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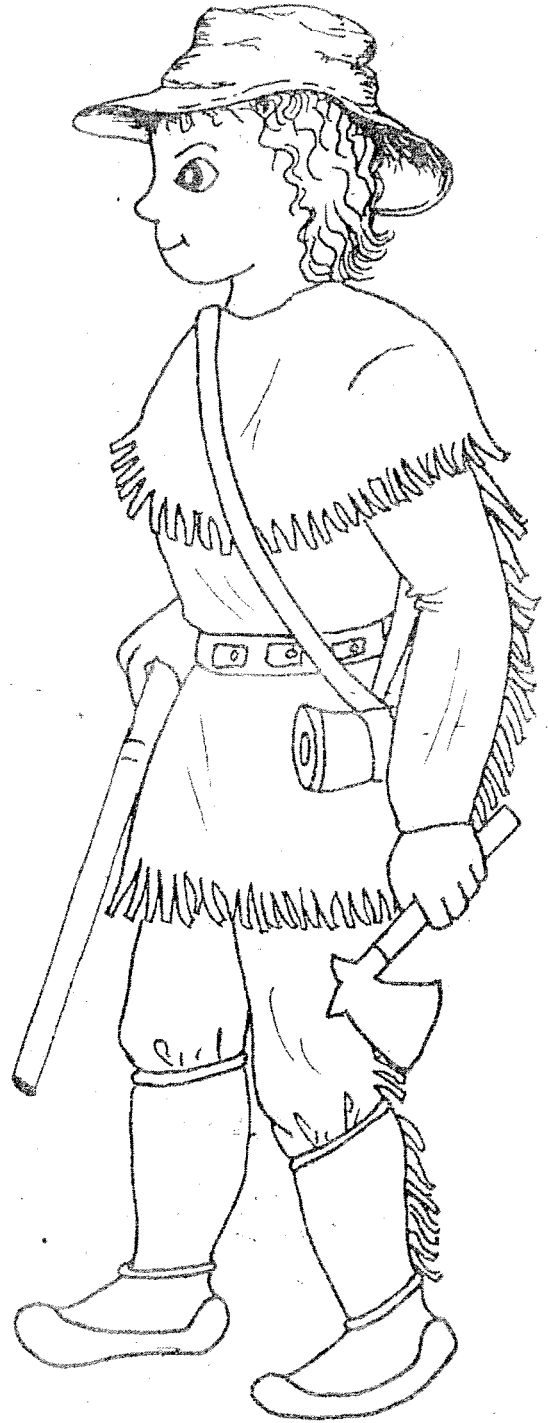
Date _____

The Wilderness Road

Not all people went west to build new homes. Some wanted only to explore! They wanted to go farther and farther into the wilderness. They wanted to open up new paths for the settlers to follow. These people were called pathfinders.

The most famous pathfinder was Daniel Boone. He lived in North Carolina. Boone wore clothes made of deerskin. He was a brave hunter. He liked being in the dangerous forests.

To the west, over the mountains, was Kentucky. Boone thought it was a beautiful place. He wanted to take his family and friends there. He made a road from what was once an old American Indian path. It was called the Wilderness Road. Then he took the group over this road into Kentucky. There they built a town called Boonesborough.



1. For what two things did people go west?

2. What is a pathfinder?

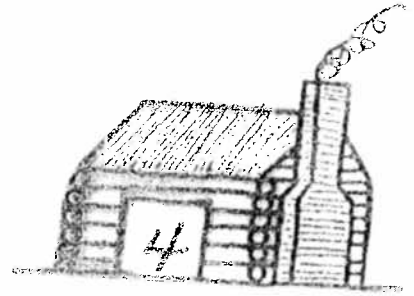
3. Name a famous pathfinder.

4. What road did he make?

5. Name his town.

Bonus! Find out more about Daniel Boone and Boonesborough. Draw a picture of this fort town.

CUTTING A ROAD



The first settlers in Indiana never used roads for hauling products to market. They didn't have anything to sell. Their little patches of cleared land just raised enough corn to keep them fed. The early pioneers usually followed the buffalo traces or Indian trails. They rarely used wagons but traveled on foot or horseback. As more land was cleared and more settlers came to Indiana, they needed roads to drive hogs and haul corn and other products to market. The United States government gave Indiana part of the money from the sale of land. Some of this money was used to build roads.

Sometimes groups of farmers would work together and cut a road. Cutting a road through the forest was hard work. The men would begin swinging axes at sun-up and would put them down at sundown. First they cut all the underbrush from the roadway. Other trees were cut and cleared from the road. If a large tree, rock or swampy place was in the

way, they would just go around it. The road didn't need to be straight. When they came to a creek, logs were laid across the bottom to keep the wagon wheels from sinking in the soft earth.

If the creek or river was too deep to ford (drive across), they built a flat-bottomed ferry boat to haul the wagons across. Pioneer roads were winding and full of stumps. In rainy weather they were too soft for a wagon. The roads didn't look like much, but they served their purpose.

The first road to go across the state was called the Michigan Road. It ran from the town of Madison on the Ohio River to Michigan City on Lake Michigan. Trees were cleared in a strip one hundred feet wide from Madison to Michigan City. A few stumps were pulled out and the roadbed graded. When the road was dry, if ever, traveling wasn't too bad. It was said that there was only one mud hole on the road, but it was two hundred and sixty miles long! On sections of the road where mud made the road impassable, logs

were laid crosswise on the road. The rough roads reminded people of the bumpy corduroy cloth and so were called corduroy roads. These sections of corduroy road were so rough, the wagons almost fell apart. As poor as it was, the Michigan Road was the best in Indiana.

The United States government had built a road from the east coast through the state of Ohio. They decided to continue this National Road through Indiana. It entered Indiana on the east near Richmond and left on the west near Terre Haute. The road passed through Indianapolis on Washington Street, where it was covered with crushed rock. For many years, the National Road was thought to be the finest wagon road in the world. It brought many settlers to Indiana. The state didn't have the money to repair the roads and great mud holes were very common. In order to keep the roads passable, Indiana made a law that all men had to work a certain number of days every year building roads for the

state.

The pioneers tried plank roads. The roads were covered with smooth oak boards. This made a good road when it was dry. When it rained, horses couldn't stand up on the slippery boards. In time the boards split, broke, warped, rotted, and had to be replaced.

There was plenty of gravel beneath the Indiana soil. The pioneers began putting it on the roads. Gravel turned out to make the best roads and made traveling much easier for the people of Indiana.

Also to keep the roads in repair, people were charged a toll for using them. A long pole called a pike was put across the road so the traveler would have to stop. As soon as he paid his toll, the pike was turned and the traveler could be on his way. We still call some toll roads "turn-pikes." When the repair of roads was taken over by the counties, the pikes or toll gates were torn down.

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

Put the letter of the correct answer in your activities booklet.

1. Indiana got some money to build roads from:
 - a. the sale of land
 - b. excise tax on wagons
 - c. borrowing it from Ohio
2. If the road builders found a large tree or rock in the way, they would:
 - a. clear it out of the way with dynamite
 - b. pull it out with a hoist
 - c. go around it
3. If the road crossed a deep creek or river, the road builders would:
 - a. build a bridge
 - b. build a flat-bottomed ferry boat
 - c. fill in the creek with sand
4. In very muddy places, the road builders would lay logs across the road to keep the wagons out of the mud. These log roads were called:
 - a. corduroy roads
 - b. government roads
 - c. toll roads
5. The first road to cross Indiana was called:
 - a. U. S. 40
 - b. Michigan Road
 - c. Forbes Trail
6. A long pole called a pike across a road meant the traveler had to:
 - a. change horses
 - b. board a ferry boat
 - c. pay a toll

Day 9:

You will need fiddle music, dice, and Daniel Boone outfit.

March 21, 1782

(Lights off)

Have students get their wagons and line up. Note if who runs or bumps each other. Say they got into a fight and have them roll the dice. 1=broken nose, 2=black eye, 3=dead, 4=stabbed, 5=no problems, 6=cries.

“We are going to leave today. The ground is still wet, but I think we will be ok. I do not want any more quarrels along the way. If you can’t get along with someone, I suggest you just stay away from them. Remember, we are going to be together for several, and I mean several, weeks. If you don’t think you can get along with the others, I suggest you wait until another group heads West. The trail to begin with is very easy, because the trail is laid out and is used quit often. Later on, the trail will become less wide and we will have to travel in single file. We will always have one wagon in the lead. Today, _____ (draw a name) will be in front. The person at the end will get the dust from all the other wagons in front of them when it gets dusty. We change the positions of the wagons because of this.”

(Lights off, end of day.)

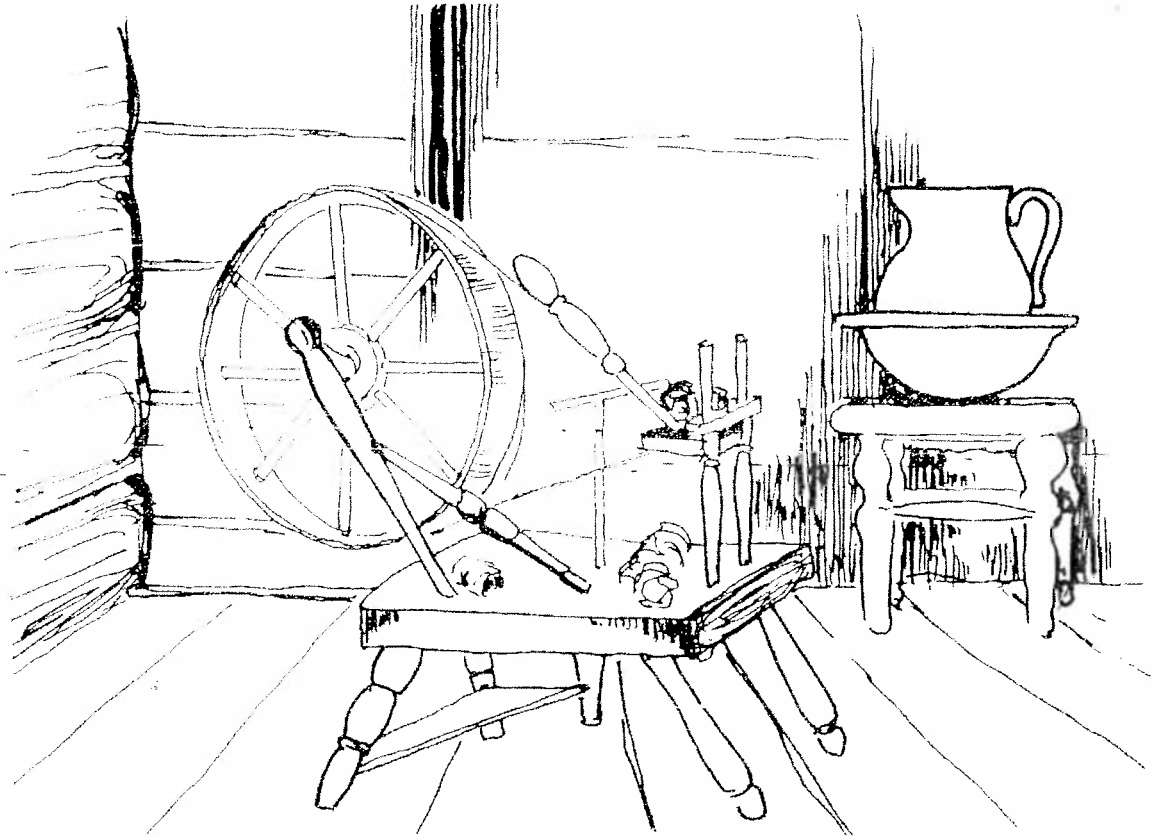
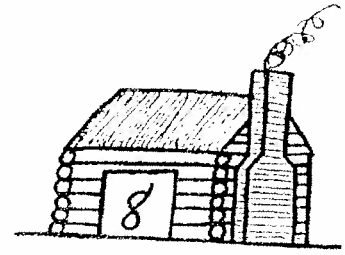
Teacher read, not Daniel: Today went relatively uneventful. The quarrel this morning did not amount to much. Almost everyone walked. They did not want to stop for the evening. They thought we should travel more. Everyone had trouble putting their wagons in circles. Some did not want to because they said the Indians would not attack this close to home. I wish I had explained we do this to use it as a corral for the animals. I never knew that _____ was musically inclined. He/she played several fiddle songs for us. Several danced and enjoyed the music,

(Draw numbers to see who plays the fiddle and who dances to the music.) It won’t be long before they will be too tired to do that much dancing.

Journal Entry: chronicle today’s events

Time for a GRADE: Pioneer Clothing.

PIONEER CLOTHING



In the pioneer period nearly all clothing was homemade. If someone needed a shirt, a dress, coat, hat or shoes, the pioneer

women made it.

Copying after the Indians, the first settlers made their clothing from the skins of deer.

After several months of soaking, scraping and oiling the deerskin, it became soft. Men and boys liked the long-wearing deerskin. Sometimes they would decorate their shirts and leggings with beads, colored porcupine quills and fringes. The heavy leather clothing protected the men from nettle stings, briar scratches and snake bites. Because deerskin clothing was not woven, it had no threads to pull and tear. The leather clothing also kept them warm in cold weather. The biggest problem was that when deerskin got wet, it shrank and then got stiff.

After a pioneer family had established a homestead, they could begin to grow the various products from which cloth could be made. The pioneers made their cloth for clothing from linen, wool, linsey-woolsey and sometimes cotton. Linen was made from the flax plant which was grown in small fields. When the flax seed was ripe, the pioneers would pull the plants out of the ground by hand. The flax would be spread

out on the ground until it was dry. Then the bundles of flax would be pounded on a board to break up the coarse fibers in the plant.

After the coarse fibers were beaten out, the flax was ready for the spike board called a hackle. The women pulled the flax through the spikes on the hackle time after time, combing out the coarse flax called tow. When they finished, only fine glossy fibers remained. These fine fibers were put on a small spinning wheel and spun into linen thread. The thread could then be woven into linen cloth and used to make sheets, pillow cases, tablecloths and "Sunday-go-to-meeting" clothes. The tow that was combed out was also spun into thread and woven into a coarser cloth to make men's pants, flour sacks, and towels.

Getting woolen cloth was just as hard as getting linen cloth from flax. After the wool was sheared from the sheep, it was washed and dried, and all the burrs and trash were carefully picked out. Carding was the next

step. The cleaned wool was combed out by hand cards: small, wide brushes with metal bristles which were used to straighten out the strands of wool. The fluffy wool was then put on a big spinning wheel and spun into woolen yarn, which was wrapped on a spindle.

Pioneers like colored clothing as much as we do today. To make their cloth red, brown, blue or yellow, the women would dye the yarn. The stain of walnut hulls gave them dark brown dye; red came from the sunac berries, yellow from smartweed and blue from the indigo plant. Many other colors or shades of colors were made from leaves, bark, berries and weeds.

When the yarn was dyed a favorite color, it was put on a big loom and woven into flannel cloth. The cloth was then cut into pieces and sewed into clothing. The flannel was made into dresses, shirts and blankets to keep the pioneers warm during the cold winters.

Another very popular cloth was called linsev-woolsev. The

pioneer women would take the strong linen thread and weave it into cloth with the softer woolen yarn. When they didn't have any flax or sheep, the pioneers made a coarse cloth from nettles gathered in the swamps. They could also make a kind of wool from the hair of buffalo and bear.

As the population of Indiana grew, peddlers began to come through the wilderness with wagons loaded with needed supplies. Stores opened up in the little settlements and towns. One of the most popular items in the stores was calico. Being able to buy the soft cotton cloth saved the pioneer women many hours of work. Settlements grew into towns and towns into small cities. Men and women began to think about fashion. When they dressed up men wore coats of broadcloth with pants and vest to match. Women appeared in stiff brocades, shining taffetas and hooped skirts. But whether the clothing was made of deerskin or shiny silk, it was sewed up by the nimble fingers of pioneer women.

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

Put the letter of the correct answer in your activities booklet.

1. The early pioneers got their clothing by:
 - a. ordering it in a catalog
 - b. going to a store
 - c. making it themselves
2. Deerskin made fine clothing for men but the main problem with deerskin was:
 - a. it wore out quickly
 - b. it shrank when it got wet
 - c. it was cold
3. The cloth made from the flax plant was:
 - a. cotton
 - b. linen
 - c. wool
4. Wool comes from:
 - a. sheep
 - b. buffalo
 - c. plants
5. The pioneers used leaves, bark, berries and weeds to make:
 - a. cloth
 - b. thread
 - c. dye
6. The cloth that the pioneers made from linen and wool was called:
 - a. cotton
 - b. linsey-woolsey
 - c. silk

Day 10:

Wear a skirt and bonnet today. Need jerky, map, and die. I also made a transparency of three pictures: Simon Snyder, wild mountain flowers, Appalachian Mountains.

Read:

April 15, 1783

Most people have run out of baked goods they cooked before the trip and are now eating jerky. (Pass out jerky sticks.) _____'s front tooth fell out while trying to chew off a piece. Now he/she has to tear off the jerky and has a lisp when talking.

We have reached Winchester. (Pull out maps and do dot to dot.) We will be going to Wythe next. As we are traveling, we see the Appalachian Mountains to the west (show transparency) The scenery is great! There are wildflowers everywhere (show transparency). _____ went to pick some and got bitten by a snake. (Roll the die: 1,2=die, 3,4=live and will have to ride in the wagon, 5,6=the snake was not poisonous and they are fine.) The doctor will check on them. (Roll the die and pay the doctor \$1 per dot on die. Subtract from their budget.)

You should hear all the people moaning and groaning about their stiff bones. Sleeping in tents isn't as much fun as they thought it would be. Some people are just too tired from all that walking to notice or care less where they sleep. Today it rained, so they were thankful to have the tents to sleep in.

Yesterday we ran into Simon Snyder, the governor of Pennsylvania. (Show the transparency.) He told us that the Declaration of Independence makes it easy for all to prosper and that we will be a bigger and happier nation.

People are learning to hitch up faster now. On Sundays, we stop to let the animals and ourselves to rest up. We usually have a sermon by our minister, _____. After our sermon, we wash our clothes. They are so tore up already. The blacksmith, _____, had to repair _____'s wagon. His hitch tore up with all the jolting along the trail. He was charged _____. (roll the die)

We will be crossing the Holston River and follow it south to Watauga soon. (up date the dot to dots on your map)

Journal Entry: chronicle today's events

Day 11:

Pioneer dress, map, die

April 26, 1783

We made it to Wythe without too much trouble. When we reached the Sauquanna River it was too high to cross because of all the rain. We had to wait two days before we could cross it. Daniel Boone said we should really wait longer, but the group protested. _____'s wagon tipped over and lost ½ of the supplies.

We reached the Appalachian Mountains and we haven't made much progress. We have only been traveling an average of seven miles per day. _____'s wagon was too heavy for the horses and the horses lost control of the wagon. The wagon went over the edge of the mountain. Thankfully _____'s family jumped and got out in time. Two of the horses died instantly. Our gunman, _____, had to shoot the others. (The family needs to decide who they will be riding with.)

_____ left the wagon and saw a bear. He shot at the bear and was mauled pretty bad. Doctor _____ says they will be fine but will have to ride in the wagon the rest of the way (roll die and pay the doctor, subtract from budget paper).

The trail has been so slippery, no wonder more wagons haven't gone over the side. The bad part is, we are not in the higher parts of the mountains yet.

_____ and _____ have done nothing but quarrel all the way. Our missionary, _____, tried to talk to them. We hoped they made peace, but then _____ shot _____. (Roll die: 1=shot in arm, 2=shot in leg, 3=missed, 4=killed, 5=shot in hand, 6=shot in foot.)

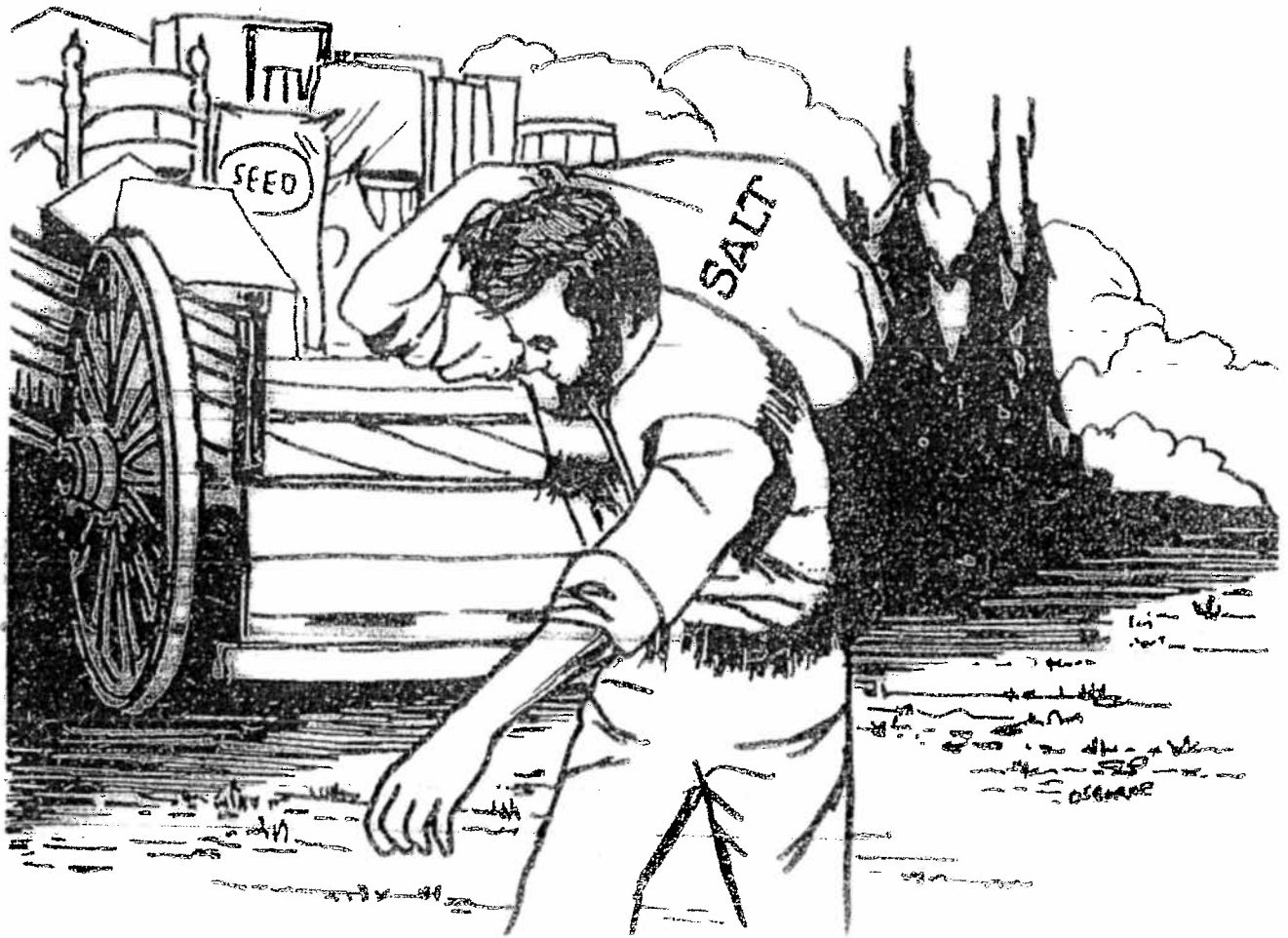
The five council members met and decided what to do. They know there is a jail located in Watauga, our next stop along the trail. (council meet and decide what to do) Council's decision

Journal Entry: chronicle day's events

Time for a GRADE: White Gold



WHITE GOLD



The wagons bringing settlers to Indiana were small, so the limited space was used for things the pioneers would need most on the frontier. One item that was always given space was a bag of salt.

The untamed frontier was filled with wild berries, nuts, edible roots, wild animals, and a fertile soil in which to grow vegetables and fruit. Getting food was not a problem for the Hoosier pioneer. The real problem was to preserve it for the long cold winter months when food was harder to get. They used mints, peppers, mustard and other herbs to season and preserve their food, but these things were not as good as salt. As their supply of salt ran low, the settlers began to plan a trip to a salt lick. The closest sources of salt in large quantities were the Blue Lick and Big Bone Lick in Kentucky or the Ohio Saline Springs near Shawneetown, Illinois.

Salt is a mineral that lies beneath the ground in many places. In some of these areas a water

spring would flow up out of the ground, carrying salt with it. The salty water would run out on the ground, making the dirt taste salty. For unknown years animals traveled for miles to these springs to lick the salty ground. After hundreds of years of continuous licking, the animals gradually removed the dirt to the depth of six to ten feet over an area of several acres. These places were called "salt licks" by the pioneers.

Several groups of settlers would get together and plan a trip to a salt lick. When they got to the "lick," the men would chop down trees for firewood. They would build a couple of three-sided cabins to protect them from the weather and a rough shelter around the fire pits. The fires were started. Big iron kettles that the pioneers brought with them were put over the fire pits and filled with salty brine from the spring. The water would boil away, leaving the precious salt in the kettle. Time after time the kettle was filled up with the salty water, until the settlers

had all the salt they wanted.

The biggest problem in obtaining salt during the early pioneer period was the threat of Indian attack. Hostile Indians soon learned the route that the settlers took to the large licks. Indians continually lurked along the "salt road," robbing and murdering the settlers.

In 1809, a group of fourteen settlers left a southern Indiana settlement and headed for the "licks" at Shawneetown, Illinois. The men were well-armed and kept a close watch for Indians. They saw a couple of small groups of Indians but they didn't attack the settlers. The men arrived at the "lick" and began to chop down trees for firewood.

Just before sunset, the settlers heard a loud noise in the woods. The noise continued until they thought they'd better check it out. Six of the men grabbed their rifles and set out through the woods in the direction of the noise. As soon as they were out of sight, a band of painted Indian warriors came running into camp and killed the other eight

men. Hearing the screams and shots, the six hurried back to camp. One the way, Bill Bowden fell into a groundhog hole and twisted his ankle. As Bill lay on the ground in pain, the rest of the men ran into camp and were greeted with a hail of arrows and tomahawks. Bill stayed quiet until the Indians left the area, wrapped up his ankle and hobbled back to the settlement with the sad news.

As more settlers came to Indiana, new sources of salt were needed. They looked for salt springs and found salt in many counties. The earliest miners in Indiana were settlers digging for salt. Many people dug wells and pumped the salty water to the surface. Some salt was brought down the Ohio River from springs and licks in West Virginia, but the salt was so expensive, the settlers called it "white gold." Later the Wabash-Erie Canal enabled the settlers to get salt more cheaply from the eastern licks.

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

Put the letter of the correct answer in your activities booklet.

One of the main reasons that people needed salt was:

- a. to trade for guns
- b. to preserve their food
- c. to make the corn grow better

The areas where salt waters runs out onto the ground are called:

- a. salt licks
- b. white pools
- c. salt forts

The first thing the settlers did when they made a trip to the "lick" was to:

- a. make treaties with the Indians
- b. cut down trees for fire-wood
- c. pick up the salt

4. To get salt from the salty water that came from the spring or well, the settlers would:

- a. pour it through a cloth
- b. pour it through a porous rock
- c. boil it in a kettle

5. Bill Bowden's life was saved because he:

- a. sprained his ankle
- b. killed the Indians
- c. ran away

6. Salt was sometimes called "white gold" because:

- a. it looked like gold
- b. it was used as money by banks
- c. it was so expensive

Day 12:

Pioneer dress and bonnet

You will need map, three cups, bead to represent fur, coin, pictures of river fish cut out with paper clip on mouth end, sticks with string and magnet on the end.

May 14, 1783

We have reached the town of Watauga (mark your map). _____, _____, and _____ went out to scout for Indians. (See if anyone is scalped by putting bead under cup, mix up cup, if student picks cup with bead under it, they are scalped. Have the preacher preach a funeral!)

Everyone is very nervous because of the Indians. We now have a watchman every night. They change shifts every four hours.

_____, _____, and _____ were the watchman one night. (Whoever's name got pulled out second got shot because they thought he was an Indian.) (Flip the coin to see if he/she lives, heads=live, tails=dies.)

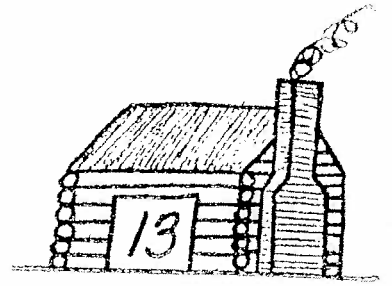
We have been following the Holston River. Several people have been fishing. _____, _____, and _____ caught several fish. (Let them take turns catching the paper fish.)

We haven't had any rain in over three weeks and the temperatures are getting unbearable. The dust is covering everybody and everything. _____'s horses are coughing. We hope it is just from all the dust. Our next stop is the Cumberland Gap (mark your map).

Journal Entry: chronicle today's events

Time for a GRADE: The Sickness

"THE SICKNESS"



"Hurry, Sara; go get Pa! I think Mama has the milk sickness." Sara ran as fast as her legs would carry her to the neighbor's where her pa was helping cut some trees. "Pa! Pa! Mama's got the sickness! Come quick!" Nobody knew what the milk sickness was or what to do about it. The pioneers only knew it came without warning and killed cattle and people alike.

Once before when there had been an outbreak of milk sickness, Sara's father had made a brew of cherry root bark, a double handful of yellow poplar root bark and sarsaparilla. The brew also included a double handful of red sumac roots and a handful of bitter root. All of this was boiled in two gallons of water and simmered until only a pint was left. A gallon of hard cider and a few drops of whiskey were added to make the medicine complete.

Sara's mama lay on a bear-skin rug in the corner with a

blanket pulled up to her chin. It was a warm day but her body shook beneath the blanket. She was having chills. Sara's father gave her a teacup full of the medicine he had made. The medicine had cured the yellow jaundice last fall when Sara's pa had been sick, but it didn't help her mama. She passed away during the night.

Indiana was not a healthy place during the pioneer period. Most people had to learn to live with the death of a loved one. Many children died before their fifth birthday and very few adults lived past forty years of age.

There were many causes for early death. The thick matting of grasses and weeds, the dense forests, and many ponds and swamps made Indiana a damp place. The wet areas bred millions of disease-carrying flies and mosquitoes. Fleas, lice and other insects spread disease in the log

cabins. Hard work from "sun to sun," often when they were not well, weakened the pioneers and made it easier for disease to make them sick and to kill them. There were not many doctors in the wilderness and sometimes the cures were worse than the diseases.

Of all the illnesses in Indiana, the most common was called ague (egg'u). Whenever someone started yawning, stretching and feeling tired, he or she probably was having an attack of ague. If a person's fingernails turned blue and his teeth chattered from chills, it was likely that he had the "ager" (ague). After an hour of chills that shook the whole body, a high fever, headache and backaches developed. The fever was followed by sweating and weakness. Even though the sickness was serious, the pioneers didn't take it too seriously. On the frontier one often heard "He ain't sick, he's only got the

ager." It was later discovered that ague was malaria and that it was carried by mosquitoes.

The pioneers dreaded late summer and early fall, because this was the worst time of year for illness, especially fevers. Each year cholera, typhoid, smallpox, diphtheria and milk sickness took their toll of young children and adults. In colder weather the disease-carrying insects died, but pioneers got pneumonia, croup, measles, mumps and whooping cough. There were epidemics of flu and people grew weak with tuberculosis. Skin diseases and itches made life unpleasant for whole settlements.

As time passed, the trees were cut and the swamps drained, ridding Indiana of many of the malaria-causing mosquitoes. A better understanding of what caused different diseases and doctors with more training helped to improve the lot of the Hoosiers as the state grew in population.

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

Put the letter of the correct answer in your activities booklet.

1. Sara's mother died from:
 - a. pneumonia
 - b. milk sickness
 - c. ague
2. The family got medicine for their mother by:
 - a. making it from herbs and whiskey
 - b. going to the settlement pharmacy
 - c. calling the doctor
3. In the pioneer period very few adults lived past the age of:
 - a. twenty-five
 - b. seventeen
 - c. forty
4. The cause of many deaths in Indiana during the pioneer period was:
 - a. wet land that bred mosquitoes and other insects
 - b. the cold weather
 - c. wearing buckskin clothes
5. The most common disease in Indiana during the pioneer period was:
 - a. measles
 - b. mumps
 - c. ague
6. The disease that the pioneers called the "ager" was really:
 - a. pneumonia
 - b. malaria
 - c. whooping cough

Day 13:

Pioneer dress

You will need map, deep^r photos, marshmallow bow and arrow.

May 21, 1783

More horses started coughing. Whatever the horses have are catching. The council members met together to decide what to do with the horses. They decide to

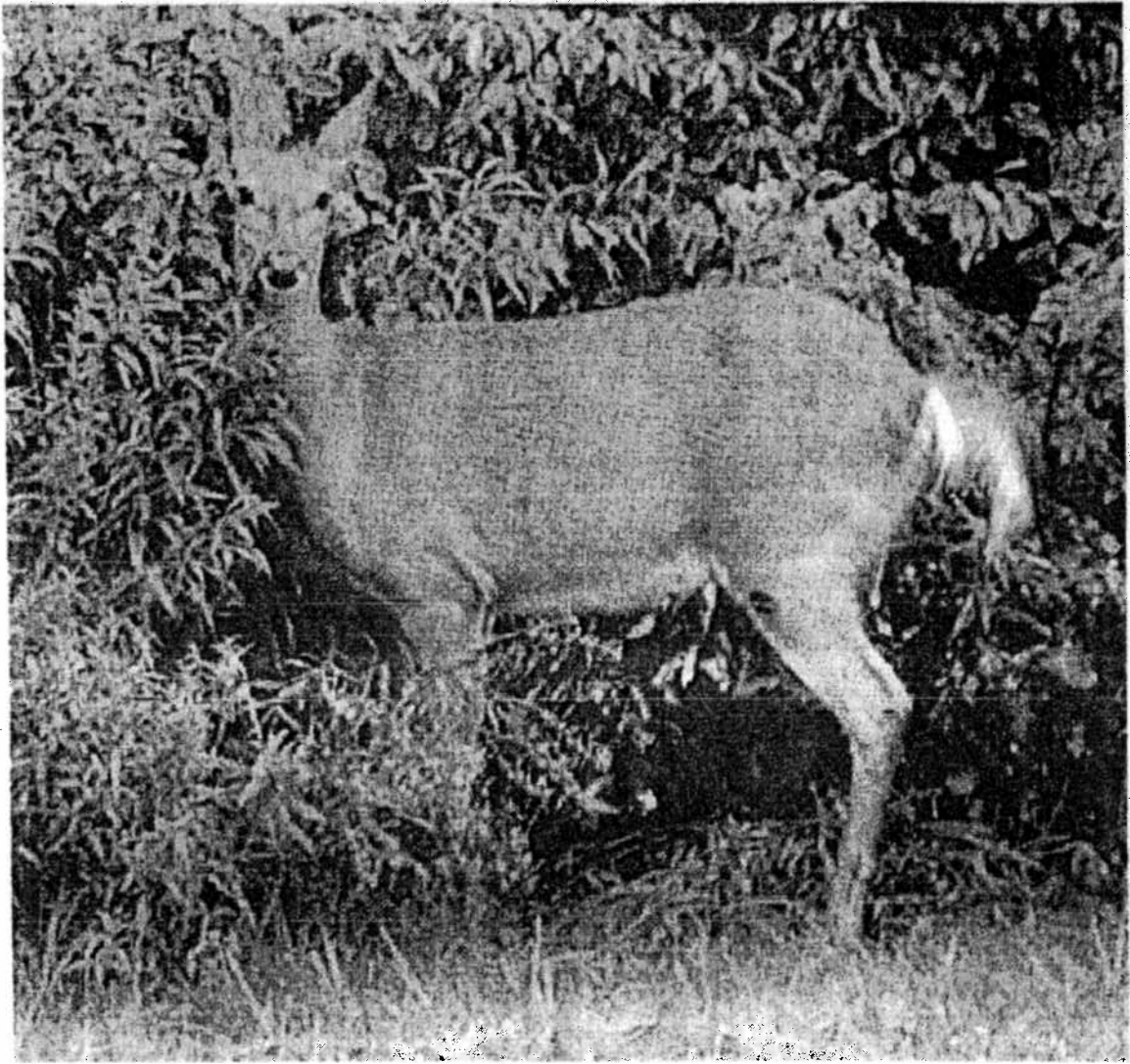
Going through the Cumberland Gap was fun. It is a natural pass, which means man did not make it. This gap is located where Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee meet. It is a very narrow opening and its sides are about five hundred feet tall. It was my favorite part of the Wilderness Trail until _____ decided to see if he/she could climb the sides and fell. (Flip a coin to decide if heads=lives, tails=dies.)

Mosquitoes are very bad. _____, _____, and _____ have a rash all over them. The doctor looked at them and said it could be caused from all the mosquitoes, but thinks it could also be measles, typhoid, mountain fever, small-pox, or maybe even cholera. The doctor has told them not to have contact with any other people until they are better. (Roll the die and pay the doctor.)

_____, _____, and _____ decided to go hunting for deer. We have seen so many along the trail. (Shoot marshmallows at deer photos.)

We went through Boone's Fort. Several are making flatboats to ford the Ohio River.

Journal Entry: chronicle today's events











Day 14:

Pioneer dress

You will need paper fish and pole again.

June 1, 1783

Many people have crossed the Ohio River on flatboats. (mark your map) The river is making some sick. They are concerned because they do not know if it is seasickness or the cholera. Dr. ____ will look at ____, ____, and _____. (Flip a penny, heads=seasickness, tails=cholera.)

Several have enjoyed fishing again. The fish here are abundant. _____ caught ___ fish. _____ caught ___ fish. And, _____ caught ___ fish.

The water began getting rough and some found it hard to steer their flatboats. _____ fell in the water. _____ tried to rescue him/her. The current was so swift. (Flip a coin: heads=lives, tails=die. Have a funeral if someone dies.)

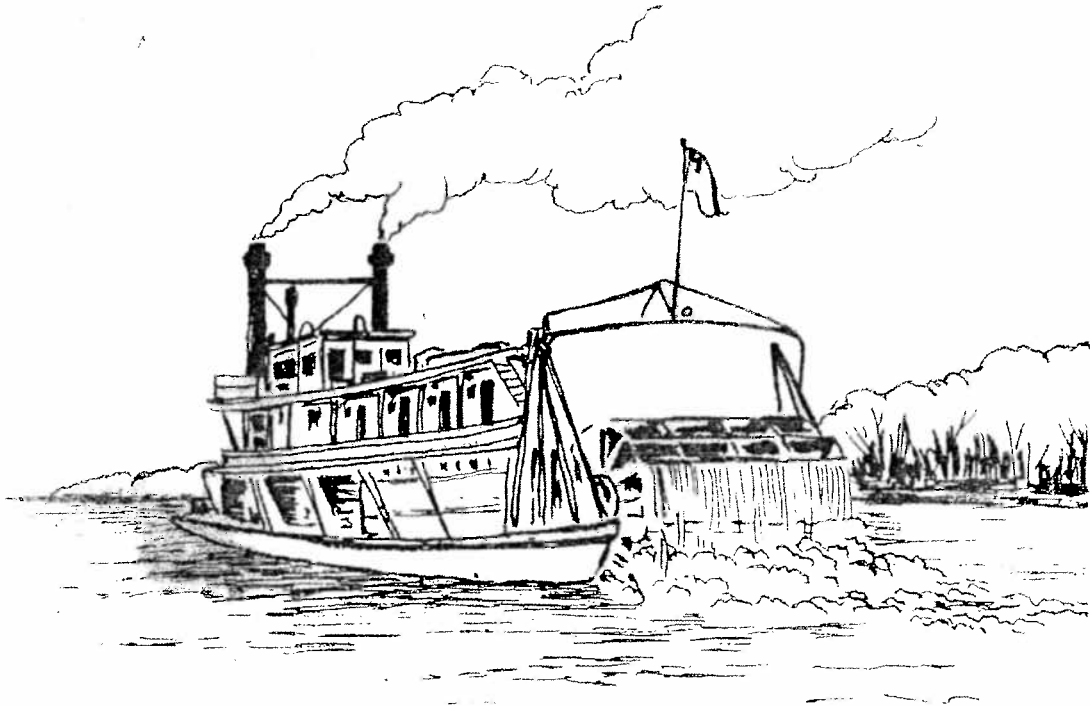
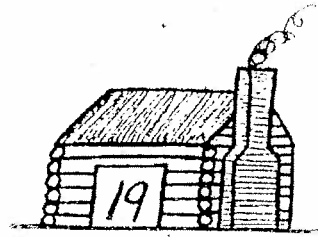
The horses all seem fine now. None of them are coughing. The weather is looking bad. Above us we see several dark clouds. We might be in for some bad weather.

Journal Entry: chronicle today's events

Day 15:

Time for a GRADE: Riverboats

RIVERBOATS



The flatboat was a mixture of log cabin, floating barnyard and country store. The large, square, flat-bottomed boat carried anything and everything. Settlers used flatboats to carry their farm tools, furniture, wagons and livestock to their

new homes in Indiana. They were a curious sight. Women strung their washing on lines across the length of the boat. Cows or goats were milked, pigs were fed, children ran and played followed by barking dogs. Pioneer farmers also used flatboats to ship bar-

rels of corn, oats, pork, bees-wax, whiskey and lumber to markets in New Orleans.

The flatboats usually had a crew of five men. The boats only went downstream. When they got to New Orleans and sold their products, the boat was taken apart and the lumber was sold. The crew had to walk back to Indiana.

Besides the floating logs, snags and sandbars in the rivers, the biggest danger to flatboat crews was pirates. A band of fifty or more pirates lived in a cave on the Illinois side of the lower Ohio River. The pirates would use a woman to trick the boat crews. The woman would stand along the shore, crying and begging to be picked up. The crew would pull ashore to help the poor woman and the pirates would rush aboard the boat. The pirates would kill the crew or throw them overboard and take the cargo to New Orleans to sell. The flatboats which made it past the pirates, snags and sandbars sold their products in New Orleans. Sometimes bad men

robbed the crew of their money on the way home.

If the pioneers wanted to move goods or people upstream in Indiana, they used keel boats. Keelboats were big like the flatboats but had a pointed prow (front) and were more streamlined. The keelboats moved swiftly downstream, being rowed by eight strong men. Going upstream the boat was pulled by men and mules walking along the bank, or pushed with long poles. Some keelboats used sails to help move the boat.

The crews of the keelboats were big, strong, rough and reckless men. During stops at river towns, the crews spent their time fighting, gambling and drinking whiskey. The citizens of the river towns lived in dread of the powerful and quick-tempered keelboatmen. In 1830 a number of keelboats met at New Harmony. About fifty of these rugged men decided to "take the town." Carrying their long poles, they went from saloon to store to homes shouting, stealing, and destroying property. One citizen ran a bayonet through the arm of

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a loud boatman. To get even, they burned down the citizen's sawmill. Soldiers and a crowd of citizens armed with rifles and shotguns were finally too much for the boatmen. The local officials made them pay a heavy fine.

Small steamboats soon replaced the keelboats and the people of river towns no longer lived in fear. The first steamboats were slow, noisy vessels. Wood was used for fuel. Boats would stop along the river and cut down trees for the boiler. It was reported in 1815 that a man got so tired of the slow-moving steamboat, he got off and walked. He arrived in Cincinnati twelve hours ahead of the boat.

The later steamboats on the Ohio and Mississippi River were like big floating hotels. Each boat owner tried to outdo other boats in comfort, good food and speed. The boats tried to make speed even if they had to burn their cargo. One race was won by burning a cargo of thousands of smoked hams.

Sometimes showboats would

come to the Ohio River ports. Posters telling about the show would arrive a couple of weeks before the boat. On the appointed day, the steam calliope, playing "Listen to the Mocking Bird," announced the boat's arrival. People would come from miles around to see the show. There would be dogs and pony acts, acrobats, comedy and musical shows. Tickets were sold for 50¢ and over twelve hundred people crowded onto the large showboats.

The showboats and large steamboats found it difficult to navigate the Wabash and other Indiana rivers. Unlike the canal boats, some riverboats survived the pioneer period and barges still haul tons of freight on the rivers of Indiana. Giant-sized river boats still haul people on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Boats such as the Delta Queen and the Mississippi Queen are like floating hotels with sleeping rooms, restaurants and ballrooms. These boats dock at various ports along the Ohio River.

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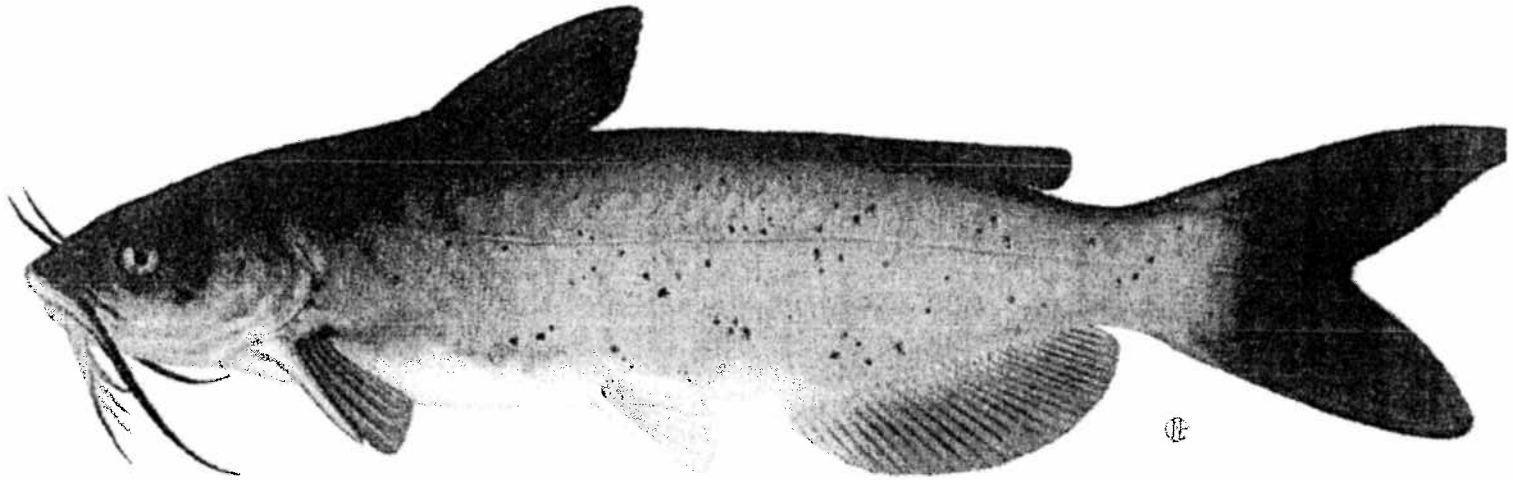
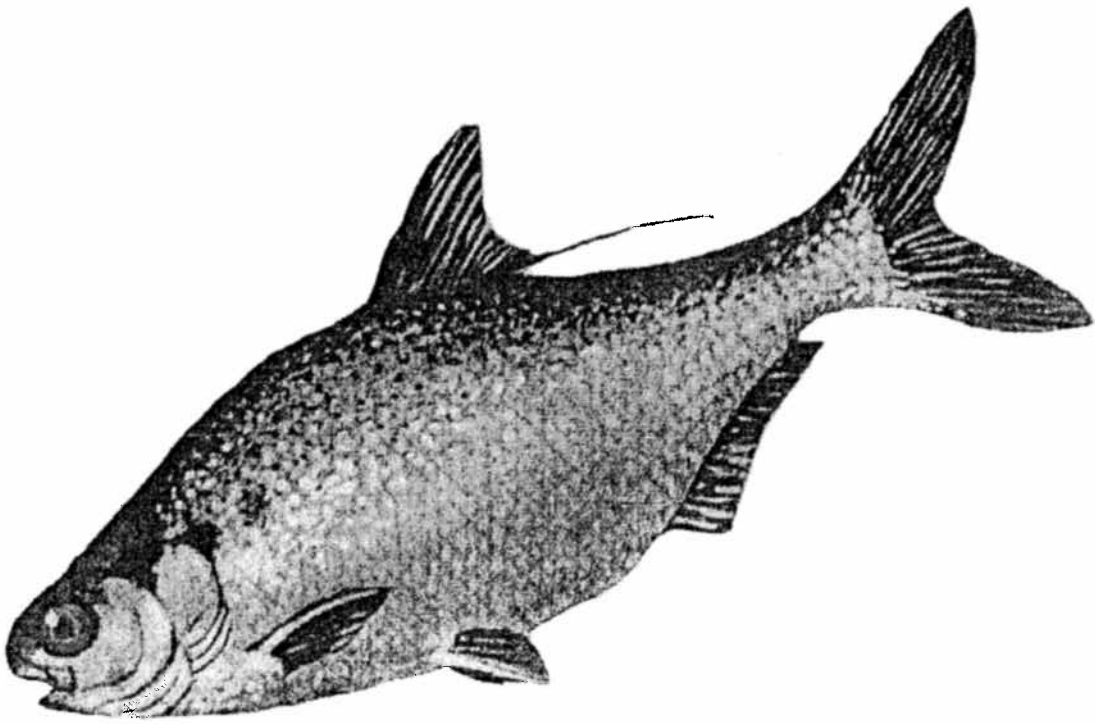
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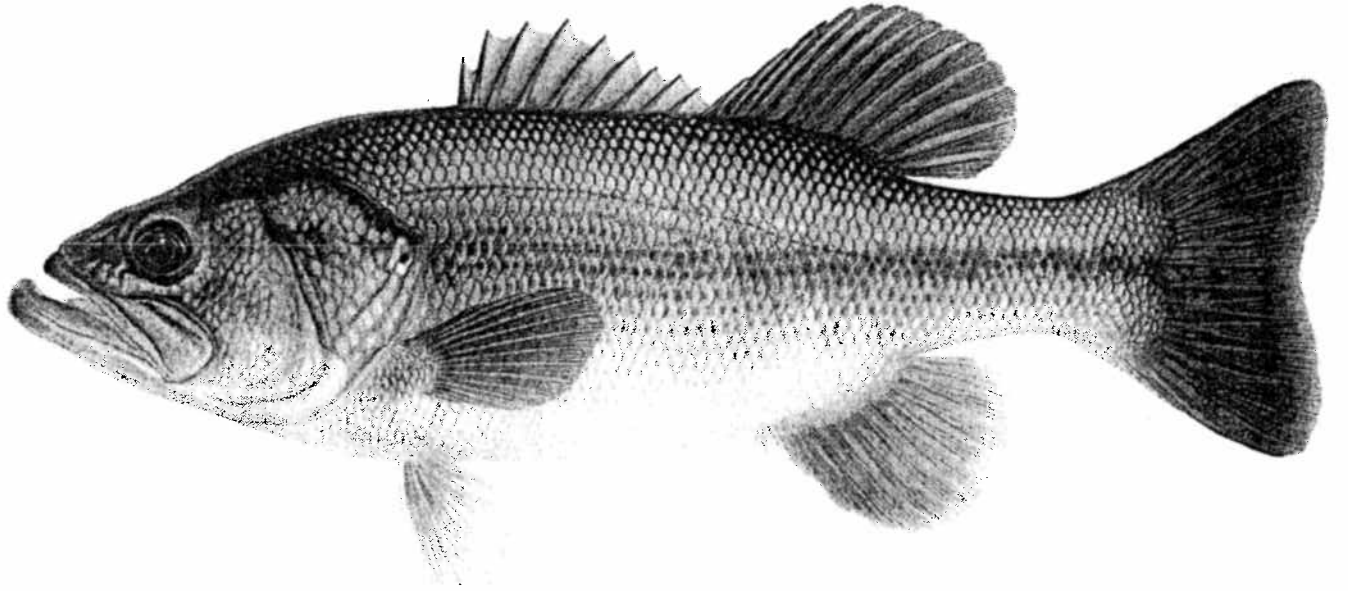
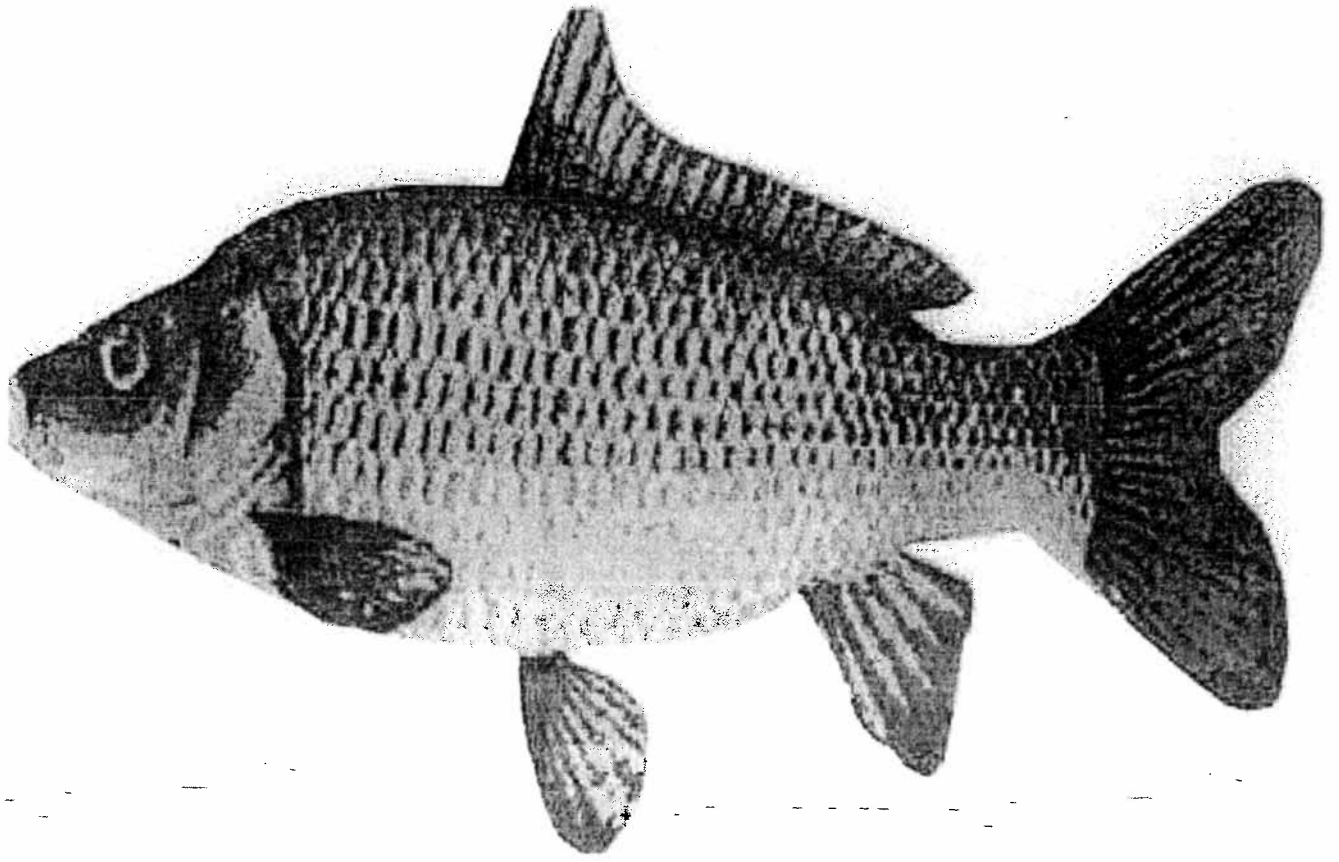
Date _____

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

Put the letter of the correct answer in your activities booklet.

1. The flatboat only went downstream. Once a crew on a flatboat got where they were going they got home by:
 - a. taking a stagecoach
 - b. walking
 - c. horseback
2. The biggest danger to flatboat crews was the:
 - a. sandbars
 - b. snags
 - c. river pirates
3. The keelboats were moved upstream by:
 - a. a steam engine
 - b. long poles pushing against the bottom
 - c. an outboard motor
4. The people living in a river town feared the keelboatmen because:
 - a. they were usually sick
 - b. their boats carried rats and mice to their towns
 - c. the men were powerful and quick-tempered
5. The early steamboats were very slow because:
 - a. they had to stop and cut down wood to burn
 - b. the rivers were too shallow
 - c. people wanted to stop and rest
6. If you had lived along a river you would know a showboat was coming by:
 - a. the water rippling
 - b. the smoke stack sending up huge clouds of smoke
 - c. the steam calliope playing "Listen to the Mocking Bird"





Day 15:

Remember the riverboat kits you prepared before you began the unit. Now is the time to pass them out, read the directions, and begin gluing! I always have a pair of needle nose pliers to help with snipping sticks for rail parts.

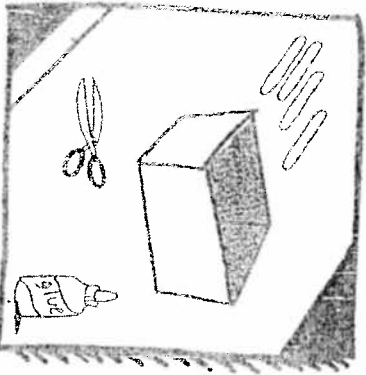
Again, tie on a piece of yarn and send home as an ornament for the Christmas tree.

You have journeyed to Indiana and the simulation is complete. I like to save the journals and send them home at the end of the year with a collection of other projects as a memory bag for parents to keep.

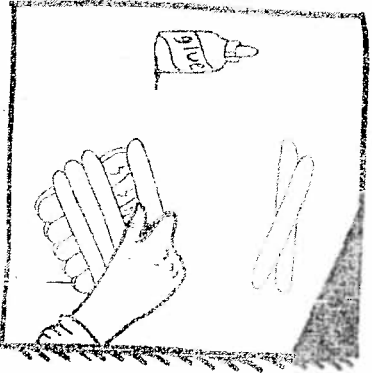
This unit is a collection of items from Connie Livingston, Pat Campbell, and Katie Cadle. I continue to add to it as I find things that would work well into the theme. Enjoy!

Katie Cadle
Fourth Grade Teacher
Throop Elementary School
Paoli, Indiana

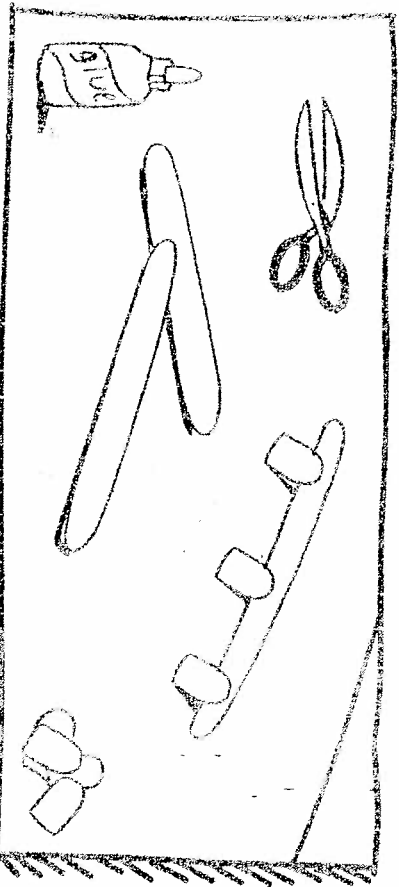
To cross rivers, many pioneers traveled on flatboat rafts. Here's how to build your own model of a flatboat raft!



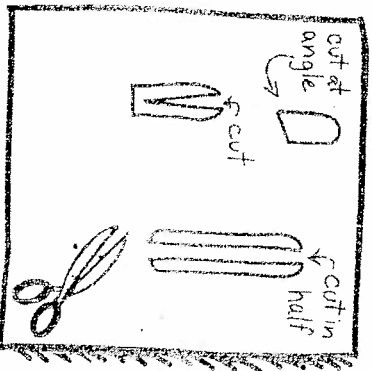
1. You'll need large and small craft sticks, glue, scissors, and a small box.



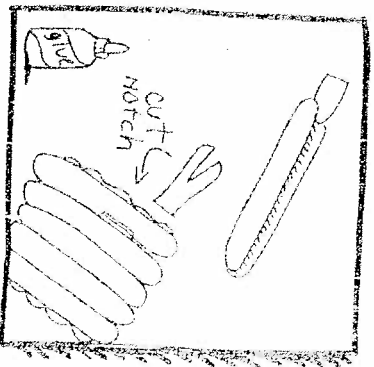
2. Glue the large craft sticks together in a double layer to make the base of the flatboat raft.



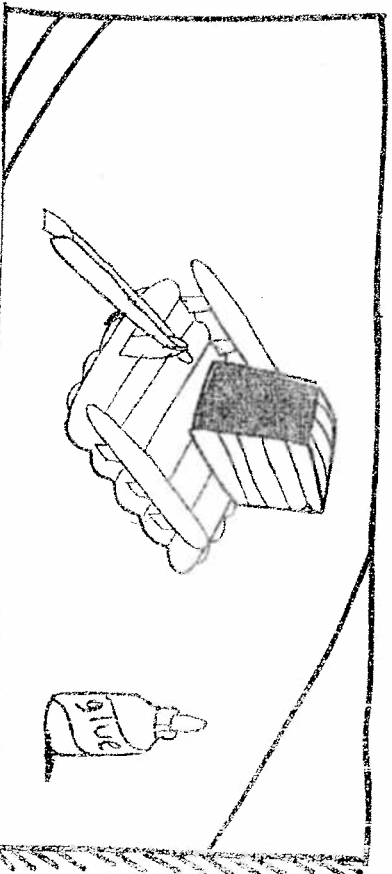
3. Cut some of the small craft sticks and glue them together to make railings for your raft.



4. Carefully cut craft sticks to make a rudder and rudder support.



5. Glue the rudder together. Cut a small notch in the raft and glue the rudder support in place.



6. Attach the rudder and railings. Then make a small cabin using the box and craft sticks, and glue it to the flatboat raft.