

Family Heritage

Claiborne County 4-H
November Lesson
4th Grade

OBJECTIVE:

Students will understand and appreciate the cultural background of early pioneers and their daily tasks in order to meet their needs for food, shelter and clothing in East Tennessee

Family Heritage

What is the first thing you think of when I say, 'Pioneer'?



This....



...or this...



...or maybe this!

Ask the class what they think of when you 'Pioneer.' Be prepared for many kinds of answers. The pictures that come up are 1) settlers in a covered wagon, 2) a painting of Daniel Boone, and 3) a picture of the first moon landing.

The kids will not understand why the moon landing picture is there. Ask them why we put the moon landing picture in.

Go to the next slide.

Family Heritage

A pioneer is, simply, one of the first people to do something.

Today we are going to learn about the pioneers in our family heritage, the pioneers of East Tennessee.



Explain to the class that a pioneer is simply the first person/people to do something. Explain that the first people to cross the Appalachian Mountains to settle were pioneers as well as the first people to walk on the Moon.

Tell the class that we are going to talk about our pioneer ancestors who first settled in East Tennessee in the late 1700's.

Go to the next slide.

Family Heritage

Pioneers traveled to the American frontier because they wanted the opportunity to start new lives.

Most of our early pioneers were farmers.

Do you think they were wealthy or poor people?

They were mostly poor people who could not afford to live in the settled areas of the original Thirteen Colonies.

Ask the class why they think people would travel into a wilderness in order to start a new life. Why not stay where they were where there were roads, stores, schools etc.?

Our pioneers were poor and the only way they could make any money was travel into the wilderness where land was cheap or even free and start farming.

Show the class on the map where the Thirteen Colonies were (the Atlantic coast) and where the pioneers traveled from Virginia and North Carolina into East Tennessee.

Family Heritage

Imagine, for just a moment, that you are a poor farmer in the year 1760. Land is too expensive to buy in Virginia or North Carolina. What can you do?

If you cross the Appalachian Mountains into Tennessee or Kentucky, land is free but living there is very dangerous.

What would you do?

Stress that as these pioneers were very poor, they had very little to take into the wilderness with them.

Read the scenario and ask the class the question, 'What would you do?'

Family Heritage

So what would these poor farmers who crossed the dangerous Appalachian Mountains have brought with them?

Remember, there were no roads and few wagons.

Tools: Axe, knife, gun, hoe, mattock, froe, ?????

Furniture: None, they would have made what they needed

Clothes: Very few, some extra cloth, sewing supplies, spinning wheel (maybe)

Books/toys: the Bible (if any books were taken), toys would be made on the frontier

Ask the class what they think these poor pioneers would have brought with them in order to survive in a wilderness.

Try to steer the group to think in terms of what would help the pioneers meet their three basic needs: Food, Shelter, and Clothing. What kinds of things would they need to bring to produce basic these basic items?

After the class tries, pop our answers up on the screen.

Family Heritage



These are examples of some of the basic tools the pioneers might have brought with them. With these few tools, a pioneer family could make almost everything they needed to survive.

Ask the class how the pioneers might have used each of these tools.

Family Heritage

Imagine that you and your family have just moved into the wilderness. There are no roads, no houses, no stores, nothing. All you have is what you brought with you.

What is the first thing you would do?

The first thing most pioneers did was to clear enough forest to plant food. They did this even before making a permanent house.

What kinds of things did our pioneer ancestors eat?

The number one food for the pioneers was.....

Now, read the scenario at the top of the slide to the class and ask what the first thing a pioneer family might do when they arrived on their land in the wilderness.

The obvious answer is to construct shelter. This would have been temporary shelter until...

land could be cleared and a food crop planted. Ask what the most important food crop was...it was CORN. That is because corn could be kept all winter without spoiling. Remember, there was no canning or refrigeration in the 1700's.

A picture of corn will pop up at the end of the slide.

Family Heritage

Getting a corn crop planted was the first thing on our pioneers' To-Do list. The crops the pioneers planted had to be easy to preserve so they last through the winter (no canning, freezing, etc.)

Can you name some crops that would be easy to preserve?

Corn, Beans, Squash, Pumpkins: could last through winter



Read the first paragraph. Then ask the class to name some other foods that can be grown and kept without canning or refrigeration.

After the class tries, pop up the list: beans, squash, pumpkins etc. There are pictures to illustrate.

Family Heritage

What other things did the pioneers eat?

Animals, both wild and domesticated (tame), were a large part of the pioneers' diet.

What type of animals did the pioneers hunt or trap?



Deer



Elk



Bison

Also, rabbits, squirrels, fish, and turkey were on the table, too.

Ask the class what other kinds of things the pioneers ate. They will answer animals. There are pictures on the slide of deer, elk, and bison. Make sure you explain that in the 1700's there were plenty of elk and bison in Tennessee.

Family Heritage

Let's talk about shelter. What was the first type of shelter a pioneer family would have set up?

Probably a tent or lean-to. Remember, they had to get their corn crop in the ground before building a permanent shelter.



Lean-to



Tent
(made with a piece of oilcloth)

When asking this question, the kids will say log cabins were the first type of shelter the pioneers built. However, their first shelters were temporary, either tents or lean-to's. (Remember, they had to get that corn crop planted.)

There are pictures to illustrate what each looked like.

Family Heritage

Now, when the pioneers built a permanent shelter, they built a.....

Log Cabin!

A pioneer family could build a log cabin with just a few simple tools.

Axe – for felling trees

Froe – for splitting boards and shingles

Auger – for drilling holes

Knife – for making pegs (to keep the logs together)

Now when we get to building permanent shelter, the log cabin was the home of choice. Ask the kids to name what tools the pioneers may have used to build a cabin.

Now show them our list of tools with the explanation of each. There is also a picture of each tool that will appear.

Family Heritage

Now that we've talked about food and shelter, let's talk about the other basic need for our pioneers....

Clothes!

The pioneers did not have many clothes to bring with them so what did they make clothes from on the frontier?

Animal hides/furs (deer, elk, bear, bison, fox, raccoon, etc.)

Wool (if they had brought sheep with them)

Linen (plant fibers used to make cloth, from the flax plant)

But not cotton – it does not grow well in our mountains!

In talking about how the pioneers made clothing, the kids will always name animal skins for clothing. That is correct but the pioneers made use of other things as well.

Remember, cotton does not grow well at all in East Tennessee. The pioneers could have traded for it but could not grow it.

Flax was the plant of choice to make shirts, dresses, sheets, etc. This is the plant we linen from.

Wool from sheep was also heavily used for clothing.

Family Heritage



Flax was a very important plant for making clothing.



Buckskin clothing made from deer hide.



Early pioneers would not have had sheep but later pioneers brought them.

These pictures are illustrations of the fibers pioneers would weave into cloth in order to make clothing.

It also shows some clothing made of buckskin.

Family Heritage

Think about this: if you were a pioneer, in order to get a new shirt you would have to:

- Plant flax in the spring
- Harvest flax in the fall
- Dry and process the flax
- Spin the flax fibers into linen thread
- Weave the linen thread into cloth
- Cut the cloth to size
- Sew the linen pieces by hand into a shirt

Do you think the pioneers took good care of their clothes?

This slide details the process that had to occur in order for pioneers to make an item of clothing from linen.

Go over the process slowly so that it sinks in on the class.

Ask the question at the bottom of the slide. Point out that this is much harder than going to Wal-Mart to buy an outfit!

Family Heritage

Now we are going to play a Family Heritage Jeopardy game to see how much you know about the early settlers of East Tennessee and how much you know about the history of Thanksgiving.

This slide introduces the Family Heritage Jeopardy game that we will play. Divide the class into two or three teams and tell them your rules for playing the game.

You must exit this file and open up the Family Heritage Jeopardy file in order to play the game.

EXPLAIN THE CHRISTMAS CRAFT CONTEST ON THE NEXT SLIDE FIRST!!

December Contest: Christmas Crafts

Get in the Christmas spirit by participating in the 4-H Christmas Crafts Contest. Crafts divisions are as follows:



1. Recycled Christmas Craft

Any Christmas decoration made from recycled items.

2. Door or Wall Decoration

Examples: Wreath, Stockings, Bells

3. Table Decoration

Examples: Snowman, Holly Ring, Candle

4. Tree Decoration or Ornament

Examples: Clothes Pin Reindeer, Tin Punch Ornament



5. Other:

Examples: Holiday Bags, Stenciled Paper, Christmas T-Shirt or Sweat Shirt, Jewelry, Edible Decorations

Happy Holidays!



You may bring one craft in each division, for a total of 5 crafts. (All crafts must be constructed by the 4-H member who enters them.)

Please label your entries.

Any craft not labeled will be placed in a category at the discretion of the leader or agent.

Go over the rules for the Christmas Craft Contest with the kids. Explain that each person should label their crafts with their name and what category it should be in.