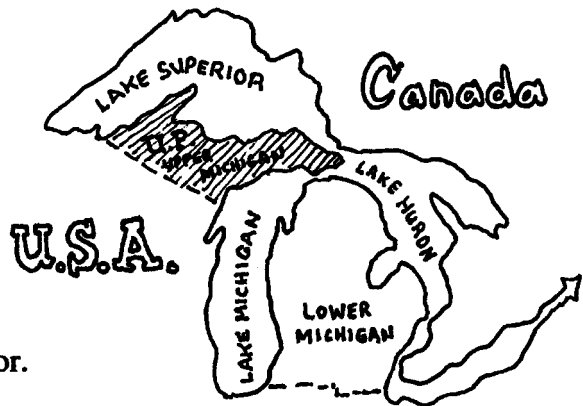
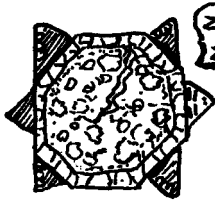


STRAITS AREA LEGENDS

There are many Native American legends about Michigan. One legend explains the way the straits area was formed. Native Americans believed that beavers built a huge dam across a stream. The dam became Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The water held back by the dam became Lake Superior.



Several legends were told by the Native Americans about Mackinac Island, between Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. It is the shape of a large turtle sleeping on the water so they called it "Mackinac", an Indian word meaning "Big Turtle".



Some Native Americans believed the great spirit wanted to live in an island paradise, so he formed Mackinac Island with the help of a turtle. As a reward, the turtle was allowed to sleep and dream there forever.

Another legend tells of a huge turtle searching for a perfect home. He was lured north by the northern lights. Traveling alone all summer and fall, he stopped to rest in the straits area just as winter hit. As ice formed around him, he could not move and was frozen to death. By spring, only his shell was left. As the years went by, an island formed over the shell.

Make an origami turtle. Retell these and other Michigan Native American legends. Use 15x30 cm copier paper.

