

The Fox River

The Fox River flows through Marquette County. It is one of the most historically significant rivers in the United States. That's because before there were good roads, before there were trains, before there were automobiles and trucks, people used rivers to travel from place to place and to move the goods they produced like wheat, furs, vegetables, lumber and more. The Fox River in Wisconsin connects Green Bay, which leads to the Great Lakes, through Wisconsin all the way to Portage and the Wisconsin River. The Wisconsin River connects to the Mississippi River which flows into the Gulf of Mexico. People could travel and send goods all over the world on the Fox River. That's why people built a canal in Portage because the Fox River and the Wisconsin River had a short piece of land between them that Indians carried their canoes over to move from one river to the other....thus the name Portage because portage is another word for carry.

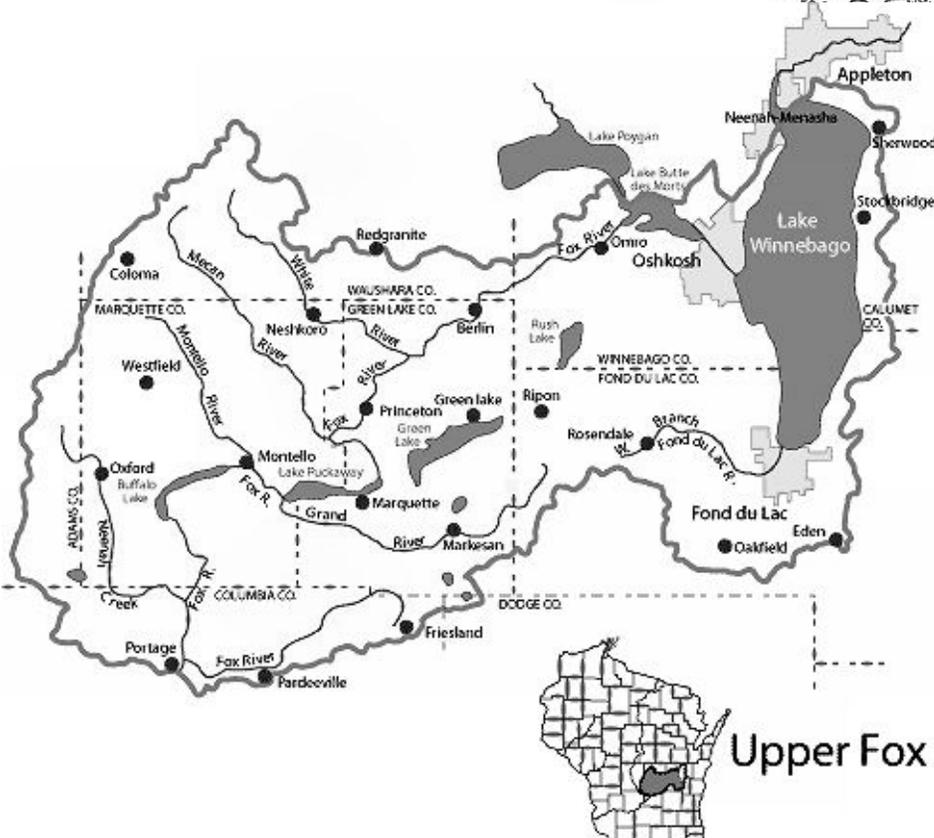
Now look closely at the map. Why in the world is the Upper Fox below the Lower Fox? That's because the Fox River flows north instead of south. The Fox River in Wisconsin is one of several rivers in the world that flow north. Rivers flow according to gravity. If you pour a glass of water on the ground, it's gravity that pulls it down so the land through which the Fox River flows is higher at its beginning than it is at where it ends. A fluke of nature you might say. Look at how many communities are connected by rivers.

What direction does the Fox River flow?

What does portage mean?

List three things that draw people to rivers:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Later in the book you'll learn more about some ships on the Fox River.