A Day In The Life Of A Pioneer Child Educational Program

Overview
This educational program is designed to introduce students to the daily life of a child in pioneer times. The program will take place in the Log Home and the Log School that are located on the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre’s property. Learning within these two historic buildings will provide a unique educational experience for students. Grade Three students will be able to participate in a variety of interactive activities related to life during the 1800s. They will have short spelling and arithmetic lessons in the old school, play pioneer recess games, participate in races designed to teach them about school chores, explore the log home, create pioneer food, art, musical instruments, and jumping jacks. This program integrates multiple areas of the Ontario Curriculum, the Arts (Visual Arts and Music), Language (Writing), Mathematics (Number Sense and Numeration), and Social Studies (Communities in Canada, 1780-1850/Living and Working in Ontario).

This program is a full-day program that will provide students with a variety of opportunities for learning. They will be able to take home many of their creations and will engage the students’ imaginations. The program is only available in May, June and September due to the weather.

Curriculum Expectations
Grade Three
Visual Arts
- “Sing, in tune, unison songs, partner songs, and rounds, and/or play accompaniments from a wide variety of cultures, styles, and historical periods”
- “Use a variety of materials, tools, and techniques to respond to design challenges”
- “Identify and document their strengths, their interests, and areas for improvement as creators of art”

Language Studies
- “Spell familiar words correctly”
- “Spell unfamiliar words using a variety of strategies that involve understanding sound-symbol relationships, word structures, word meanings, and generalizations about spelling”

Number Sense and Numeration
- “Solve problems involving the addition and subtraction of two-digit numbers, using a variety of mental strategies”

Social Studies
- “Describe some of the similarities and differences in various aspects of everyday life of selected groups living in Canada between 1780 and 1850”
- “Compare some of the roles of and challenges facing people in Canada around the beginning of the nineteenth century with those in the present day”
- “Evaluate evidence and draw conclusions about some of the major challenges facing different groups and communities in Canada during this period, and measures taken to overcome these challenges”
- “Identify various settler communities in Canada during this period”
- “Describe some of the major challenges facing communities in Canada during this period”
Describe some major connections between features of the natural environment of a region and the type of land use and/or the type of community that is established in that region

Specific Expectations
Students will:
- Learn about who the pioneers were, where they came from, and how they arrived in Canada, and discuss how a pioneer child would have lived, and the challenges that a pioneer family would have faced during settlement.
- Explore the log house to discover how pioneers’ homes and the items in their homes compare to those that the students’ have.
- Discover the history of the log house and who lived there.
- Determine the role of both men and women in food production and preparation.
- Make butter using a pioneer method.
- Discover forms of art in pioneer times, create a piece using the pioneer method, and critically evaluate their own work.
- Create and play their own pioneer instrument.
- Explore the pioneer school to discover life as a pioneer student.
- Create a physical representation of the manners expected of pioneer students and discuss the differences from today.
- Perform a variety of chores that pioneer students would complete during their day at school and discuss how they compare to today.
- Participate in a pioneer spelling bee using words that students should know and some unfamiliar ones.
- Participate in pioneer games and explore how they compare to the games the students play today.
- Participate in a pioneer arithmetic lesson and discover what the pioneers valued as important mathematical learning.
- Throughout, students will act out a typical day at a pioneer school to discover a variety of aspects of daily life during pioneer times

Program Overview

Introduction – 5-10 minutes

Introductory Tour – 10-15 minutes

Activity #1 - Log House – 1 hour 45 minutes
Through the exploration of an authentic log house, students will learn more about early settler family life and the activities that early settlers participated in at home. They will learn more information about home life, participate in butter making, create their own artwork and their own instruments, all in the pioneer fashion.

Activity #2 - Log School – 1 hour 45 minutes
Students will learn more about the life of early settler children by re-enacting a typical school day for early settler children. Students will learn about the manners that were expected, try their hand at
spelling and arithmetic, have school chore races, and play early settler games at recess. Throughout this activity, students will try to follow the strict rules that were set down for early settler children.

**Conclusion – 5 minutes**
# A Day In The Life of a Pioneer Child – Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Level One</th>
<th>Level Two</th>
<th>Level Three</th>
<th>Level Four</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student listened to all instructions prior to completing a task</td>
<td>Student listened to all instructions prior to completing a task</td>
<td>Student listened to some instructions prior to completing a task</td>
<td>Student listened to all instructions prior to completing a task</td>
<td>Student actively listened to all instructions prior to completing a task</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student took on role of pioneer child</td>
<td>Student took minimal part in the role-play and stayed out of character for most of the day</td>
<td>Student took part in the role-play and stayed out of character for some of the day</td>
<td>Student actively took part in the role-play and stayed in character for some of the day</td>
<td>Student actively took part in the role-play and stayed in character throughout the day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student helped their team complete the chore races</td>
<td>Student completed some of the chore races</td>
<td>Student completed all the chore races</td>
<td>Student completed all the chore races and sometimes encouraged their team members</td>
<td>Student completed all the chore races and always encouraged their team member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student offered help/answers throughout the day</td>
<td>Student took an inactive role throughout the day</td>
<td>Student offered answers or help during the day</td>
<td>Student offered answers and help during the day</td>
<td>Student offered answers and help at multiple times during the day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student puts effort into every task</td>
<td>Student completed some of the tasks</td>
<td>Student completed most of the tasks with a positive attitude</td>
<td>Student completed each task with a positive attitude</td>
<td>Student attempted and completed each task with a positive attitude</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:
A Day In the Life of a Pioneer Child Educational Program – Follow-Up Activities

1. Have a pioneer Geography lesson in your classroom.

2. Hold a pioneer social day in your classroom. Have each student bring a pioneer dish and participate in games for part of the day.

3. Create a collage of images that detail a pioneer child’s life compared to the life of a child today.

4. Have the students come up with a game that pioneer children could play.

5. Make pioneer survival kits. Have the students create a list of everything that they would need to survive as a pioneer, and have them decide which items on the list are the most important.