



**Beyond the Sources • Moving**

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

1. The sources on this site show us some of the perils of making a large change in a community. How can using a variety of newspaper articles, photographs, and other sources give us a clear description of an event in a community's history?

***By using a variety of sources, we can read details about an event, see photographs showing the event as it happened, and evaluate differing opinions in letters, articles or books about the event. These sources will give us a more complete picture of what actually happened and how the community reacted to the situation***

What incorrect conclusions might a historian make if they only used one of these sources?

***If you only use one source to learn about this event, you might think that all homes collapsed when they were moved, or that no one in the community was willing to move. If you only used the insurance map as your source, you might not even guess that the town had moved at all.***

2. Special maps such as insurance maps can give us specific information we might not find on a standard political map. How is the insurance map in this unit probably more useful to us for our research about moving the town than a regular city map would be?

***The insurance map shows us the location of the mines and their distance from town, as well as information about the buildings in the town and their construction. It would not be likely that a regular city map would give us this information.***

What other kinds of maps might show us more information about the town and its moving process?

***A map from later years showing the town's new location would tell us how far the town moved. We might be able to find maps showing roads that were used to move the homes, and also find maps showing how the mining companies expanded after the town was moved.***

3. Communities are often built near natural resources (such as iron ore) that provide income and employment for residents. What can Photo 1 in this unit tell you about life for the people who lived in the houses near the mine?

***We can assume that life for those who lived near the mines could have been loud (equipment and machinery), dusty, and even that their windows might shake from the use of explosives.***

How can a photograph like this make the reality of living near a mine more clear than the insurance map in Map 1?

***This photograph shows us very clearly how close these houses were to the mines. This makes it easier for us to imagine what it might have been like to live near the mines and why the mining companies wanted the town to move.***

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Why is it important to use both of these sources to help you understand the situation?

***By using both sources, we can see that there was more than one mine near Hibbing and that the mines were a very short distance from the town. Both the mileage markers on the insurance map and the houses near the mine in the photograph show us this.***

4. The newspaper articles in this section describe a court action that was begun against the mining companies. How might we find more information about this action?

***Court records or other newspaper articles would give us more information. We might also be able to find the diary or letters of someone who witnessed the case or was living in the area at the time.***

What can a legal dispute like this teach us about the time period and what the community felt was important?

***If the community had been completely willing to move their town, they would never have brought a case to court to stop it. This can tell us that the community didn't listen to everything the mining companies said.***

What can it tell us about the industry that caused the move?

***The fact that the town did actually move tells us that the mining company still had a lot of power and influence in the area. It also tells us that the mines were profitable enough to make moving the town a reasonable expense.***