

## Worksheet 1-A

### Video Discussion Questions: Teachers Key

#### *Birthplace of Minnesota's Taconite Industry*

1. Where is the birthplace of taconite? Why?

**The birthplace is Babbitt because Peter Mitchell discovered a 1 ½ mile wide by 12 mile long strip of taconite.**

2. Why did the early developers research the low grade ore, taconite?

**They saw a valuable resource that was not being used.**

3. How can producing taconite be compare to recycling today?

**Today's recycling reuses resources for a healthier planet.**

4. What is the difference between taconite and red ore?

**Red ore is 50-60 % iron and is known as direct shipped ore. Taconite is 20-30% iron and is crushed and processed then shipped as pellets.**

5. When did the first mining plant begin and how many tons were produced?

**The first plant began in 1920 and produced 200 tons a day.**

6. How was math and science used to develop the industry?

**The early plans used flow charts and math to solve problems; science experiments discovered the process.**

7. Why did the Babbitt plant close? What lessons were learned from this early plant?

**The Babbitt plant closed because it could not compete with the other ores being mined. This plant supplied information for other plants to be better built. It was the foundation of today's taconite industry.**