

## UNIT I: THE RISE OF TECHNOLOGY (1870 -1896)

### Topic: Lumber Industry

#### Lesson 4: Early Lumber Rafting

##### Objective:

Students will understand the process by which logs were transported to the mills along the Mississippi River.

##### Materials:

*Lumber Rafting on Wisconsin River* by Simon Augustus Sherman

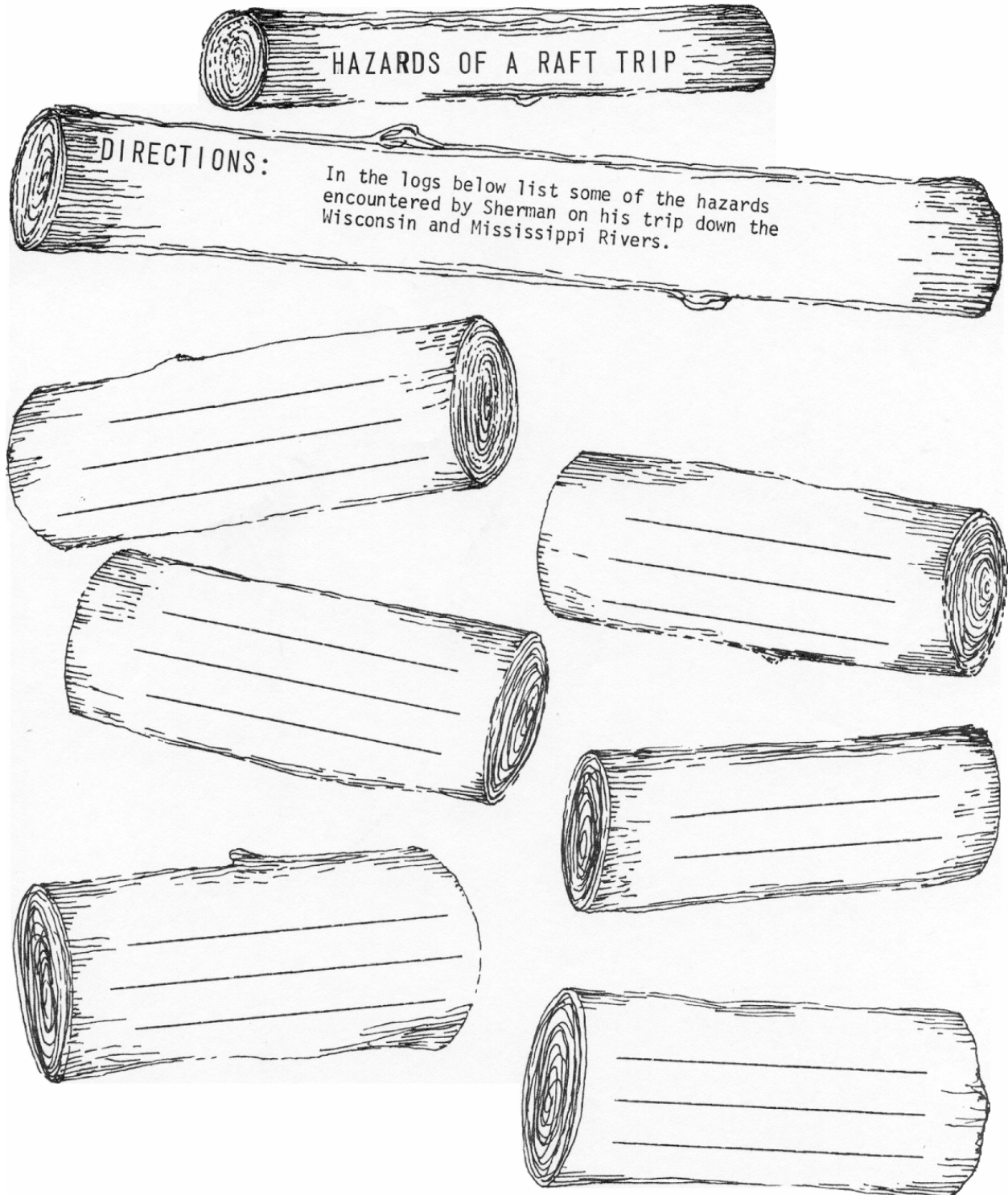
Activity Sheet: Hazards of a Raft Trip

Transparency: State Map of Wisconsin

##### Activities:

1. Introduce the lesson by reviewing the process by which timber was cut in the forests of Wisconsin and Minnesota, rafted down the Mississippi, processed in river towns and distributed nationally.
2. Distribute copies of *Lumber Rafting on Wisconsin River*, by Simon Augustus Sherman. Allow students time to briefly overview his account noticing that he describes both the construction of a raft and a rafting trip down the Wisconsin River.
3. Project the transparency "State Map of Wisconsin." Identify the following on the map:
  - A. The "Big Eau Claire"
  - B. The Wisconsin River
  - C. The Mississippi River
  - D. Dubuque, Iowa
4. Guide an initial reading of the account by utilizing the following outline:
  - A. Sherman describes an account of the spring of 1849 where he starts at the Big Eau Claire River on April 7.
  - B. He includes a description of the raft construction. The actual method of construction is not as significant as the fact that some rafts were made from cut boards while others from logs.
  - C. He includes a journal of his trip down the Wisconsin River describing the many hazards and dangers encountered.
  - D. After arriving at his destination, Dubuque, Sherman describes the trip back to the pinery.
5. Distribute copies of the student activity sheet "Hazards of a Raft Trip." Allow students time to reread the section "A Rafting Trip" and complete the activity sheet.
6. Conclude the lesson by having students share their responses.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## State Map of Wisconsin

