

Detroit owes its origins to Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, a French fur trader who believed strongly that a site on the river between Lake Huron and Lake Erie was the key to control of lakes trade, rather than the French fort and trading port that had been established at the Straits of Mackinac in the late 1600s. His vision was prescient; today Detroit is one of the top ports in the United States by value of customs clearances.

From its establishment in 1701, Detroit - or the Straits - has had its ups and downs. Burned to the ground in 1805, it grew by the late 1800's to an important manufacturing center based on copper and iron ore from the Upper Peninsula. It was the site of the Ford Motor Company's establishment in 1903, and the site of the Model T's production.

Sports

Detroit has some of the finest sports teams in North America with Detroit Red Wings hockey playing at Joe Louis Arena, Detroit Tigers baseball at Comerica Park, Detroit Lions football at the new Ford Field, and Detroit Pistons basketball in Auburn Hills at the Palace. Other notable teams such as the Shock pro women's basketball and Vipers hockey.

The Details

Port Authority

Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority

