of the Three Fires.” This was an alliance made up of the Potawatomi, the Ottawa and the Ojibwa. They had similar cultures.

**Leah** - Many Native Americans still live in Michigan today. Like all cultural groups, it is important to them to keep their cultural traditions alive.

**Soukayna** - Many Native American names are still used today in Midwest including the name of our state.

**Sukayna** – Here are a few of the many Native American names still used today:

Michigan means- "Big Sea Water".
Muskegon means - Plenty of Fish in Michigan.
Osceola means - Medicine Drink.
Pontiac is the - Ottawa Indian Chief
Kalamazoo means - "Otter Tail".
Mackinac means - "Turtle Island in Michigan".

**Aref** – Chief Pontiac – I am Chief Pontiac, I lived from 1720-1769. I was an Ottawa chief. I helped the French and was famous for leading my people in the fight against the British invasion of the Great lakes area.

**French fur trade /Missionaries- Ariana- Father Marquette, Medina, Fatima, and Amalia**

**Medina** - About 500 years ago explorers from the continent of Europe were looking for trade routes to China. Explorers from the country of France began exploring in the Great Lakes region.

**Fatima**- The French and American Indians interacted in many ways. For example, they traded with each other, they sometimes married each other, and they learned from each other. The Native Americans helped the French and taught them many things. Fur-trading between the French and the American Indians grew.

**Ariana-** Bonjour, Je m’appelle Père Marquette. In English that means “hello, my name is Father Marquette.” I lived from 1636-1675. I was sent from France to teach our religion to the Native Americans. I explored the Midwest and had many adventures. I was very good at learning different local languages. I founded the first European colony in Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie, and charted the northern Mississippi river. I became so famous they even named the city of Marquette, MI after me.

**Amalia-**Many cities in Michigan were named after French explorers or French words

Belleville, means "Beautiful City"

Cadillac is named after explorer Antoine Cadillac

Detroit, means ("The Straits")

Grand Blanc, means Large White

Grosse Ile means "Big Island"

Marquette was named after explorer and missionary Father Jacques Marquette

Sault Ste. Marie, means ("St. Mary's Rapids")

**Medina**-Not too long after the French fur trade started, the country of Britain became interested in the fur trade.

**British take over- Hani, Jonathon**

**Hani-** Competition for the fur trade led to a war between France and Britain.

**Jonathon-** France lost the war. As a result Britain took control of the Great Lakes region including Michigan.

**Hani**- American Indians found it was much harder to deal with the British than the French.

**Jonathon-** Serious conflicts began between the British and the American Indians.

**Hani**- British colonies along the Atlantic Ocean fought and won a war for Independence.

**Pioneers before Eric Canal – Hiba**

Pioneers coming to Michigan in the early 1800s had many challenges to overcome. It was often very difficult to get to land in Michigan because roads were bad. Once in Michigan, pioneers had to build log cabins and clear farm land. Many people thought Michigan was very swampy and had little good farm land. They didn’t want to move to Michigan.

**Erie Canal- Natalie, Alex, Yusef**

**Yusef -**To become a state, the Michigan Territory needed 60,000 people and a constitution.

**Natalie -**The Erie Canal is a [canal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canal) in [New York](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York) that originally ran about 363 miles from [Albany, New York](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albany%2C_New_York), on the [Hudson River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_River) to [Buffalo, New York](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo%2C_New_York), at [Lake Erie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Erie). It was built to create a navigable water route from [New York City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City) and the [Atlantic Ocean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean) to the [Great Lakes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Lakes). The canal contains 36 [locks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lock_%28water_transport%29) and a total elevation differential of about 565 feet.

**Alex -**The Eric Canal was built starting in 1817 and it opened in 1825.

**Yusef –**The creation of steamboats and the Erie Canal caused more people to move and settle in Michigan. Soon, Michigan had enough people to become a state.

**Eric Canal Song Here**

**Natalie -**Ohio and Michigan had a conflict over a piece of land known as the Toledo Strip. That dispute got in the way of Michigan becoming a state Michigan was forced to give up the Toledo Strip in exchange for the western Upper Peninsula. Michigan finally became a state in January of 1837.

**Alex -**During the 1830s the population of Michigan grew quickly. In 1830, 27,000 people lived in Michigan. By 1840 more than 212,000 people lived here. Most pioneers arrived in Detroit from the East. What was life like for these early settlers as they headed into the wilderness?

**Yusef -**Getting to the land they planned to settle was often a challenge. The roads were muddy, rocky trails. There were no bridges, which made crossing even the smallest creek a problem. Fallen trees, getting lost and wild animals also caused problems.

**Natalie -**Once the family got to their land they made a shanty to live in until their log cabin could be built. The father and sons cut 50 to 60 trees and stacked them into a rectangular structure. The roof was made of shingles that were sliced from logs. The shingles were held down by smaller logs because nails were unavailable. A door was made from split logs, and since glass was unavailable, greased paper covered the window. Being a pioneer was hard work. But sometimes they had time to tell a story or two.

**Folk Tales -**

**Brenna** - Michigan is rich with folk tales from Native Americans, pioneers and loggers who helped clear the lands. Here are a few that we learned about:

**Brenna** - The Legend of the Sleeping Bear Sand dunes– Talks about a momma bear who was swimming across Lake Michigan with her two baby cubs. She makes it to shore and lays on the shores of Lake Michigan waiting for her cubs. She falls asleep and her two baby cubs become the two islands off the coast of Lake Michigan, Mama Bear becomes the Sleeping Bear Sand dunes on the coast of Lake Michigan.

**Yazeed**- Johnny Appleseed – Hi I’m Johnny Appleseed, my real name is John Chapman. I was a real person that lived on the frontier. I got my name because of all the apple trees I planted across the frontier. There were many tall tales told about my adventures.

**Hadi** - Paul Bunyan – Hi I’m Paul Bunyan. I am a fictional giant lumber jack that lived in the pioneer days and I was part of many tall tales. There were many exaggerations about my adventures. I could swing my ax and cut 100 trees with one blow. I dragged my ax across the ground and created the Great Lakes. These lakes made a nice drinking bowl for my giant blue ox named Babe.

**Ameer** - Hi I am Davy Crocket – I was a real person. I lived from 1786 to 1836. I was a 19th-century American [folk hero](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folk_hero), [frontiersman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frontier#American_frontier), soldier and politician. They called me “King of the Wild Frontier” There are many legends and tall tales told about my adventures. Here is a tall tale about me:

**Davy Crockett and the Frozen Dawn** - One winter, it was so cold that the dawn froze solid. The sun got caught between two ice blocks, and the earth iced up so much that it couldn't turn. The first rays of sunlight froze halfway over the mountain tops. They looked like yellow icicles dripping towards the ground.

Now Davy Crockett was headed home after a successful night hunting when the dawn froze up so solid. Being a smart man, he knew he had to do something quick or the earth was a goner. He had a freshly killed bear on his back, so he whipped it off, climbed right up on those rays of sunlight and began beating the hot bear carcass against the ice blocks which were squashing the sun. Soon a gush of hot oil burst out of the bear and it melted the ice. Davy gave the sun a good hard kick to get it started, and the sun's heat unfroze the earth and started it spinning again. So Davy lit his pipe on the sun, shouldered the bear, slid himself down the sun rays before they melted and took a bit of sunrise home in his pocket.

**Michigan Man song here –** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpkWDvXQuTk&feature=kp**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpkWDvXQuTk&feature=kp)

Michigan Man Song Words

When I wonder far away a dream stays with me night and day it’s the road that leads to my home state, I am a Michigan fan

Changing seasons paint the scene like rainbow trout in a hidden stream
Whitetail deer in the tall pine trees, I am a Michigan fan

I am I am a Michigan fan ask where I'm from and I’ll show you my hands lord above I love this land, I am a Michigan fan

From the Keweenaw down to St. Joe, Kalamazoo east to Monroe, Sault Ste. Marie and back again, I am a Michigan fan

I am I am a Michigan fan ask where I'm from and I’ll show you my hands lord above I love this land, I am a Michigan fan

Ameer - Narrator- We hope you have enjoyed learning about the history and culture of Michigan and the Midwest.

This Land is Your Land

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3F88qHvc9S4&safe=active>

Fifty Nifty

Montessori team

