

Johnny Appleseed

Joanna Strong and Tom B. Leonard

“Daddy, I want something to eat! Daddy, I’m thirsty!” little Billy and Mary Stover cried, as they sat huddled in the back of the bouncing wagon. The wagon was loaded high with pots and pans and blankets and clothes. The Stover family were pioneers. They were travelling into the unsettled territory of the Middle West, where they were going to build their new home.

“There’ll be something to eat and drink in a little while, children,” Mr. Stover answered, with a cheerfulness he did not feel. For where, where in this wild land could they expect to find any food? In his heart he was praying for a miracle to help them.

Then suddenly little Billy cried out, “Look Daddy, look! Apple trees! Over there on the left!” And sure enough, there was a whole orchard of young trees, heavy with fruit, appearing like the miracle Mr. Stover had prayed for.

“This must be the work of Johnny Appleseed,” Mr. Stover cried thankfully. “May the Lord bless him to the end of his days.”

WORDS TO WATCH

Middle West
bouncing
unsettled
territory
cheerfulness

miracle
wilderness
unexpected
treasure
poisonous

Pennsylvania
Ohio
Indiana
perfume
unexplored



This was indeed the gift of Johnny Appleseed—the same kind of gift he made to hundreds of other pioneer families like the Stovers. For Johnny Appleseed had set out as a young man, all alone, into the unexplored wilderness, with a bag of apple seeds over his shoulder. Wherever he found a spot that looked right to him, he planted his seeds and continued on.

For forty-six years he planted this unexpected treasure for other settlers to find. And in all the forty-six years that Johnny Appleseed spent making his way alone in the wilds and forest lands, among bears, wolves, wild hogs, poisonous snakes, and savage Indian tribes, he never carried a gun. He believed that it was a sin to kill any living thing, even a mosquito. And in all that time, no harm ever came to him! The Indians became his friends, and perhaps even the animals could tell that he would not hurt them.

No one knows where Johnny Appleseed finally was laid to rest, but in the spring, when the apple orchards of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana are in bloom, the deeds of this brave and kindhearted man are brought to mind by the sweet perfume of the apple blossoms.

QUESTIONS

1. Where was the Stover family going?
2. How did Johnny Appleseed help the Stover family?
3. What kind of man do you think Johnny Appleseed was? Why?

Sports

I. Read and Spell

fishing	tennis	volleyball
hiking	bowling	swimming
baseball	football	basketball
hockey	hunting	golf
badminton	softball	camping
boating	running	jumping
bicycling	skiing	sledding
soccer	horseback riding	sailing
ice skating	walking	mountain climbing

II. Read and Answer

1. Which of these sports is played by teams?
2. Which sport do you think is the most dangerous?
3. Which sport would you like least?
4. Which sport would you like most to be good at?

III. Write

1. Write five sentences, each one using a word in Part I.
2. Write about the sport you like best.



The Frog Prince

Brothers Grimm

In old times, when you could still wish for what you wanted, there lived a king whose daughters were all handsome. The youngest was so beautiful that the sun himself, who has seen so much, wondered at her beauty. Near the royal castle there was a great dark wood, and in the wood under an old linden tree was a well. When the day was hot, the king's daughter used to go into the wood and sit by the cool well. If the time passed slowly, she took her golden ball, threw it up in the air, and caught it again. That was her favorite game.

WORDS TO WATCH

handsome

unwilling

plumes

linden tree

heartily

ache

insisted

bridegroom

grieved

One day the golden ball did not fall back to her outstretched hands, but fell to the ground near the edge of the well and rolled in. The king's daughter followed it with her eyes as it sank, but the well was deep, so deep that she could not see the bottom. Then she began to weep, and she wept and wept as if her heart would break.

As she was weeping, she heard a voice calling, "What's the matter, king's daughter? Your tears just about break my heart."

When she looked to see where the voice came from, there was nothing but a frog stretching his fat, ugly head out of the water.

"Oh, is it you, old frog?" said she. "I am weeping because my golden ball fell into the well."

"Sh-sh. Don't cry. I'll try to help you. But first, what will you give me if I bring back your ball?"

"Whatever you like, dear frog," she said. "My clothes, my pearls and jewels, or even the gold crown I am wearing."

"Your clothes, pearls and jewels, and your crown of gold are not for me," the frog answered. "But if you would love me and let me come and play with you and be my friend and let me sit by you at the table and eat from your little plate and drink from your cup and sleep in your little bed; if you promise me all this, then I will dive down and bring back your golden ball."

As soon as she had said yes and given her promise to do all that the frog wanted, he disappeared under the water. And

then, after a while, he came up again with the ball in his mouth and threw it on the grass. The king's daughter was so happy to see her pretty plaything again that she picked it up and ran off with it.

"Wait, wait!" called the frog. "Take me with you, I can't run as fast as you."

But for all his quawk, quawk, quawking as loudly as he could, she would not listen. She hurried home and very soon forgot all about the poor frog, who had to go back to his well again.

The next day, when the king's daughter was sitting at the table with the king and all the court and was eating from her little golden plate, something came plitch, platch, plitch, platch, up the marble steps. Then there came a knocking at the door and a voice cried,

"King's youngest daughter, let me in!"

She got up and ran to see who it could be, but when she opened the door, she saw it was the frog sitting there. She quickly shut the door and went back to her place at the table, feeling very frightened.

The king noticed how quickly her heart was beating and said "My child, why are you afraid? Is there a giant standing at the door ready to carry you off?"

"Oh no," she answered, "it's not a giant, but a horrible frog."

"And what does the frog want?"

"Oh, dear father," answered she, "when I was sitting by the well yesterday playing with my golden ball, it fell into the



well. While I was crying over the loss of it, the frog came and got it for me. Only because he insisted, I promised him he could play with me and be my friend, but I never thought he could leave the water. Now he is outside the door, and he wants to come in to play with me and to eat with me.”

And then they all heard him knocking a second time, and the frog cried,

“King’s youngest daughter, let me in!

What has been your promise to me?

King’s youngest daughter,

Now open to me!”

Then the king said, “You must keep your word if you have promised. Go now and let him in.”

She went and opened the door, and the frog hopped in, following at her heels until she reached her chair. Then he stopped and cried, “Lift me up to sit by you.” But she waited until the king ordered her. When the frog was on the chair, he wanted to get on the table, and there he sat and said, “Now push your little golden plate a bit nearer so that we can eat together.” And so she did, but everyone could see how unwill-

ing she was. The frog ate heartily, but every bite seemed to stick in the king's daughter's throat.

At last he said, "I have had enough now. Carry me to your room and make ready your little bed so we can lie down to sleep."

Then the king's daughter began to cry and was afraid of the cold frog, who wanted to sleep in her pretty, clean bed.

The king grew angry with her and said, "What you promised in time of need, you must now carry out."

So she picked up the frog with two fingers and carried him upstairs and put him in a corner. Then when she was lying in bed, he crept up to her, saying, "I am tired and want to sleep as well as you. Let me up or I shall tell your father." She was beside herself with rage, picked him up, and threw him against the wall, crying, "Now will you be quiet, you horrid frog?"

But when he fell, he was no longer a frog, but a prince with beautiful, friendly eyes. And with her father's consent, they became bride and bridegroom. He told her how a wicked witch had bewitched him and that no one but her could have saved him from being a frog all his life.

They fell asleep. The next morning, when the sun awoke them, a carriage came drawn by eight white horses with white plumes on their heads and with a golden harness. Behind the carriage was faithful Henry, the prince's servant.

Faithful Henry had been so troubled when his master was turned into a frog that he had to wear three iron bands over his heart to keep it from breaking. Faithful Henry helped the

king's youngest daughter and prince into the carriage and got up behind to drive them to his kingdom. He was full of joy that his master had been saved.

When they had gone part of the way, the prince heard something cracking as if it had been broken. He turned around and cried, "Isn't something breaking?" Again and once again, the prince thought he heard the same sound.

"They're the bands round my heart

That to lessen its ache

When I grieved for your sake

I bound round my heart."

It was the breaking of the three bands from faithful Henry's heart because he was now so happy.



QUESTIONS

1. When did the king's youngest daughter first see the frog?
2. What did the frog make her promise?
3. Did the youngest girl want to keep her promise?
4. Did she keep her promise?
5. What happened to the frog?



The Story of Grandpa's Sled and the Pig

Laura Ingalls Wilder

When your Grandpa was a boy, Laura, Sunday did not begin on Sunday morning, as it does now. It began at sundown on Saturday night. Then everyone stopped every kind of work or play.

Supper was solemn. After supper, Grandpa's father read aloud a chapter of the Bible, while everyone sat straight and still in his chair. Then they all knelt down, and their father said a long prayer. When he said, 'Amen,' they got up from their knees and each took a candle and went to bed. They must go straight to bed, with no playing, laughing, or even talking.

Sunday morning they ate a cold breakfast, because nothing could be cooked on Sunday. Then they all dressed in their

WORDS TO WATCH

solemn
hitching
fidget
motionless

catechism
chores
Sabbath
whirr

hog
squeal
sneaked
tanned

best clothes and walked to church. They walked, because hitching up the horses was work, and no work could be done on Sunday.

They must walk slowly and solemnly, looking straight ahead. They must not joke or laugh, or even smile. Grandpa and his two brothers walked ahead, and their father and mother walked behind them.

In church, Grandpa and his brothers must sit perfectly still for two long hours and listen to the sermon. They dared not fidget on the hard bench. They dared not swing their feet. They dared not turn their heads to look at the windows or the walls or the ceiling of the church. They must sit perfectly motionless, and never for one instant take their eyes from the preacher.

When church was over, they walked slowly home. They might talk on the way, but they must not talk loudly and they must never laugh or smile. At home they ate a cold dinner which had been cooked the day before. Then all the long afternoon they must sit in a row on a bench and study their catechism, until at last the sun went down and Sunday was over.

Now Grandpa's home was about halfway down the side of a steep hill. The road went from the top of the hill to the bottom, right past the front door, and in winter it was the best place for sliding downhill that you can possibly imagine.

One week Grandpa and his two brothers, James and George, were making a new sled. They worked at it every

minute of their playtime. It was the best sled they had ever made, and it was so long that all three of them could sit on it, one behind the other. They planned to finish it in time to slide downhill Saturday afternoon. For every Saturday afternoon they had two or three hours to play.

But that week their father was cutting down trees in the Big Woods. He was working hard and he kept the boys working with him. They did all the morning chores by lantern-light and were hard at work in the woods when the sun came up. They worked till dark, and then there were the chores to do, and after supper they had to go to bed so they could get up early in the morning.

They had no time to work on the sled until Saturday afternoon. Then they worked at it just as fast as they could, but they didn't get it finished till just as the sun went down, Saturday night.

After the sun went down, they could not slide downhill, not even once. That would be breaking the Sabbath. So they put the sled in the shed behind the house, to wait until Sunday was over.

All the two long hours in church next day, while they kept their feet still and their eyes on the preacher, they were thinking about the sled. At home while they ate dinner they couldn't think of anything else. After dinner their father sat down to read the Bible, and Grandpa and James and George sat as still as mice on their bench with their catechism. But they were thinking about the sled.

The sun shone brightly and the snow was smooth and

glittering on the road; they could see it through the window. It was a perfect day for sliding downhill. They looked at their catechism and they thought about the new sled, and it seemed that Sunday would never end.

After a long time they heard a snore. They looked at their father, and they saw that his head had fallen against the back of his chair and he was fast asleep.

Then James looked at George, and James got up from the bench and tiptoed out of the room through the back door. George looked at Grandpa, and George tiptoed after James. And Grandpa looked fearfully at their father, but on tiptoe he followed George and left their father snoring.

They took their new sled and went quietly up to the top of the hill. They meant to slide down, just once. Then they would put the sled away, and slip back to their bench and the catechism before their father woke up.

James sat in front on the sled, then George, and then Grandpa, because he was the littlest. The sled started, at first slowly, then faster and faster. It was running, flying, down the long steep hill, but the boys dared not shout. They must slide silently past the house, without waking their father.

There was no sound except the little whirr of the runners on the snow, and the wind rushing past.

Then just as the sled was swooping toward the house, a big black pig stepped out of the woods. He walked into the middle of the road and stood there.

The sled was going so fast it couldn't be stopped. There wasn't time to turn it. The sled went right under the hog and

picked him up. With a squeal he sat down on James, and kept on squealing, long and loud and shrill, 'Squee-ee-ee-ee-ee! Squee-ee-ee-ee-ee-ee!'

They flashed by the house, the pig sitting in front, then James, then George, then Grandpa, and they saw their father standing in the doorway looking at them. They couldn't stop, they couldn't hide, there was no time to say anything. Down the hill they went, the hog sitting on James and squealing all the way.

At the bottom of the hill they stopped. The hog jumped off James and ran away into the woods, still squealing.

The boys walked slowly and solemnly up the hill. They put the sled away. They sneaked into the house and slipped quietly to their places on the bench. Their father was reading his Bible. He looked up at them without saying a word.

Then he went on reading, and they studied their catechism.

But when the sun went down and the Sabbath day was over, their father took them out to the woodshed and tanned their jackets, first James, then George, then Grandpa.

* * * * *



In the City

I. Read and Spell

street	shopping center	lawns
sidewalk	offices	factory
skyscraper	airport	university
train station	city hall	boulevards
apartment house	stop sign	department store
bus	streetcar	subway
traffic	supermarket	streetlight
schools	theater	suburb
signal light	power plant	buildings
zoo	museum	art gallery

II. Read and Answer

1. What can you see in the city that you would never see in the country?
2. How do people travel from place to place in the city?
3. Would you rather live in the city or in the country? Why?

III. Write

1. Write five sentences, each using a word listed in Part I.
2. Write about what you would most like to see in a large city.

Review Questions For Part Two

1. You have read these stories in this part of your book. Tell what each one is about:

The Tardy Teacher

The Wind and the Sun

Rumpelstiltskin

Tom Thumb

Johnny Appleseed

The Frog Prince

The Story of Grandpa's Sled and the Pig

2. Which of these stories did you like best? Why?
3. Which poem did you like best in this book? Copy the poem; then learn it by heart and recite it to the class.
4. Write about the character you liked best in Part Two.

PART THREE

Famous Americans

Nathan Hale

Nathan Hale was a brave soldier who fought in the war that made the United States a free country. During that war the American army needed someone to go on a dangerous journey to gather information about the British army. Nathan Hale said that he would go. His friends tried to stop him because they were afraid he would be killed, but he went anyway.

He got the information, but on the way back he was captured and hanged. Before he died, he said, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Many people still remember what he said, and we often think about how Nathan Hale became an American hero.

QUESTIONS

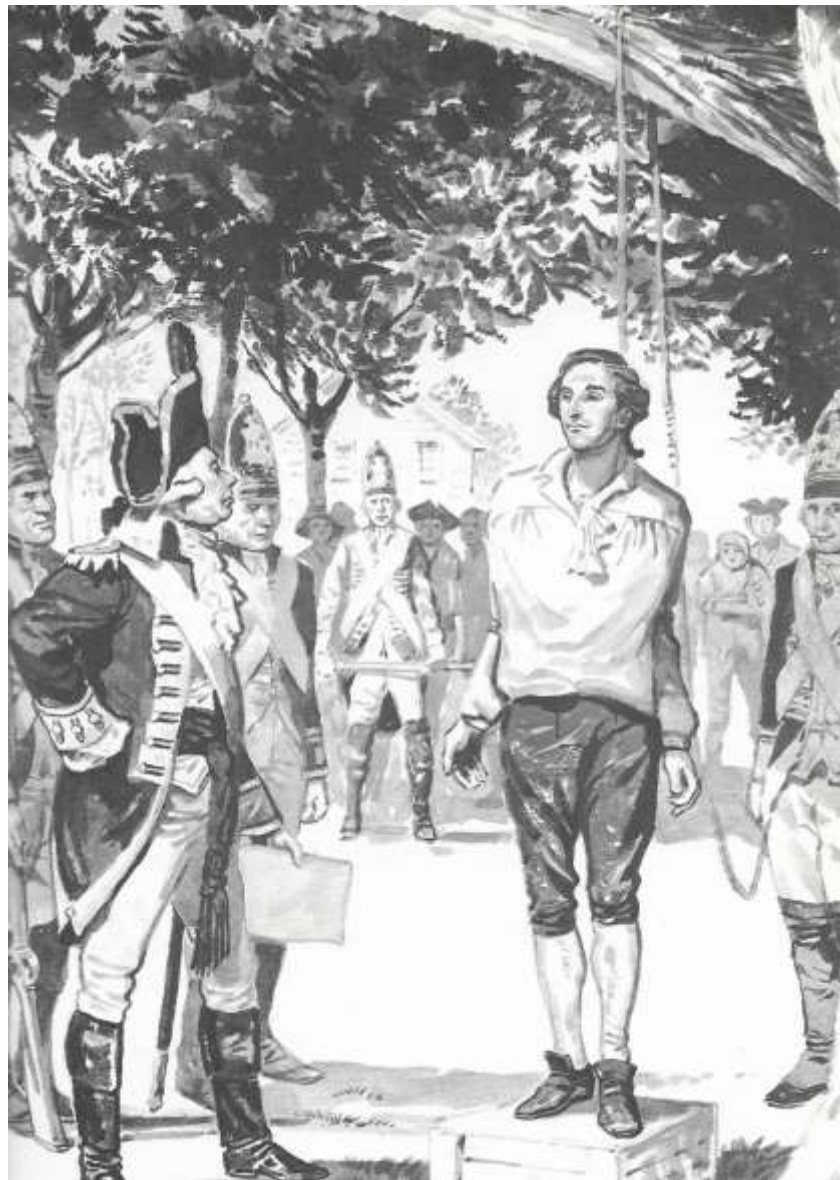
1. How did Nathan Hale try to help his country?
2. What did Nathan Hale say before he died?

WORDS TO WATCH

Nathan Hale
dangerous
journey

information
regret

British
anyway
remember





Benjamin Franklin

One day Benjamin Franklin called his son and said, “William, will you help me with an experiment?”

“How can I help?” asked William. “What are you working on now?”

“I still believe that lightning and electricity are the same, but I want to prove it.”

“How can you do that?” William asked.

WORDS TO WATCH

Benjamin Franklin
experiment
lightning
electricity

thunderstorm
dangerous
inventor
printing shop

Boston
Philadelphia
almanac
haste

“If we fly a kite in the thunderstorm that’s coming, maybe we can see an electric spark. If we do, we’ll know that the electricity is coming right out of the clouds.”

Benjamin Franklin and his son flew their kite in the thunderstorm and attached a metal key to the end of the wire. When the kite flew into a dark cloud, the key made the electric spark which he had hoped for. For the first time an experiment proved that lightning and electricity are the same.

Benjamin Franklin was a famous inventor. He invented a street lamp that made streets brighter at night and a stove that gave more heat with less coal. He invented many other things too.

When Benjamin was only ten years old, he went to work in his father’s shop making candles and soap. In his spare time he liked to read and study. When he grew a little older, he worked in his brother’s printing shop. But Benjamin and his brother did not get along very well together, so one day he ran away. With a loaf of bread under his arm and a few pennies in his pocket, he went from Boston to Philadelphia.

In Philadelphia he started a printing shop of his own. He wrote a famous book and printed it himself. It is called *Poor Richard’s Almanac*. This book has many sayings in it that people still use today. Here are some of them:

Early to bed, early to rise
Makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.
A penny saved is a penny earned.

Haste makes waste.
Men and melons are hard to know.
The honey is sweet, but the bee has a sting.
Eat to live, not live to eat.
Great talkers, little doers.
Who is strong? He that can conquer his bad habits.

Later Benjamin Franklin was one of the leaders who helped make the United States a free country. In many ways he was one of our greatest men.

QUESTIONS

1. How did Benjamin Franklin discover that lightning is electricity?
2. What jobs did Benjamin have when he was young?
3. What is the name of a famous book Benjamin Franklin wrote? What are some of the sayings in it?
4. Why was Benjamin Franklin a great man?



How Thomas Jefferson Learned

One day Thomas Jefferson was travelling on horseback, and he stopped at a country inn. In the inn he talked with a stranger who was staying there.

After Jefferson left, the stranger asked the innkeeper, "Who is that man? He knew so much about farming that I was sure he was a farmer. Then when he talked about medicine, I thought he was a doctor, and when he talked about religion, I thought he was a minister. What is his name?"

WORDS TO WATCH

Thomas Jefferson	religion	Greek
inn	minister	French
innkeeper	Declaration of Independence	Spanish
medicine	Latin	Italian

“That,” replied the innkeeper, “was Thomas Jefferson. He will be a great man some day.”

And indeed Thomas Jefferson did become a great man. He could write so well that he was asked to write the Declaration of Independence, and later he became one of our greatest presidents.

When Thomas Jefferson was a boy, he liked to play with other boys and he liked to read too. He wanted very much to learn, and whenever he sat down to rest, he always picked up a book to read.

At school he learned what the other boys did. But Thomas wanted to know much more than he learned in school. He liked to study other languages. When he was a young man, he studied Latin and Greek, and he also knew French and Spanish and Italian.

He did not talk to show off his knowledge. He tried to find out what other people knew. When he talked to a wagon maker, he asked him how to make a wheel. When he talked with the Indians, he asked them about words in their language. By asking and listening and reading, he learned more than most people know all their lives.

QUESTIONS

1. How did Jefferson learn so much?
2. When Jefferson talked with people, what did he do?
3. Do you think Jefferson would have been a great man if he had not read a lot and studied when he was young? Why?

How Many Seconds in a Minute?

Christina Rossetti

How many seconds in a minute?
Sixty, and no more in it.

How many minutes in an hour?
Sixty for sun and shower.

How many hours in a day?
Twenty-four for work and play.

How many days in a week?
Seven, both to hear and speak.

How many weeks in a month?
Four, as the swift moon runn'th.

How many months in a year?
Twelve, the almanac makes clear.

How many years in an age?
One hundred says the sage.

How many ages in time?
No one knows the rhyme.

The Presidents of the United States

I. Read and Pronounce:

George Washington
John Adams
Thomas Jefferson
James Madison
James Monroe
John Quincy Adams
Andrew Jackson
Martin Van Buren
William Henry Harrison
John Tyler
James Polk
Zachary Taylor
Millard Fillmore
Franklin Pierce
James Buchanan
Abraham Lincoln
Andrew Johnson
Ulysses S. Grant

Rutherford B. Hayes
James A. Garfield
Chester A. Arthur
Grover Cleveland
Benjamin Harrison
William McKinley
Theodore Roosevelt
William Howard Taft
Woodrow Wilson
Warren G. Harding
Calvin Coolidge
Herbert Hoover
Franklin D. Roosevelt
Harry S. Truman
Dwight D. Eisenhower
John F. Kennedy
Lyndon B. Johnson
Richard M. Nixon

II. Read and Answer:

1. Which of the presidents have you heard of before? What do you know about them?
2. How many presidents have we had?

3. How are presidents chosen?
4. How many years is a president's term?
5. Who was our first president?
6. Who is our president now?
7. Where does the president live?
8. Who is your favorite president? Why?
9. Find out some more about a president you like.

III. Write:

1. Write five sentences, each one telling something about a president of the United States.
2. Write a little story about a president you like.



America's First Painter

Benjamin West was the first American painter who became famous. He was born in Pennsylvania and lived with his family in a little stone house when the woods were still full of Indians. That was a long time ago, even before our country was called the United States of America.

Benjamin had never seen a painting in his life, because in those days there were not many pictures in our country. But when he was six years old, he began to draw. One day as he was watching a baby in a cradle, the baby smiled. Benjamin thought the baby was so pretty that he drew a picture of her. The baby's mother liked the picture, so Benjamin drew more and more.

WORDS TO WATCH

Benjamin West
Pennsylvania

cradle
canvas

artist
Philadelphia

He learned to draw pictures of flowers and birds and animals. One day his father found him drawing out in the fields. He was using the red juice of some berries and a stick to draw pictures of the members of his family.

The Indians were pleased when Benjamin drew pictures of them and they sometimes gave Benjamin paints. With these paints he could have more colors in his pictures. He learned that if he mixed red and yellow and blue and black, he could make any color he wanted.

One day he found he could make a better paint brush by taking some long hairs from the tail of his cat. He made so many brushes that the cat's tail began to look bare. Everyone began to wonder what was wrong with the cat.



Benjamin wanted to paint more than anything else. So one day he was given a real box of paints, some good brushes, and some canvas to paint on. This was the happiest day of his life because now he could paint like a real artist.

When Benjamin West grew up, people began to see that some day he would be a great painter. They sent him to art school in Philadelphia, where he studied and learned how to be a real artist. Then one day he went to Europe to study the great paintings there.

In Europe the king of England heard about Benjamin West. He liked West's paintings so much that he asked him to become a painter at his court. Benjamin West painted 400

pictures and became the most famous painter in England at that time.

Though he never returned to America, he was very generous and helpful to American artists who came to London to study with him. One of these was Gilbert Stuart, who later painted the three famous portraits of George Washington.

But Benjamin West always liked to remember the times when he used to paint with the juice of berries and with the hairs of his cat's tail.

QUESTIONS

1. How old was Benjamin West when he started painting?
2. What were some of the pictures Benjamin West drew when he was young?
3. How did the Indians help Benjamin West with his painting?
4. What was the happiest day of Benjamin West's life?
5. How did Benjamin West become famous after he went to Europe?



America's First Great Poet

America's first great poet was William Cullen Bryant. William could read when he was three years old. He wrote poems before he was six.

When William was a boy, he thought very much about becoming a poet. He used to pray that some day he would be a great poet. When he was only ten years old, some of his poems were printed.

WORDS TO WATCH

poet

William Cullen Bryant

Lincoln

gayly

wedding

crest

When William grew up, he wrote many fine poems about things he saw in the fields and forest. Here is a poem he wrote about a bird called a bobolink:



Robert of Lincoln

William Cullen Bryant

Robert of Lincoln is gayly dressed,
Wearing a bright black wedding coat;
White are his shoulders and white his crest
Hear him call in his merry note:
“Bob-o’-link, bob-o’-link,
Spink, spank, spink;
Look, what a nice new coat is mine,
Sure there was never a bird so fine.
Chee, chee, chee.”

Daniel Boone Crosses the Mountains

Frances Cavanah

Most of the first colonists in America lived in the flat land along the Atlantic Ocean. Only a few brave hunters climbed the mountains that lay to the west. One of the bravest of these was Daniel Boone. When he came home, he talked about the wonderful Indian country of Kentucky.

"There is free land out yonder for everyone," he told his neighbors. "I aim to go back and take my family."

Several other families wanted to go with Daniel Boone. They packed their things on horses for the long, hard climb across the mountains. Daniel Boone led them on and on until they came to the Kentucky River.

"I reckon you're the first little white girl who ever saw that river," he told his daughter Jemima.

Daniel Boone's friends were called pioneers because they were the first to come to a strange land. They named their new home Fort Boonesboro, after him. They lived in log houses inside a high log fence. Nearby they started farms and planted orchards.

WORDS TO WATCH

mountains	Kentucky	Jemima
Kentucky	yonder	Fort Boonesboro
Jemima	neighbors	pioneers
	Mississippi River	orchard



*Daniel Boone escapes from
the Indians.*

One day some Indians captured Daniel Boone while he was out hunting. They led him through the woods to their camp.

“We not want white people here,” they said to him. “This Indian land. We kill white people in fort.”

Daniel Boone was sorry they did not trust white people, but he understood why. White men had sometimes cheated the red men out of their land. But Daniel Boone did not want his family and friends killed.

As soon as he had a chance, he ran away. He hurried back to Boonesboro to warn the pioneers. When the Indians came, the men were waiting behind the log walls of the fort. They shot through the loopholes in the walls until the Indians went away.

The pioneers had to fight the Indians many times. But more and more people kept coming to Kentucky. Thousands of other people went beyond Kentucky to live in the wide valleys as far west as the Mississippi River.

At night, when the day's work was done, pioneer families would gather around the fire. “Pa, tell us a story about Daniel Boone,” the children begged. The pioneers never forgot the brave hunter who had crossed the mountains. He had opened up a land where only Indians had lived before.

QUESTIONS

1. Where did Daniel Boone take his family?
2. What did Daniel do after he escaped from the Indians?
3. Why is Daniel Boone a famous American?

Famous People of Our Country

I. Read and Pronounce

Abraham Lincoln	Helen Keller
Babe Ruth	Stephen Foster
Thomas Jefferson	Benjamin West
Alexander Graham Bell	Henry Ford
Daniel Boone	Thomas A. Edison
Charles A. Lindbergh	George Washington
Mark Twain	Nathaniel Hawthorne
Benjamin Franklin	John James Audubon
Booker T. Washington	Alexander Hamilton
Clara Barton	Albert Einstein
Nathan Hale	Wilbur and Orville Wright
Eli Whitney	Kit Carson
Robert E. Lee	Robert Frost
George Washington Carver	Johnny Appleseed

II. Read and Answer:

1. Find out why each of these Americans is famous.
2. Which of these people were presidents?
3. Which of these people were authors?
4. Which of these people were inventors or scientists?
5. Which of these people were pioneers?
6. Which person died for his country?
7. Which person studied birds?
8. Which two persons worked with plants or farming?

9. Which person was a painter?
10. Which person wrote songs?
11. Which person was a nurse?
12. Which of these famous Americans would you like to learn more about? Why?
13. Name some other famous Americans.
14. What makes a person famous?

III. Write

1. Write five sentences, each one telling something about a famous American.
2. Write a little story telling about a famous American you like.



Abraham Lincoln

Some farm boys were talking together in a store in a little town in Indiana. One boy said,

“There’s something strange about Abe. He’s always reading and studying. He reads at night in front of the fireplace, he reads while he is eating, and he even reads while he is resting from plowing in the fields.”

“I don’t understand him either,” said another farm boy. “I heard Abe say once that his best friend was the man who would bring him a book he could read.”

“I bet there are more wildcats than books in this part of Indiana,” said the first boy.

WORDS TO WATCH

Abraham Lincoln

toddle

borrow

Indiana

Sarah

ruin

Kentucky

husking

twice

These boys were talking about their friend Abe Lincoln, who worked in the fields with them.

They did not know that Abe Lincoln would grow up to be one of our country's greatest presidents. Neither did anyone else.

Abe Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Kentucky, where his father was a farmer. When Abe was only two years old, he used to help with the farming. He would toddle along behind his father and plant pumpkin seeds.

When Abe was old enough to go to school, he and his sister Sarah had to walk two miles to the schoolhouse. But there were many days when Abe did not go to school. His father wanted him to stay home and do the chores instead.

Abe went to school for only about a year, but he learned to read and write and do simple arithmetic. Most of all he liked to read, and so he read everything he could find.

One day he borrowed a book from a farmer across the way called *The Life of George Washington*. Abe took the book home and read it that very evening. He put it on a shelf high on the wall, but that night rain leaked through the roof and ruined the book. The next day Abe took the book back to the farmer and told him what had happened. Abe said he wanted to work for the farmer until he had paid for the book. So for three days he worked in the farmer's field, husking corn until the book was paid for.

Abe believed in hard work, and he grew up strong and tall. He could chop down a tree or run a farm better than most people.

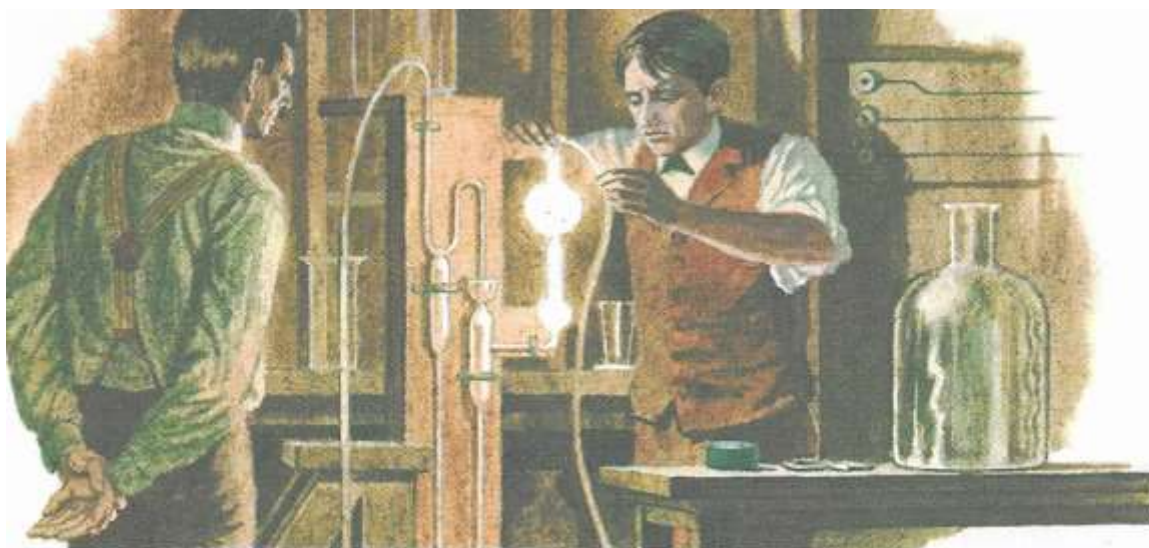
Once a neighbor woman asked Abe what he wanted to be when he grew up. Abe laughed and said, "I'm going to be President of the United States."

Abe was joking when he said that, but he *did* become President of the United States during one of America's most difficult times—the Civil War, the war between the North and the South. Often during that war, brother was fighting against brother and father against son.

The Civil War started shortly after Lincoln became President in 1861. Lincoln did what he could to free the Negro slaves and to end slavery in America. Because of his wisdom and leadership during that time, many people believe that he was our greatest president. Five days after the Civil War was over, Abraham Lincoln was shot. He died the following day, April 15, 1865.

QUESTIONS

1. Where was Lincoln born?
2. How long did Lincoln go to school?
3. How did Lincoln show that he thought books are important?
4. What did Abe say when a woman asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up?
5. Find out more about Abraham Lincoln.



Thomas Alva Edison

When Edison was a boy, he wanted to learn about everything. One day he tried to find out if goose eggs would hatch if he sat on them. But all he got for his work was scrambled eggs on the seat of his pants and a spanking from his father.

As he grew older, Edison had many ideas that no one ever had had before. He would say to people, “There’s a better way to do it—find it.” And no one worked harder than Edison to find these new ways.

WORDS TO WATCH

lampwick

electric light

telephone

coconut

failure

telegraph

carbonized thread

phonograph

discoveries

Before Edison's time, people had only candles and lanterns to light their homes. Edison knew that electric lighting would be very useful, so he tried hundreds of ways to make the first electric light bulb. He tried using a lampwick, strings of coconut, and even human hairs, but they all failed. Finally he hit upon a carbonized thread and found that it worked!

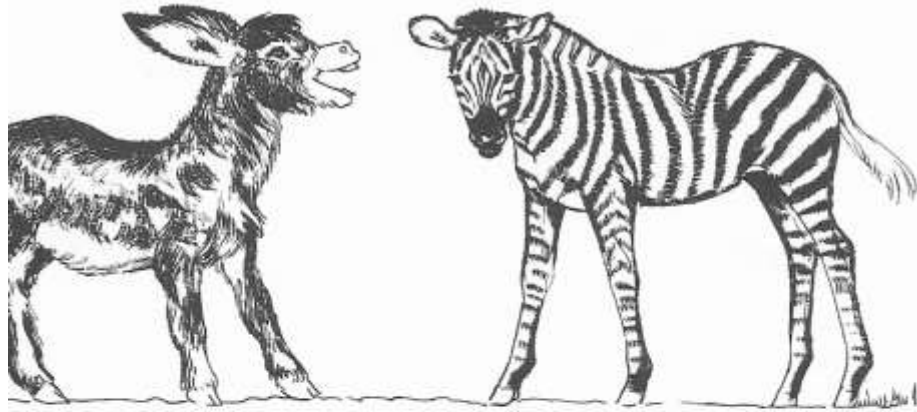
And so after many, many days of failure, Edison invented the first electric light bulb. People will always remember him for this invention.

But he also invented many other things we all know about. He invented the phonograph and moving pictures, he improved the telephone and telegraph, and he had hundreds of other new ideas of how to do things a better way.

Edison worked so hard on his new ideas that he often slept only four hours a night. He knew that if you want to make important discoveries and inventions, you *must* work very hard to learn as much as possible.

QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the things that Thomas Edison invented?
2. Why did he get a spanking from his father?
3. Why did Edison succeed in inventing the electric light when others had failed?
4. How could Edison invent so many new things?



The Donkey and the Zebra

American Folk Rhyme

When the donkey saw the zebra,
He began to switch his tail;
“Well, I never!” said the donkey.
“There’s a mule that’s been to jail.”

The Funniest Thing

American Folk Rhyme

Oh, the funniest thing I’ve ever seen
Was a tomcat sewing on a sewing machine.
Oh, the sewing machine got running too slow,
And it took seven stitches in the tomcat’s toe.

On the Farm

I. Read and Spell

farmer	wheat	acre
hay	turkeys	tractor
cattle	plow	field
chickens	seed	silo
orchard	combine	stable
barn	harvest	livestock
crops	planting	farmhouse
corn	oats	market
weeds	scarecrow	chicken coop
fence	water	fertilizer

II. Read and Answer

1. What are some of the crops that farmers grow?
2. What machines does a farmer need on his farm?
3. What do farmers raise besides crops?
4. What buildings does a farmer need on his farm?
5. Would you like to be a farmer? Why or why not?

III. Write

1. Write five sentences, each using a word in Part I.
2. Write a story about what farmers do.
3. Write a story about a day on the farm.

PART FOUR

*Our Country
Today*



Our Capital

Boys and girls dream about taking a trip to Washington, D.C., because it is the capital of our country.

If you visit Washington, you will see one of the most important and most beautiful cities in the whole United States. It has many wide streets, beautiful parks, and interesting buildings.

Everyone who visits Washington wants to see the White House, where the president lives. It is a large white house surrounded by beautiful gardens. As you walk from one room to the other, you will see pictures and gifts and furniture left there by many of our presidents.

WORDS TO WATCH

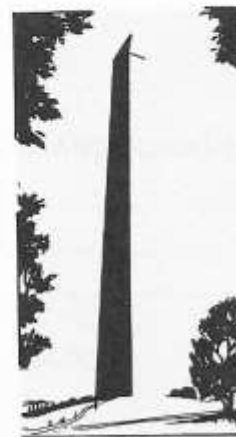
White House	Potomac River	statue
dome	Jefferson Memorial	freedom
Congress	Lincoln	bind
Washington	columns	angel
Monument	capital	Capitol Building



The Capitol Building is one of the most important buildings in Washington, D.C. It is easy to find because of its huge dome and because it sits on a hill overlooking the city. Here is where the leaders of our country meet and make laws for all Americans.

When you visit the Capitol Building, you will see many large rooms with beautiful paintings of American leaders. If you are lucky, you may meet a member of Congress who helps to make the laws.

One of the tallest buildings in Washington, D.C., is the Washington Monument. At the top you can get a bird's-eye view of the city of Washington. From here you can see the beauty of many of its parks and buildings. You can see the Jefferson Memorial, which is a handsome white building on the shore of the Potomac River. And you can see the Lincoln Memorial, which some say is one of our most beautiful buildings.



The Lincoln Memorial is made of white marble and has thirty-six columns because our country had thirty-six states when President Lincoln died in 1865. Inside this building is a famous statue of Lincoln. The painting on the wall shows the Angel of Truth cutting the chains that bind a slave.

These memorials were built to remind us of our most important presidents. Washington is full of exciting things to see, and perhaps some day you can go there and see them for yourself.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is the Capitol an important building?
2. What presidents have big monuments named for them in Washington?
3. Which building in Washington, D.C., would you like most to visit? Why?





Wide World Photos

Thurgood Marshall

Forrest L. Ingram

“Thurgood Marshall!” the teacher said. “Stop that!”

Thurgood was just about to throw another spitball. “Ma’am?” he said. He tried to look innocent.

“How come your parents call you Thorough-Good, when you’re so Thorough-Bad?” She gave him a small book. “You just march yourself down to the basement,” she said, “and memorize this page from the Constitution of the United States.”

“The Constitution?” Thurgood said.

“Yes,” she said. “That’s the rules people are supposed to live by in this country.”

WORDS TO WATCH

Constitution
Civil Rights
slavery

Supreme Court
separate
streetcars

balcony
lawyer
usher

Thurgood took the book and went to the basement. He turned to the part the teacher had marked and started reading. The words made him think about his parents and about his great-grandfather who came to America as a slave many years before.

Most black people who came to America in early times did not come of their own free will. Slave traders took them from Africa and sold them in America to work for white masters.

During the War Between the States, President Lincoln put an end to slavery in America. But black people still did not have much freedom, even in the North.

When Thurgood Marshall was a little boy, black people could not eat in white restaurants. Unfair laws in some states forced blacks to ride in the backs of streetcars and trains. Most blacks could not buy a house where they wanted, or get a good education, or a good job. In some places, they were even refused the right to vote given them by the Constitution.

One day, Marshall went to a movie with some black friends. The woman who sold them the tickets told them they would have to sit in the balcony. Blacks were not allowed downstairs.

But Marshall and his friends did not go up to the balcony. They sat downstairs. Soon an usher came up to them. "You can't sit down here," he said. "It's against the rule."

Marshall knew that the Constitution was a bigger rule—the rule that the people of this country should live by. So he and his friends stayed in their seats. At last, the usher went away.

Marshall wanted to do something about the way blacks were still being treated in America. He studied law for several years to become a lawyer.

Sometimes people get in an argument about what the law says they can or can't do. A lawyer is a man or woman who helps people with their side of an argument. Often, he argues their side in a courtroom, before a judge. The judge decides who is right and who is wrong.

Marshall spent a lot of time studying the Constitution. In that school basement many years before, he had memorized the Constitution because he had been bad. Now he studied it in order to do good.

In court, Marshall took the side of many black people who wanted to do things the Constitution said they had a right to do. One day, a young black man came to him for help. He wanted to study law in his home state, Maryland. But there were no law schools there for blacks. The young man wanted to go to school where only whites had gone before. But the leaders of the school refused to have him. Marshall took the young man's side in court. He argued so well that the judge said: "Yes, this man has a right to study in the white school! The school *must* let him in."

Marshall hoped that, one day, all black children and white children could go to the same schools together. He brought before the Supreme Court an important argument on that very point.

The Supreme Court is the most powerful court in our land. The nine judges of the Court decide what the Constitution

means. They tell all Americans what it allows and what it does not allow.

The people who argued against Marshall said that the states could make laws to keep black children and white children in separate schools. Marshall said that any law which forced black children to go to separate schools was against the Constitution.

The judges agreed with Marshall. In 1954, the Supreme Court said it is against the law to force black children to go to all-black schools.

With the help of the Constitution, Marshall won for black people in America many rights which some states had taken away from them. That's why people call him "Mr. Civil Rights."

In 1967, the President of the United States picked Marshall himself to be one of the nine judges on the Supreme Court. Mr. Marshall is the first black American ever to be named to that powerful Court.

Thurgood Marshall had come a long way—from a school basement to the Supreme Court. As a judge, he works to make sure everyone receives fair treatment, as the Constitution says they should.

When Thurgood Marshall enters the Supreme Court building, he passes beneath these words cut in stone: "EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW." The words are there because they say what the Supreme Court stands for. But they also sum up the aim of Thurgood Marshall's life.

The American Flag

One day Betsy Ross heard a knock at the door of her little shop in Philadelphia. It was her uncle, General Ross, and George Washington at the door.

“Could you make us something special?” they asked. “We want a flag for our thirteen colonies.”

“A flag?” Betsy answered. “I have never made a flag before, but I will gladly try. What should it look like?”

“We had an idea that it should have thirteen stars and thirteen stripes. Like this.” Then the men drew a little picture of what they had in mind. The stars they drew were six-pointed.

“But,” Betsy said, “the stars would be easier to make with five points.”

“We thought it would be simpler with six points to look like two triangles fitted together.”

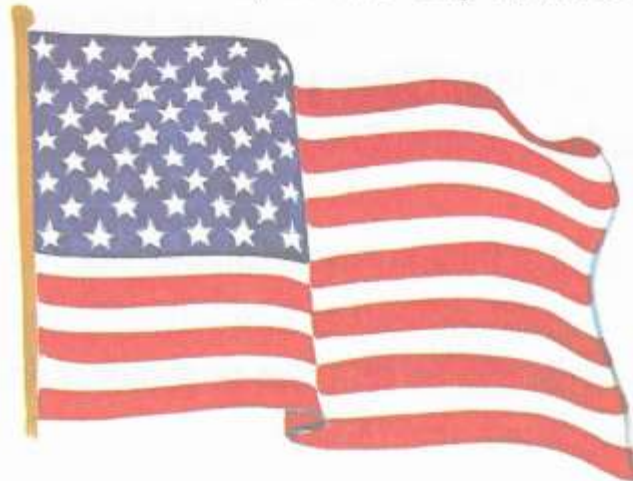
“Let me show you,” Betsy said. She cut out a five-pointed star with one snip of her scissors. The men liked the way she made the star, and so Betsy Ross made the first American flag.

WORDS TO WATCH

Betsy Ross	George Washington	custom
knock	triangles	Civil War
Philadelphia	snip	Independence Day
General Ross	scissors	Memorial Day

Every country in the world has its own flag. The flag of our country has many names. Some call it the Stars and Stripes. Some call it Old Glory. Some call it the Red, White, and Blue. But most people call it the American Flag.

If you look closely at the American flag, you will see that it has fifty stars and thirteen stripes. Seven of the stripes are red, and six are white. Each star stands for one of the fifty states in the United States. Each of the thirteen stripes stands for one of the first thirteen states, because when the United States became a nation, it had only thirteen states.



Our flag did not always look the same way it does now. When Betsy Ross made the first American flag, it looked like this:



As each state was added to our country, one more star was added to our flag. About 100 years ago, at the time of the Civil War, our flag looked like this:



It had thirty-five stars because there were thirty-five states in the United States in 1863.

For a long time the American flag had forty-eight stars. Then two new states, Alaska and Hawaii, were added to the United States so now there are fifty stars in our flag.

We have a custom of flying the flag only in the daytime. It is raised on the flagpole in the morning after the sun is up, and it is lowered at sunset. You can see many American flags flying on holidays such as Independence Day, the Fourth of July, and Memorial Day, May 30. Our flag also has a special day of its own. It is called Flag Day, which is June 14.

We fly the American flag because that is one way of showing that we love our country.

QUESTIONS

1. How many stars are in the American flag now? Why?
2. Why are there thirteen stripes in the American flag?
3. How many stars were there in the American flag during the Civil War? Why?
4. At what times is the American flag flown?
5. What are some of the special days when people fly the American flag?
6. Why do we fly the American flag?
7. What else do you know about the American flag?



The Opossum

One of the strangest animals in North America is the opossum. He is about the size of a large cat, but he doesn't like cats, and cats don't like him.

The hind feet of an opossum look like hands, and they help to make him a good tree climber. He can hang upside down by his tail like a monkey. He also has the smallest brain of any animal his size.

The mother opossum is the only animal in the United States that carries its babies in a pouch. After opossum babies are born, they are still too young to go out into the world. The mother opossum keeps them in a special pouch just as a mother kangaroo does.

WORDS TO WATCH

opossum

vegetable

hollow

pouch

garbage

enemies

kangaroo

chicken coop

danger

Later, when the baby opossums are a little older and a little braver, they ride on their mother's back. After they grow some more, the baby opossums climb down from their mother's back for the last time. Soon afterward they start looking for their own food.

Opossums are always hungry, but they can find food easily because they eat almost anything. In the summer they eat all the bugs and insects they can find. They also like fruit and vegetables, and they will eat mice and rats. In the winter opossums find food in garbage cans, and they love to eat the chickens in Farmer Brown's chicken coop. An opossum has fifty sharp teeth which help him chew up chickens.

Opossums like to sleep in the daytime. You can sometimes find one taking a nap in a hollow tree or in a hole in the ground or in a bird's nest after he has eaten the bird's eggs.

But an opossum's life is not all eating and sleeping. He has to watch out for his enemies. He has to watch out for Farmer Brown, for cars, for owls, for foxes, and for dogs.

He cannot protect himself by running like a deer or by fighting like a wolf. He does not have the sharp quills of the porcupine or the bad smell of the skunk to protect himself. But when danger comes, he can climb a tree as quick as a wink, or if he gets caught, he sometimes rolls himself into a ball and pretends that he is dead. This game is called "playing possum."

Because opossums can protect themselves very well, there are still plenty of opossums in the fields and forests.

QUESTIONS

1. Tell all you can about baby opossums.
2. How does an opossum get food?
3. Why can't he protect himself like a deer or a porcupine or a skunk?
4. How does an opossum protect himself ?
5. How is an opossum different from other animals?

Did You Ever

American Folk Rhyme

Did you ever ever ever
In your life, did you ever
See a whale catch a snail
by the tail?

No, I never never never
In my life, no I never
Saw a whale catch a snail
by the tail.



Memorial Day

Many soldiers and sailors have died fighting for our country. One of the ways we remember these brave men is to set aside a special day to honor them. This day is called Memorial Day. We celebrate Memorial Day every year on May 30. Sometimes it is called Decoration Day, because on that day many people decorate the graves of soldiers and sailors who lost their lives fighting for our country.

WORDS TO WATCH

Memorial Day Decoration Day tomb represent

Near Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States, is a special place where we honor those who died in battle. It is called the Tomb of the Unknowns. The servicemen who are buried there represent all the American soldiers and sailors who have died in battle for their country. This tomb is guarded day and night by special guards.

These are the words written on the Tomb of the Unknowns:

HERE RESTS IN
HONORED GLORY
AN AMERICAN
SOLDIER
KNOWN BUT TO GOD

QUESTIONS

1. Why do we celebrate Memorial Day?
2. When is Memorial Day?
3. What is the Tomb of the Unknowns?

Interesting Places in the United States

I. Read and Pronounce:

The Grand Canyon

Yellowstone Park

Disneyland

Niagara Falls

Plymouth Rock

The Statue of Liberty

Cape Canaveral

Golden Gate Bridge

The White House

The Carlsbad Caverns

Hoover Dam

The U.S. Capitol Building

Mount Rushmore

The Liberty Bell

The Empire State Building

The Painted Desert

II. Read and Answer:

1. What do you know about each of these places?
2. Try to locate these places on your map of the United States.
3. Which of these places would you like most to see? Why?
4. Name some other interesting places in the United States.

III. Write:

1. Write five sentences, each one telling about a place named on this page.
2. Write a little story about a famous place in the United States that you have seen or would like to see.



The First American in Orbit

One February day, early in the morning, John Glenn climbed into his space capsule called *Friendship 7* at Cape Canaveral in Florida.

WORDS TO WATCH

John Glenn
space capsule

Friendship 7

Cape Canaveral

Florida

Atlas rocket

Mississippi Delta

retrorockets

orbit

test pilot

astronaut

outer space

After much preparation, the Atlas rocket, which was to take John Glenn far out into space, was ready. Soon a voice could be heard, "Six, five, four, three, two, one, zero. Blast off! We're under way!"

The rocket lifted smoothly into the air. Higher and higher it rose until the people watching it from the ground could see it no longer. In five minutes' time John Glenn was 100 miles up in the air, and his space capsule was entering its orbit around the earth. He was travelling so fast that he circled the earth in less than an hour and a half.

Once while he was passing over the United States, he said, "I can see the whole state of Florida laid out just like a map. It's beautiful. And I can see clear back to the Mississippi Delta."

Toward the end of the third orbit, the retrorockets fired, and John Glenn's spaceship began to slow down and return to earth. Soon his ship landed in the water, and then he was safe. And so ended the trip of the first American to orbit the earth.

When John Glenn was a boy, he lived in a little town in Ohio. He liked to swim in a nearby creek and to hunt rabbits. He also liked football, baseball, and music.

He studied hard in school because he wanted to become an airplane pilot. After he had fought in two wars, he became a test pilot.

But he wanted most of all to be an astronaut. He wanted to rise up into the sky to see what it is like hundreds of miles above the earth, travelling 18,000 miles per hour.

Finally he was chosen to be one of our first astronauts because of his good record. But he had to work hard to learn how to handle all the controls in the space capsule.

After John Glenn orbited the earth for the first time, everyone knew what a great thing he had done. People cheered wildly as they saw him pass by in parades.

The President of the United States honored John Glenn too. "This is a new ocean," he said, "and I believe we must sail on it."

It takes brave men to sail on the ocean of outer space. John Glenn, and all those who helped John Glenn, are some of these brave men.

QUESTIONS

1. What did John Glenn like to do when he was a boy?
2. What did he do before he became an astronaut?
3. How long did it take John Glenn to orbit the earth in his capsule?
4. Find Florida and the Mississippi Delta on your map.
5. How did John Glenn get back to earth?
6. What did the President of the United States mean when he said, "We must sail on this new ocean"?

I'd Like to Be an Astronaut

Arther S. Trace, Jr.

I'd like to be an astronaut
Racing through the sky
And look down at the earth below
As round and round I fly.

I wonder what its like to be
All alone up there.
What would I see if I looked down?
Perhaps I wouldn't dare.

The oceans and the continents,
The world below me lies;
Africa and India
Would flash before my eyes.

And when I am on earth again,
I'll look up at the sky,
And be glad I am an astronaut
And know how high is high.



Review Questions for Parts Three and Four

1. You have read these stories in Part Three and Part Four of your book. Tell what each one is about.

Nathan Hale

Benjamin Franklin

How Thomas Jefferson Learned

America's First Painter

America's First Great Poet

Daniel Boone Crosses the Mountains

Abraham Lincoln

Thomas Alva Edison

Our Capital

Thurgood Marshall

The American Flag

The Opossum

Memorial Day

The First American in Orbit

2. Which story did you like best? Why?
3. Which poem did you like best in this book? Copy it, and then recite it to your class.
4. Write a story about the famous American whom you like best.
5. Write about the three most important things you learned in this book, and read your paper to your class.

PART FIVE

*For Readers
Brave
and Bold*



The Pony Express

Everyone in St. Joseph, Missouri, was excited on the day the Pony Express was to begin. Each boy who could ride a horse wanted to be one of the “pony boys.” The lucky ones who were chosen were given a small Bible. As the boy was given the Bible, he had to promise that he would not swear,

WORDS TO WATCH

St. Joseph
Missouri
Bible
swear
heroes

trousers
riding boots
spurs
galloped
leather

Sacramento
California
pistol
scalped
stagecoach

drink, or get into fights while he was working. These boys were heroes around town who proudly wore their uniforms of a red shirt, blue trousers, and riding boots with silver spurs.

That day in 1860, the people of St. Joe came out to watch the first pony start out for California. Everyone cheered as the pony rider galloped up to pick up the mail. The people crowded around to see better. The pony boy had a leather bag made just to carry the mail. At the end of the first run, he gave the next rider the leather bag filled with letters.

On the trail ahead—almost two thousand miles long—the other pony boys were waiting to take turns in the saddle. The same afternoon that a rider started west from St. Joe, another rider was beginning the trip east, starting from Sacramento, California. This rider had to urge his pony on through the snow that night, even though he could see nothing of the trail. He had to travel as fast as he could, changing ponies three times during his run. He had only two minutes to get off the tired pony and onto the fresh pony at each station.

One time a rider saw an Indian campfire ahead of him. He had to ride close to the campfire, so he began firing his pistol and shouting as loudly as he could. The Indians thought many men had come to attack them, and they ran away. Another time a rider was killed and scalped by Indians, but the pony escaped and carried the mail to the next station.

By stagecoach it took nearly a month to carry mail to California, but the Pony Express took letters to California in

only eight days. Today trains can carry the mail across the United States in three or four days, and planes can do it in a few hours. Mailmen have to worry about being bitten by dogs now, but they do not have to worry about being scalped by Indians.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did it take so long to deliver a letter before the days of the Pony Express?
2. Why could the Pony Express speed up delivery of the mail?
3. Why was it dangerous to be a Pony Express rider?
4. Between what cities did Pony Express riders travel? Can you find them on the map?
5. Would you rather be a mailman today or a Pony Express rider long ago?



Uncle Sam

Uncle Sam is not an uncle. He is not even a real person. But Uncle Sam is important because he stands for the United States.

In pictures he is tall and thin. He has a white beard, and he wears a high hat and a long-tailed coat. His clothes are red, white, and blue, like the colors in our flag.

Nobody knows when people first started called the United States “Uncle Sam.” One story tells about a man in Troy, New York, who saw the letters “U.S.” on a large package. The letters mean “United States,” but the man didn’t know that. A friend decided to play a joke on him. He told the man

WORDS TO WATCH

Troy

New York

package

that the letters meant Uncle Sam. There was really someone in Troy whose name was Sam Wilson, and everyone called him Uncle Sam. So the man thought U.S. on the packages meant Uncle Sam Wilson.

Some people think that this joke passed from person to person until everyone was calling the United States “Uncle Sam.”

Today all over the world everybody knows that Uncle Sam stands for the United States of America.

QUESTIONS

1. What does Uncle Sam look like?
2. Did Uncle Sam really live?
3. Does he live today?
4. What does it mean when you say, “Uncle Sam *stands* for the United States”?



My First Buffalo Hunt

Chief Standing Bear

I had learned to make arrows and tip them with feathers. I knew how to ride my pony, no matter how fast he would go, and I felt I was brave and did not fear danger. All these things I had learned for just this day when father would allow me to go with him on a buffalo hunt. It was the day for which every Sioux boy eagerly waited. To ride side by side with the

WORDS TO WATCH

arrows
feathers
Sioux
neighed
quivers
glow

waist
breechcloth
rawhide
holster
grazing
midst

senses
instructions
nervous
fatal
arranged
balance

best hunters of the tribe, to hear the terrible noise of the great herds as they ran, and then to help bring home the kill made this the most thrilling day of any Indian boy's life.

We all knew that the scouts had come in and reported buffalo near and that we must all keep the camp in stillness. Even the horses and dogs were quiet, and all night not a horse neighed and not a dog barked. Quiet was everywhere.

The night before a buffalo hunt was always an exciting night, even though it was quiet in camp. There would be much talk in the tepees around the fires. There would be sharpening of arrows and of knives. New bowstrings would be made, and quivers would be filled with arrows.

It was in the fall of the year, and the evenings were cool as Father and I sat by the fire and talked over the hunt. I was only eight years of age, and I know that my father did not expect me to get a buffalo at all, but only to try perhaps for a small calf should I be able to get close enough to one. I was greatly excited as I sat and watched Father working in his easy, firm way.

You can picture me, I think, as I sat in the glow of the campfire, my little brown body bare to the waist, watching, listening to my father. My hair hung down my back, and I wore moccasins and breechcloth of buckskin. To my belt was fastened a rawhide holster for my knife, and this night I remember I kept it on all night. I went to sleep with my bow in hand to be all the nearer ready in the morning when the start was made.

The next morning the leaders went ahead until they saw the herd of grazing buffalo. Then they stopped and waited for the rest of us to ride up. We all rode slowly up to the herd, which had come together as soon as they saw us. They ran close together, all of them, as if at the command of a leader. We continued riding slowly toward the herd until one of the leaders shouted, 'Ho-ka-he!' which means, 'Ready, go!' At that command every man started for the herd. I had been listening too, and the minute the hunters started, I rode with them.

Away I went, my little pony putting all he had into the race. It was not long before I lost sight of Father, but I kept going just the same. I threw my blanket back, and the chill of the autumn morning struck my body, but I did not mind. On I went. It was wonderful to race over the ground with all these horsemen about me. There was no shouting, no noise of any kind except the pounding of horses' feet. The herd was now running and had raised a cloud of dust. I felt no fear until we had entered this cloud of dust and I could see nothing about me—only hear the sound of feet. Where was Father? Where was I going? On I rode through the cloud, for I knew I must keep going.

Then all at once I saw that I was in the midst of the buffalo. Their dark bodies were rushing all about me, and their great heads were moving up and down to the sound of their hoofs beating upon the earth. Then I was afraid, and I leaned close down upon my little pony's body and clutched him

tightly. I can never tell you how I felt toward my pony at that moment. All thought of shooting had left my mind. I was filled with fear. In a moment or so, my senses became clearer and I could hear other sounds beside the clatter of feet. I could hear a shot now and then, and I could see the buffalo beginning to break up into small bunches. I could not see my father nor any of the others yet, but I was not so frightened any more.

I let my pony run. The buffalo looked too large for me to tackle anyway, so I just kept going. The buffalo became more and more scattered. Pretty soon I saw a young calf that looked about my size. I remembered now what Father had told me the night before as we sat about the fire. Those instructions were important for me to follow now. I wanted to try for that young buffalo calf.

I was still back of the calf, unable to get alongside of him. I was eager to get a shot, yet afraid to try. I was still very nervous. While my pony was making all speed to come alongside, I tried a shot, and to my surprise, my arrow landed. My second arrow glanced along the back of the animal and sped on between the horns, making only a slight wound.

My third arrow hit a spot that made the running beast slow up. I shot a fourth arrow, and though it, too, landed, it was not a fatal wound. It seemed to me it was taking a lot of shots, and I was not proud of my markmanship. I was glad, however, to see the animal going slower, and I knew that one more shot would make me a hunter. My horse seemed to

know his own importance. His ears stood straight forward, and it was not necessary for me to urge him to get closer to the buffalo.

I was soon by the side of the buffalo, and one more shot brought the chase to an end. I jumped from my pony and stood by my fallen buffalo. I looked all around wishing that the world could see. But I was alone. . . .

I was wondering what to do when I heard my father's voice calling, 'Toki-i-la-la-hu-wo,' 'Where are you?' I quickly jumped on my pony and rode to the top of a little hill near by. Father saw me and came to me at once. He was so pleased to see me and glad to know that I was safe. As he came up, I said as calmly as I could, 'Father, I have killed a buffalo.' His smile changed to surprise, and he asked me where my buffalo was. I pointed to it, and we rode over to where it lay.

Father set to work to skin it for me. I had watched him do this many times and knew perfectly well how to do it myself, but I could not turn the animal over. When the hide was off, Father put it on the pony's back with the hair side next to the pony. On this he arranged the meat so it would balance. Then he covered the meat carefully with the rest of the hide, so no dust would reach it while we travelled home.

Always when arriving home I would run out to play, for I loved to be with the other boys. But this day I stayed close to the tepee so I could hear the nice things that were said about me. It was soon all over camp that I had killed a buffalo.

My father was so proud that he gave away a fine horse. He called an old man to our tepee to cry out the news to the rest of the people in camp.

That ended my first and last buffalo hunt. It lives only in my memory, for the last days of the buffalo are over.

PART SIX

On Your Own

