

Ohio History Teachers Homeschool Field-Trip Workshop

Ohio or Bust: Ohio's Pioneer Experience (Multi-aged, Multigenerational)

Objectives:

Participants will be able to describe how Pioneers came to Ohio and that they had to carefully consider what they brought with them. Participants will also be able to compare the Pioneers' lives to life today. (Knowledge). Participants will be able to make connections between what they experienced during the program and their own lives and experiences. (Skills/Creativity).

Description: After a brief orientation to the program, families groups explore four hands-on stations (transportation; clothing and clothing production; farming and food preparation; and recreation) together to gain an appreciation of the daily lives of Ohio's pioneers from the late 1700s to 1830. Families will have the opportunity to handle authentic and reproduction artifacts and images. They will work together to perform a hands-on activity at each station (such as using a hominy mill and weaving jean cloth) read the quotes of real-life pioneers, and engage in discussion. Using these experiences, and their prior knowledge and experience, each family will be given 30 - 40 minutes to develop a three-minute play connecting what they experienced to own lives and experiences. Families will then perform their plays.

Location: Ohio Historical Center, Columbus, Ohio

Availability: September 11, 18, and 25, 2009

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Maximum 5-6 families or a total of 25 - 30 participants

Time Allowance: 2:30 hours

Cost:

Members:

Participants age 6 – adult

\$4.00

Parking

Free

Non-members:

One parent/teacher admission Free

Participants age 6 – adult \$7.00

Parking: \$4:00 per vehicle

Vocabulary:

Artifact – A material object of a culture such as a tool, an article of clothing, or a prepared food.

Natural resources – A productive resource supplied by nature (e.g., ores, trees, arable land).

Object – anything that has shape or form and can be seen or touched.

Pioneer – One of the first people to explore or live in a place.

Primary source – An account of an event by someone who was present at the event.

Settlement – A group of settlers living in close contact.

Settler – a person who settles in a new area.

Territory – An area of land; the land and waters under the jurisdiction of a state, nation, or sovereign.



Ohio Historical Society, Education and Interpretation Services Division
1982 Velma Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211-2497

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Pre visit suggestions:

Consider making a journal.

Participants will be asked to keep an Ohio Pioneer Journal and record every time the program or something they learned during it comes back to mind or every time they use information from the experience. Instructions for making a journal can be found at the end of this document. Whether you make your journal or not you will want to begin with an entry about what you already know about pioneers or maybe a favorite story or experience.

Consider dressing as a pioneer for your visit. You will find some costume suggestions below.

Girls:

Plain leather shoes (no sandals please)
White, knee-high stockings or tights
Mid-calf length or longer skirts (no neon colors, please)
Long sleeve blouse or shirt (no neon colors & no midriffs, please)
Broad-brimmed straw hat or cloth bonnets
Shawl or cape for cold days
Aprons or pinafores are also appropriate

Boys:

Plain leather shoes (no sandals please)
Socks (knee high if wearing knickers)
Pants or knickers (knee length pants)(no jeans please)
Braces (Suspenders)
Plain long sleeved shirt with a bow tie (a piece of plain 1-2 inch wide ribbon works well)
Vest (optional)
Cloth coat for cold days

Make Johnny Cakes, a hearty food that pioneers ate.

Johnny cakes were originally an Indian food known as Shawnee Cakes. Sometimes they were known as "Journey cakes" because travelers often took packages of them on long trips.

JOHNNY CAKES:

Ingredients:

1 cup white corn meal
1 teaspoon sugar
1 teaspoon salt



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1 ¼ cups boiling water

Directions:

Combine corn meal, salt, and sugar. Stir in water until mixture is smooth but very thick. Drop by tablespoons onto a well-greased griddle and fry over moderate heat for six minutes. Turn and cook the second side for five minutes. Makes 8-10 cakes. You can bring these in lunches to eat cold, use them like bread with butter, jelly, maple syrup or eat them just as they are.

You may also want to try this period recipe.

Johny Cake, or Hoe Cake.

Scald 1 pint of milk and put to 3 pints of indian meal, and half pint of flower—bake before the fire. Or scald with milk two thirds of the indian meal, or wet two thirds with boiling water, add salt, molasses and shortening, work up with cold water pretty stiff, and bake as above.

American Cookery. By Amelia Simmons. Hartford: Hudson and Goodwin, 1796, 34.
Reprinted in *The First American Cookbook*, By Mary Tolford Wilson. New York: Dover Publications, 1958.

Check to see if any of the following books are in your public library. You may wish to read one of these books as an introduction to pioneer life.

Ox-Cart Man. By Donald Hall. Puffin Books, 1979. Grades: K-2.

The ox-cart man, his wife, his daughter, and his son worked all year to gather, grow, and make goods to sell at the market. The man used the money he made to purchase things they needed.

Warm as Wool. By Scott Russell Sanders. Aladdin Picture Books, 1998. Grades 2-6.

Reading Level: Grades 2-3.

This picture book is based on the true story of Ohioan, Betsy Ward. Ward was the first pioneer to own sheep in Randolph Township, Ohio. The story tells of the hardships and hopes of opportunities that were experienced while living as a pioneer.

Yonder. By Tony Johnston. Scholastic, 1988. Grades: K-2.

Reading level: Grade 3-6.

The lives of a 19th-Century farming family unfold with the gentle rolling rhythms of Johnston's text.



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Aurora Means Dawn. By Scott Russell Sanders. Bradbury Press, 1989. Grades: K- 4.
Reading level: Grade 3-6.

The Sheldons, a family of settlers, spend the night on a muddy road when trees block their path only a few miles from their final destination, Aurora, Ohio. The Sheldons become Aurora's first residents. The next settlers did not come for three years.

A Pioneer Sampler: The Daily Life of a Pioneer Family in 1840. By Barbara Greenwood. Houghton Mifflin, 1998. Grades 2-6

Reading Level: Grades 3-6

Readers follow the daily activities of the Robertson's on their backwoods farm through the year of 1840. Along the way, readers learn what it was like to build a house, attend a backwoods school, visit a country store, slaughter hogs, make butter, tell time by the sun, and go to a barn dance.

ABC Book of Early Americana. By Eric Sloan. Voyageur Press, 2005.

Reading Level: 6-8.

Pencil sketches accompany descriptions of early American objects from the almanack and johnny-cake to the niddy noddly and zig-zag fence. Briefly discusses the use of the alphabet in early America.

Diary of an Early American Boy. By Eric Sloan. Ballantine Books, 1965.

Reading Level: 6-8.

This book is based part on the diary of a 15 year of boy, Noah Blake, written in 1805 and part on a recreation of typical daily life in early America. While "The Diary of an Early American Boy" does contain the diary of 15-year-old Noah Blake, it also contains embellishments by Eric Sloane, and care must be taken to separate the two.

Once Upon a Time. By Eric Sloan. Dover Publications, 2005.

Reading Level: 6-8.

This nostalgic text brims with gentle philosophies and descriptions of how we used to live —self-sufficiently — on land, in homes, and among things built by hand. The author's charming illustrations celebrate our heritage and the spirit that nurtured it, but also recall the vanished joys of America's pioneer past.

The Seasons of the Past. By Eric Sloan. Dover Publications, 2005.

Reading Level: 6-8.

A charming book that takes readers through a full year's activities. Sloane's drawings depict cider mills and presses, sleds, pumps, stump-pulling equipment, plows, and other elements of America's rural heritage. A section of old recipes and household hints adds additional color and practical value to this delightful work.

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Living in Pioneer Times: How Our Ancestors Lived Not So Long Ago. By Shirley H. Baker.
Eakin Press, 2005.

Reading Level: Adult.

Baker's book is great for research, for long-term frontier studies, for re-enactor training, as well as for a quick primer before field trips that take you and your students into pioneer times.

You may wish to visit this online living history, pioneer farm online.

1850 Pioneer Farm, Living History Farms, Urbandale, Iowa

<http://www.lhf.org/cgi-bin/gygsite.pl?2~0>

And/or you may wish to explore the Ohio Frontier at Ohio History Central.

American Frontier <http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=651>

Frontier Education

<http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=1556&nm=Frontier-Education>

Frontier Women

<http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=591&nm=Frontier-Women>

Over 300 Ohio Frontier Topics

http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/topic.php?nm=frontier_ohio&rec=24

And /or you may also wish to rent the *Early Ohio Case History* from the Ohio Historical Society

Early Ohio

<http://www.ohiohistoryteachers.org/02/01/eo.shtml>

Life for Ohio's early pioneers was not easy. This Case History examines how Ohio's settlers endured hardships, built and maintained homes, and spent their precious leisure time.

You may also wish to visit one of the Ohio Historical Society's Frontier Sites

Schoenbrunn <http://www.ohiohistoryteachers.org/03/02/ne03.shtml>

Campus Martius <http://www.ohiohistoryteachers.org/03/05/se02.shtml>

Adena <http://www.ohiohistoryteachers.org/03/04/sw01.shtml>

Piqua Historical Area <http://www.ohiohistoryteachers.org/03/01/nw04.shtml>



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And/or you may wish to visit one of the Ohio Historical Society's Forts and Frontier Wars Battle Sites

Fort Laurens <http://www.ohiohistoryteachers.org/03/02/ne01.shtml>

Fort Jefferson <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/sw05/>

Fort Recovery <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/nw07/>

Fall Timbers <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/nw04/>

Fort Meigs <http://www.ohiohistoryteachers.org/03/01/nw05.shtml>

Post visit suggestions:

Participants will be asked to keep an Ohio Pioneer Journal and record every time the program or something they learned during it comes back to mind or every time they use information from the experience. After a period of six months, the journals will be submitted to Joel Flint, Curriculum Developer, The Ohio Historical Society, 1982 Velma Ave., Columbus, OH 43211 as part of the ongoing evaluation. You may wish to make your own Pioneer journals. Instructions are included at the end of this document. Students could also keep their journal entries in the form of a blog and submit the web address to Joel Flint, Curriculum Developer jflint@ohiohistory.org.

You may also wish to visit one of the Ohio Historical Society's Frontier Sites

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Instructions for “Pioneer” Journals

Materials:

Construction paper or card stock (8 ½ x 11) for the cover (one sheet for each book)

Unlined paper (8 ½ x 11) for the center (two sheets for each book)

Heavy thread or thin string

Needle with large eye (tapestry needles work well)

Pencil

A piece of styrofoam or several layers of cardboard (this is to lay underneath the book while sewing.)

Directions:

1. Lay two sheets of center paper on the construction paper
2. Fold evenly in half so that book measures 8 ½ x 5 ½
3. Open the book and place three dots on the inside centerfold, one exactly in the middle and the other two 2 inches on either side of the center. All dots should be on the fold.
4. Repeat this on the outside fold.
5. Thread the needle with a single thread, pulling the tails of the thread till they are even. Do not knot the threads.
6. Place the book open on the styrofoam or cardboard layers with the inside fold facing up.
7. Begin on the inside center dot and push the needle through to the outside, leaving three inches of tail on the inside.
8. Turn book over and push needle through the one of the other dots.
9. Turn book over and go back through the center dot.
10. Turn book over and go through the last dot.
11. Turn book over and tie the ends together.