

## **Photo Detective**

This is an activity to accompany an on-site visit to Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse or Fort Mackinac. It involves analysis of photographs found at these sites.

### **Objectives**

Students will gain a better understanding of life during the time period portrayed at the site through critical thinking about historic photographs found in exhibits and around sites.

- ✚ Students will list objects, buildings and people found in the image
- ✚ Students will compare the image to the way the site appears today
- ✚ Students will share their observations and compare their lifestyle with those pictured in the images

### **Directions**

Each student should come into the activity with a general knowledge of the straits of Mackinac. Sources of information include the Mackinac Island Visitor's Guide and various activities on the website of Mackinac State Historic Parks, [www.mackinacparks.com](http://www.mackinacparks.com).

Give each student one booklet (print pages back to back and staple in center) and instruct them to find a photograph around the site. The photograph should contain at least one person if possible as well as a building or other feature of the site. Each student should work individually at interpreting their image and recording their findings in the booklets.

### **Taking it further**

Gather the students together and discuss what they found in their photographs. Find common objects between each image (i.e. a rifle in photographs of Fort Mackinac) and ask the students what those items tell about the history of the site. Ask what they know about the site based on what they found in the photographs. How does this compare with their lifestyle?

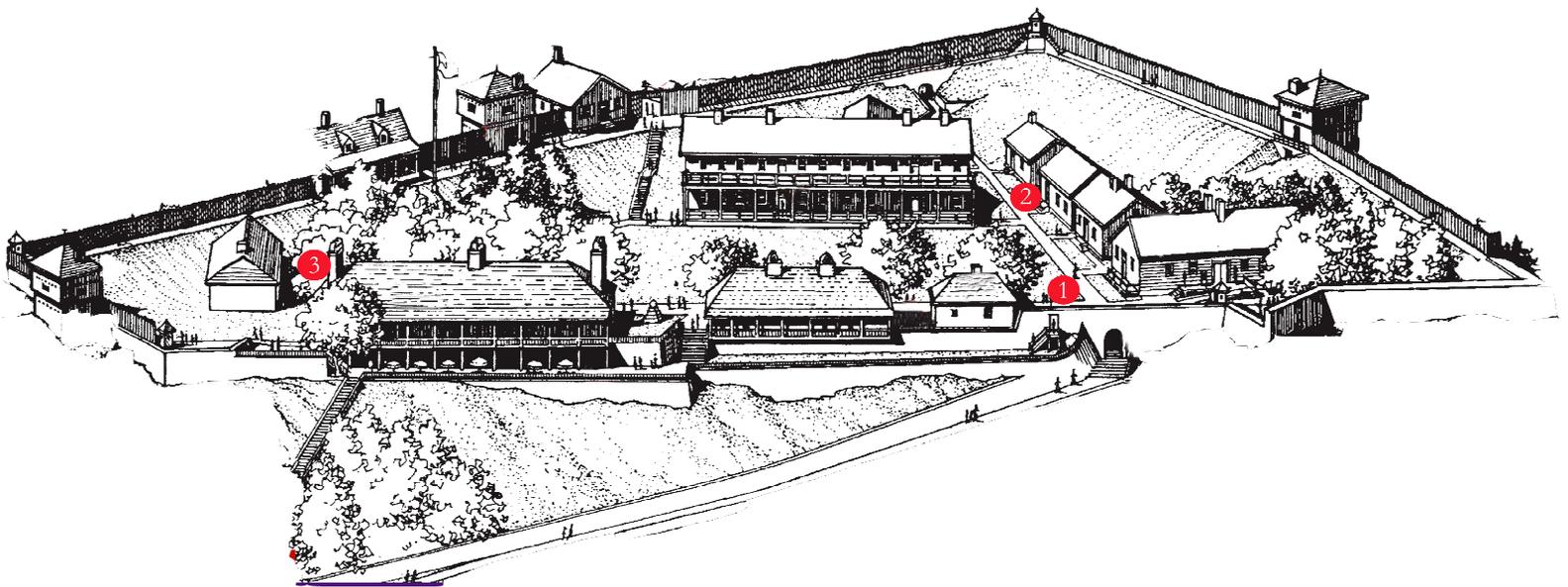
## Questions

Each question should have its own page along with a title page for the student's name.

1. What is in the photograph?
2. What are the people in the photograph doing and how are they dressed?
3. Are there any buildings or objects in the photograph that you can still see when you look around today?
4. How do you think the people in the photograph lived? How is it different from the way you live?
5. Draw what you see in the photograph.

## Maps/Photo locations

### Fort Mackinac



1. Two photographs on the corner of the parade ground, near the commissary
2. One photograph, near the quartermaster storehouse
3. Two photographs, near the post hospital

All photographs at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse are located inside the building

## **Social Studies Benchmarks**

These standards can be reached depending on the activities, exhibits and sites you visit at Mackinac State Historic Parks. These can be reached with the teacher's/instructor's help and guidance. Good luck in reaching your goals and objectives!

### **Elementary (can be adapted for other grade levels)**

#### **History of Michigan (Beyond Statehood)**

Standard 4-H3.0.4 *Draw upon stories, photos, artifacts and other primary sources to compare the life of people in towns and cities in Michigan and in the Great Lakes Region during a variety of time periods.*

Standard H3.0.5 *Use visual data and information text or primary accounts to compare a major Michigan economic activity today with that same or a related activity in the past.*