

More than Lincoln: Life in a Log Cabin

Objective:

This lesson plan involves individual research by students to then write a letter about pioneer experiences.

Oklahoma Academic Standards:

Grade 3:

Skill Standard 1: A.1, A.2, A.3

Content Standard 3: 2.B

Vocabulary

Pioneer: One of the first to settle in a territory

Conestoga wagon: a large covered wagon used for long-distance travel

Log cabin: a dwelling constructed of logs, usually temporary and less finished

Butter churn: a device used to convert cream into butter through a mechanical process

Activity:

Have students research and explore what life was like for pioneers traveling on covered wagons and then living inside log cabins. This can be done through books and written material, or through online resources.

After researching, students will write a detailed letter back to their family in Boston. It will need to include information about the journey, what they brought in their wagon, and how life is at the log cabin, including food, games, and hardships.

Resources:

Books:

Cushman, Karen. *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple*. Clarion Books, 1996.

Larson, Kirby. *Hattie Big Sky*. Yearling, 2006.

MacLachlan, Patricia. *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. Harper & Row, 1985.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. *Little House in the Big Woods*. Harper, 1932.

Online:

Fisher, Onieta. *Life in a Log Home*, Iowa History Project, 2003,
iowahist.uni.edu/Frontier_Life/Life_in_Log_Home/life_in_a_log_home.htm.

Havighurst, Walter. "Pioneer Life." Scholastic Grolier Online,
go.scholastic.com/content/schgo/D/article/a20/232/a2023250-h.html.

Name _____

Pawnee, Oklahoma
May, 1889

Dear _____,

_____,
