



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

1. Some of the sources in this section show us how the river changed over time. Much of this information was gathered by government workers who produced the reports about water levels you see on the site. Why would it be important for a river town to know about the high and low water levels?

***Knowing the water levels of the river at various times could help merchants plan their shipping for certain times during the year or encourage people to build homes or businesses farther away from its banks.***

What changes could be made in a town with that information?

***If the information showed a continual drop in the water level, the town might wish to vary their industry so that it is not as dependent upon the river. A constant rise in the water level might suggest increasing the river-based industries.***

2. The photograph of Barn Bluff shows us a natural landmark in the Red Wing area. How is a landmark like this useful for a community?

***In the community's early years, the landmark could have been a navigational tool for explorers or visitors. In later years, it can be a way of identifying the area and distinguishing it from other areas.***

What role can communities play in preserving such a natural landmark?

***Protecting the landmark from deterioration or development might be some ways to preserve it.***

How can a landmark aid researchers who might be studying the area?

***With a natural landmark as a guide, researchers can use other photographs including the landmark to "orient" themselves in the area. They can use the landmark as a gauge to show change over time (e.g. a photograph with the landmark in the background and the beginnings of a town, and a later photograph of the landmark with a city in front of it). It is also likely that such a landmark will have a number of local myths or stories about it.***

3. What can we learn about Red Wing from a report that compares the cost of shipping materials by barge to shipping by train?

***The fact that shipping by barge was cheaper could lead us to believe that Red Wing was a shipping center in the area since it was located on the river.***

**Beyond the Sources • River**

How can the cost of transporting an item affect an entire town's economy?

***If an item is too expensive to transport, the profits a community or company would make from the item would be small. The more cheaply something can be shipped, the more likely it is to be profitable.***

What other factors could effect the economy of a town like Red Wing?

***If the river produced a major product or business for the town and that product or business was threatened by pollution or drought or flooding, or if the supply was exhausted, the town might need to find another resource or industry to replace it.***

4. Historians often use maps as sources for their work. What introductory information about Red Wing could we learn from the map of Goodhue County if this were the first source we studied?

***We could learn that Red Wing is on a river, that railroads had been built by this time, and that there were clay pits located in the county. We could also learn details about which small towns were in the area, the location of Lake Pepin, and how the county was divided into townships.***