



Using the information you gather on the web site, answer the following questions about the unit.

1. The insurance map in this unit can reveal much about the homes and other buildings in Hibbing. What changes might you see between the 1900 insurance map we see here and an insurance map of the same area from 1905?

***It would be possible that you could tell if there had been a large fire in the area (houses might not have been rebuilt), you could tell if there were more businesses in the neighborhood or if more homes or churches were built.***

What information might you learn from an insurance map of your own neighborhood today?

***If you studied a map of your neighborhood from years ago, you could see whether or not your home had been built and what might have been on your property before you moved there. These maps would also show you what the insurance rates for your community might have been and how each building was constructed.***

2. Census records can be very helpful in our research. What information can you learn from a census report that you can't learn in other sources?

***Census reports give us a description of the family structure and occupation of the person listed, as well as information about their heritage. There are few places in research where you could find all of this information in one source.***

What challenges does a census report present for the researcher?

***Specific information in census reports can be difficult to find and can be a lengthy process. Also, since the methods for taking the census depended a great deal upon the person doing the research, it is possible that not all citizens in a community are listed.***

For what topics of research might a census report be most helpful?

***Census reports are used often in research for family histories and also to retrieve information about certain occupations or ethnic backgrounds in an area.***

3. Learning about the traditions represented in certain communities can tell us about the people and customs of the area at that time. What other information might we find from Hibbing that would show us the diversity of the population?

***We may be able to find fliers, newspaper articles, foreign language newspapers, or photographs depicting or advertising ethnic celebrations or customs. Artifacts that demonstrate art or skills from a person's country of origin might also help us gain a better understanding of the people in the area.***

**Beyond the Sources • Ethnicity**

4. Since the mining companies hired many immigrants to work in the mines, what kinds of accommodations (other than interpreters) might they have made for the immigrants?

***It is possible that mining companies published instructions or safety warnings in more than one language or developed ways to communicate with workers who did not speak English. There may also have been efforts to accommodate the work schedule to allow for ethnic festivals or holidays.***

What challenges might the immigrants face when coming to work for a mining company?

***They would be at a great disadvantage if they did not speak English. Companies were known to sign immigrants to contracts in English that didn't always say what the immigrants thought they said. This means that immigrants would sometimes agree to conditions that they would not have agreed to if they had been able to read the contract themselves and not had to rely on company interpreters.***

What other sources might show us examples of these accommodations and challenges?

***Newspaper articles about lawsuits or complaints against the mining companies, and records of disputes within the company or its employees might give us more information about what was being done and what was requested.***