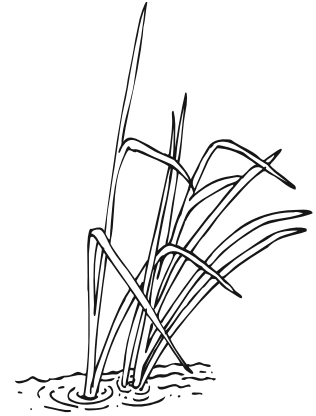


The Menominees

The geography of the land where we live certainly affects how we live. In ancient times, the Menominee Indians lived on the land that is currently Wisconsin and Michigan. The land was flat, with numerous lakes, streams, and swampy areas. There were many forests. These features provided the tribe with food. From the forests, the people gathered nuts, berries, and edible roots. From the lakes and streams, they harvested fish and wild rice. Indeed, the name *Menominee* means "People of the Wild Rice". They continue to live in Wisconsin.



Today in Wisconsin and Michigan, however, the fish populations and the wild rice crops have dropped. This is mostly due to pollution of the rivers and wetlands caused by metallic sulfide mining. (This is when copper, gold, lead, and zinc are extracted from rocks.) The Menominee Indian tribes, as well as many other tribes, are working hard with the federal government to stop the pollution. They are trying to protect their lands from companies whose mines release poisonous gases over the waters. They also are trying to prevent the drainage of the mines' toxic waste into the groundwater. The Menominee Indians are trying to repair the damage done to their wetlands so that wild rice will again grow as well as it did thousands of years ago.

Answer the questions below in complete sentences. Remember, the answers are in the details.

1 How did the geography of Wisconsin and Michigan affect how the ancient Menominee Indians lived? _____

2 How does the presence of copper, gold, lead, and zinc mining in Wisconsin and Michigan affect how the Menominee Indians live today? _____

