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A Lesson on Illinois: Pioneers and Prairies by Patricia Brunk

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 30 minutes or less

Lesson Keywords: Reading, writing

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to read the passage and learn new terms. Students will also learn how to use these new words in sentences. They will learn how to draw main ideas, and summarize what they have read.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3: Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

Illinois: Pioneers and Prairies

by

Content: Illinois is called the prairie state. Long ago, most of the land was prairie. A prairie is a kind of grassland. The grass in a prairie is very high. It can get to be six feet tall.

Pioneers are people who do something for the first time. Although Native Americans lived in Illinois for a long time, the people who came to build houses here were called pioneers. They were the first people to come to set up towns. The Native Americans had moved from place to place.

The pioneers were called settlers. That is because they came to stay. Settle means stay. It was hard to get to Illinois. The pioneers had to bring most of what they needed to live with them. They traveled in wagons. Horses or oxen pulled the wagons. They traveled for many days.

The pioneers came from another place. They came to Illinois to find a good place to live. Many were farmers. They knew the land here was good. They brought tools to farm. They brought axes and other tools, too.

The first thing the pioneers did was clear their land. They cut down the prairie grass. Then they dug in the soil. They would plant corn. They would plant wheat. They grew vegetables, too. And they raised chickens and pigs.

It was hard work. The children worked, too. They planted. They helped in the home. They did not go to school at first. There was no school.

Pioneers were glad to be in Illinois. They had good land. They could get water from creeks and rivers. They could go fishing. They could hunt, too. They could grow crops.

As soon as more pioneers came, they would make a town. They would choose leaders. They would name their town. They would set up a government. The government would set up laws. The town would build a school. But parents said that the school should be closed in summer.

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Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: Pioneer **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in this story says "The pioneers had to bring most of what they needed to live with them". What does the word "pioneers" mean in this sentence?

- A: People who do not do anything.
- B: People who do something for the first time.
- C: People who do something for the second time.
- D: People who do something for the last time.

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "pioneers" correctly?

- A: When I need help with my homework, my Mother calls a pioneer to come help.
 - B: I used the pioneers to get to school today.
 - C: The pioneers never do anything new.
 - D: The pioneers built the first school.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Land **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in this story says "Long ago, most of the land was prairie." What does the word "land" mean in this sentence?

- A: The part of the Earth that is covered of water only.
- B: The part of the Earth's surface that is not covered by water
- C: The part of the Earth that is covered by half water, and half sand.
- D: The part of the Earth that is covered by sand only.

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "land" correctly?

- A: We swam across the land.
 - B: My mom took me to the pool today and I played in the land
 - C: I layed in the grass and looked up at the land and stars.
 - D: My family planted flowers in front of our house; the land looks beautiful now.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Tools **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in this story says "They brought tools to farm". What does the word "tools" mean in this sentence?

- A: An instrument to make music.
- B: An instrument to fly in.
- C: Any instrument of manual operation.
- D: An instrument to eat.

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "tools" correctly.

- A: Apples and oranges are classified as tools.
 - B: I eat tools every morning for added fiber.
 - C: My dad uses tools to fix the car.
 - D: Every weekend my family goes out and fishes for tools.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Settlers **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in this story says "The pioneers were called settlers". What does the word "settlers" mean in this sentence?

- A: People who enjoy traveling.
- B: People who move around frequently.
- C: People who live in an area for most of their life, but move when they grow old.
- D: People who settle in an area.

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "settlers" correctly.

- A: Settlers are people who do not like to live by the ocean.
 - B: The settlers move from place to place.
 - C: The settlers then moved to Chicago and have not left since.
 - D: My family calls ourselves settlers because we travel often.
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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Chickens and pigs

Why do you think the pioneers raised chickens and pigs?

2 - Pioneers

Why do you think the Native Americans are not considered pioneers?

3 - Pioneers were glad to be living in Illinois

Why were the pioneers glad to be living in Illinois?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on?what?the pioneers did when they settled in Illinois; and why they had to do it.?Make sure to provide specific examples from the text.

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