



A Lesson on Settlement by Nicole Mainella

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: settlement, commence, homesteaders, garments

Lesson Description: Understanding the life of the Settlers, and challenges they faced.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.9: Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1d: Review the key ideas expressed and explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

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.

Settlement

by

Content: Settlers came to this area to build farms. While they found the land difficult to plant in because of the thick root system, trees were not in the way the area was mostly an open grassland. When settlers came, they traded goods with the Potawatomi to get food and animal skins. After a time, the Potawatomi were forced to move when homesteaders took over the land. The Potawatomi asked that they could stay on the land given to us by the great spirit, but they could not continue to live here. By 1831, they had to move.

Here is what one woman wrote about her trip to live in Illinois.

I have dragged one foot after the other so long and hope for the best. Friday Eve. We commence a fourteen mile prairie after we got to Paris, Illinois, hot though it was as the sun was setting it was very good some part of the way. Many bad slews. The Doctor got stuck, twice, the oxen drew him out. The prairies look fine. Many kinds of flowers grow on them and prairie hens live on them, one of the company shot one. Eliza looks bad but says she feels like helping me get supper. Oh, dear, I think its hard time. Saturday 15th. Today have been traveling through prairie and timber, both, and got lost in the bargain we took the wrong road and wallowed around the prairie grass, sometimes as high as the horses back. Night came we pitched our tent after mowing the grass down and made as comfortable as could be expected amongst the mosquitoes.

Here is what one womans life was like after settling.

The woman told me that they spun and wove all the cotton and woolen garments of the family, and knit all the stockings; her husband, though not a shoe-maker by trade, made all the shoes. She made all the soap and candles they used, and prepared her sugar from the sugar-trees on their farm. All she wanted with money, she said, was to buy coffee and tea, and she could get enough any day by sending a batch of butter and chicken to market. They used no wheat, nor sold any of their corn, which though it appeared a very large quantity, was not more than they required to make their bread and cakes of various kinds, and to feed all their live stock during the winter.

Here are the problems these settlers faced each season:

Fall the threat of fire the prairie grass became very dry and a spark could start a fire that would burn the prairie and their cabin

Winter freezing cold, deep snow, people got lost in the drifts when the trails were covered

Spring the prairie became swampy when the snow melted

Summer some days were very hot and there was no shady forest to cool yourself; there were so many insects that sometimes horses died from being stung so much.

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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: commence **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "We commence a fourteen mile prairie after we got to Paris, Illinois...What does the word "commence" mean in this sentence?

- A: finish
- B: hike
- C: begin
- D: run

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

- A: I began to feel ill when the commence started to spin.
 - B: She made a commence, that I did not appreciate.
 - C: On the long road to Illinois, the Settlers past many commence.
 - D: The festivities will commence this evening.
- =====

Q: 2 WordPhrase: garment **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "The woman told me that they spun and wove all the cotton and woolen garments of the family..." What does the word "garments" mean in this sentence?

- A: Clothing
- B: Blankets
- C: Rabbits
- D: Towels

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

- A: She took the garment, and blew on it as hard as she could.
 - B: It is not necessary to use the garment, use the microwave instead.
 - C: The Settlers often used a garment to hunt with.
 - D: He chose his favorite garments to pack for the trip.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Settlers **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "Settlers came to this area to build farms." What does the word "settlers" mean in this sentence?

- A: A person who has grown up in the area.
- B: A person who goes to live in a new place where usually there are few or no people.
- C: A person who will settle for anything.
- D: Someone who moves from place to place.

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

- A: That family is settlers, they will move at least once a year.
 - B: I find it hard to be around settlers, they are so loud.
 - C: If he is with the settlers, he must be very wealthy.
 - D: Once the settlers found a location, they had much work to do.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: homesteaders **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "After a time, the Potawatomi were forced to move when homesteaders took over the land." What does the word "homesteaders" mean in this sentence?

- A: Realtors
- B: Settlers
- C: Armies
- D: Bankers

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

- A: The homesteaders produced crops and raised animals.
 - B: Homesteaders are making the requirements harder to borrow money.
 - C: Once you are a homesteader, you must serve for a minimum of 4 years.
 - D: I was a homesteader once, until I had to sell my house.
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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 - The Potawatomi

Why do you think the Potawatomi could not stay, once the settlers arrived?

2 - Livestock

How were the settlers able to keep thier livestock fed?

3 - Threats

What are some precautions that the settlers could have taken to avoid the threats they faced each season?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to post here a 150 word essay?discussing your thoughts on the?Settlers taking?the Potawatomis' land.

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