



Frontier Unit Guide for grades 5-8 West Brooke Curriculum

This unit should take 2- 4 weeks to complete.
Through literature, maps, and historical readings

you should gain a well rounded knowledge of frontier life. Frontier life was not for sissies, you had to be tough.... Or you didn't survive. If strong immigrants did not tough it out and make a living in North America then, the United States wouldn't be what it is today. Go to the library and find as many of these books as you can. I hope you enjoy this American History/Literature Unit.

History Suggestions

Choose articles of interest to you from *Westward Ho* from *Learning Through History* throughout this unit. There are some activities in the book you may want to try as well. Further research can be done on the internet/encyclopedia if you come across something of particular interest. If you look at the table of contents there are suggestions for which articles for certain ages (or you can read them all!)

[Social Studies for kids](#)

[Kid Info](#)

For further research: Who was Wyatt Earp, Annie Oakley, Buffalo Bill, Sitting Bull, the Sundance Kid, Texas Rangers?



Lewis & Clark

Film: Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West by National Geographic

http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/images/family_activity.pdf

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/teachers.html>

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/movie.html>

Lewis and Clark for Kids by Janis Herbert

[If You Traveled West In A Covered Wagon](#) ~ Ellen Levine

[If You Were a Pioneer on the Prairie \(If...\)](#) ~ Anne Kamma

[Daily Life in a Covered Wagon](#) ~ Paul A. Erickson

A Pioneer Sampler: The Daily Life of a Pioneer Family in 1840 by Barbara Greenwood

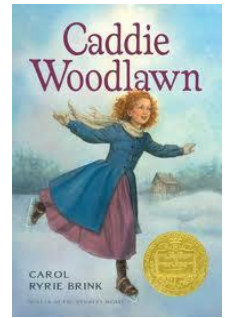
Daniel Boone by Roy Nemerson

Kit Carson Pathfinder of the West A Discovery Book

American Indians What Does Their Future Hold? Awake! 1996 September 8, pages 3-16

Meet the Brazilian Gaucho! Awake! 7/8/2005 pages 24-27

Reading For the best all around knowledge of this time period, read several literature selections. *Caddie Woodlawn* makes a nice Read-Aloud, this is where a parent reads the book out-loud to you over a period of 1 to 2 weeks, 1-3 chapters at a time. Read-Alouds join the family together in learning. This is a great opportunity to discuss the book, time period, as well as vocabulary words- it will also instill a love of learning and reading.



- *The Journal of Joshua Loper* The Chisholm Trail, 1871
 - *Trouble River* by Betsy Byars
 - *Caddie Woodlawn* by Carol Brink
- Make sure you read Historical Note section in Journal of Joshua Loper, and Authors Note in *Caddie Woodlawn*.
- *Indian Captive The Story of Mary Jemison* by Lois Lenski
 - *Streams to the River, River to the Sea* by Scott O'Dell
 - *The Courage of Sarah Noble* by Alice Dalgliesh
 - *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder [extra resources for Little House](#)
 - *Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder (any book by this author)
 - *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare [Scholastic study guide](#)
 - *American Tall Tales* by Adrien Stoutenburg
 - *The Adventures of Young Buffalo Bill* by E. Cody Kimmel
 - *Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie: The Oregon Trail Diary of Hattie Campbell* by Kristiana Gregory
 - *Westward to Home: Joshua's Diary, The Oregon Trail, 1848 (My America)*

Mapwork

- After reading The Oregon Trail article from *Westward Ho* mark the trail on your map as well as all of the states that it goes through.
 - While reading *Caddie Woodlawn* mark: Wisconsin, Idaho, and Boston Massachusetts.
 - While reading *Joshua Loper, A Black Cowboy* (fold out map in back of book) mark: Mexico, the Rio Grande River, Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, and the Chisholm Trail of 1871, the Gulf of Mexico, The Kansas-Pacific Railroad and the major towns in Kansas connected with the Chisholm Trail.
 - Physical Geography of North America
- <http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/pdf/trailswest.pdf>
<http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/pdf/lewisclark.pdf>
[Interactive map of Westward Expansion](#)

Science

- *Owls—Designed for Nightlife* 9/22/90 *Awake!* Pages 16-17
- *A Paradise of a Different Kind* 8/8/98 *Awake!* Pages 25-27
- *Meet the Social-Minded Prairie Dog* 9/8/86 *Awake!* Pages 17-19
- *The Canoe—Canada's "Perfect Vehicle"* 5/2010 *Awake!* Pages 10-11
- *Yellowstone Crucible of Water, Rock, and Fire* *Awake!* 2000 December 8, pages 14-17
- *Tracks, Scats, and Signs* by Leslie Dendy
- *Rivers* by Richard Stephen
- *Wildlife of the Great Northwest* this was published by Smith Western Company
- *Rocks* by *Kids Discover magazine*
- *Yellowstone Park* *Kids Discover magazine*
- *Desert Life, My First Pocket Guide* by *National Geographic*
- Any chapters from your grade level science book that might be related (especially for 7-8th grade) (Tornados, Earthquakes, Reptiles- snakes, Animals of the plains, geology etc.)
- Any library books similar to the ones mentioned
- *Southwest Peoples* by *Kids Discover magazine*

Writing Ideas

- Include one paper or report or diagram drawn and labeled for History or Literature or for Science each day. 5-6th grade ½ to ¾ page. 7th grade ¾ to 1 page. 8th grade 1-1 ½ page.
- You can make a lapbook project. Here is one for [Westward Ho](#)
- For example in your book on *Rivers* you could draw and label the different types of bridges (or other diagramed pages) for science.
- Here are pages on *Caddie Woodlawn* and a page on *Trouble River* included that give suggestions for writing or essay papers and for further research.
<http://www.bookrags.com/studyguide-caddie-woodlawn/topicsfordiscussion2.html>
<http://www.classzone.com/novelguides/litcons/trouble/guide.cfm>
- For the book *Joshua Loper* you can write a page of diary entries as if you were on the frontier.
- For history you can write on any of the things you learn or research.
- For further research: Who was Wyatt Earp, Annie Oakley, Buffalo Bill, Sitting Bull, the Sundance Kid, Texas Rangers?
- You can draw out a time line for the era- dating and labeling major events of the time.
- Make outlines for the *Awake!* articles you read.

Home Economics/Crafts- cook related recipes, make time period costumes, make a model of a covered wagon or of a wild west town.

[Pioneer Crafts](#)

[How to make a bonnet](#)

[Apron](#) scroll down on page

Get Along Little doggies [sheet music](#) [tabs](#) [video](#)

[Fur Boot Covers pattern](#)

[Make Dandelion Tea](#)

[Edible Cattail plant](#)

Make a trail dinner for the family, Beans, rice, and biscuits or cornbread!

See recipes below!

Plantation Feather-Light Buttermilk Biscuits

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

2 cups All Purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
6 Tablespoons cold butter
¾ cup+ buttermilk



Mix your dry ingredients together and then cut in the cold butter with a pastry knife or with 2 knives. Stir in buttermilk, if too dry add a little more. Spray your cookie sheet or use a baking stone. Flour your hand and shape biscuits by hand or you can roll them out of a floured surface and cut them with a biscuit cutter. Lay them on your prepared pan just touching each other. Bake for 20 minutes until golden brown. Serve hot out of the oven with butter and syrup or jelly.

On the frontier if a cook did not have an oven they would use a Dutch oven over an open fire or a fire in a hearth.

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Iron Skillet Cornbread

Preheat oven to 375- 400 degrees.

Pour one ounce of oil into 7-8" iron skillet and place in oven

¾ cup yellow cornmeal
¾ cup all purpose flour
2-3 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon baking soda
¾ cup milk or buttermilk
1 egg

Mix up your dry ingredients. Pull skillet out of oven swirl to coat pan and set on top. Mix milk & egg together. Mix egg mixture into dry ingredients and add hot oil from pan. Pour into pan and bake for 19-20 minutes. Pull out when golden brown on top. Serve warm.

*If you do not have an iron skillet spray a 8x8 square pan or 8" round pan with pam and add oil to your milk/egg mixture.

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Antebellum Spiced Nut Corn Bread

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

½ cup all purpose flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

¼ teaspoon salt

¼ cup sugar

½ teaspoon cinnamon

¼ teaspoon allspice

¼ teaspoon nutmeg

½ cup cornmeal

½ cup chopped pecans

1 egg

½ cup milk

2 tablespoons melted butter

Mix all dry ingredients together. Add egg, milk and 1 tablespoon of the melted butter. Put the other tablespoon of butter into a 7" iron skillet. Preheat the skillet for just a couple of minutes; brush the butter onto the sides & bottom of the pan. Add batter and bake for 30 minutes.



Fresh Fruit Cobbler

By Catherine Hoffman, Capital Grange, Delaware

3 cups fresh fruit

2 tablespoons sugar

2/3 cup sugar

½ teaspoon baking powder

2 tablespoons flour

½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon cinnamon

1/3 cup oil

2 tablespoons butter

3 tablespoons milk

1 cup sifted flour

1 egg

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9x13 baking pan with pam. Place fruit in bottom of pan. Sprinkle with mixture of 2/3 cup sugar, 2 tablespoons flour and cinnamon. Dot with butter. Sift dry ingredients into bowl. Add oil, milk and egg; mix well. Spread evenly over fruit. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until brown. Serve warm with cream.

Field Trip- visit a horse farm, a working farm, or a time era living museum in your area (like Agarama in Georgia)

Have Fun With it!

West Brooke Curriculum

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