Plan a Pioneer Day at Your School

OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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There are many steps involved in producing a Pioneer Day at your school. The following are suggestions, activities, and links to resources for you to adapt for your classroom.

**PREPARE** your students with these primary lesson plans and activities about pioneer life. Students should understand who pioneers were, what regions of the country and the world they came from, and what motivated them to move west. They should understand how western expansion and ideas of manifest destiny led to issues like the nullification of treaties with American Indian nations in Oklahoma and the creation of All-Black towns by Freedmen and African Americans who participated in the land runs.

- **Learning about the Land Run and Pioneer Life through Primary Sources**
- **The Opening of Oklahoma e-exhibit**
- **A Fluid Frontier: Minority and Ethnic Groups and Opportunity in Oklahoma e-exhibit**
- **American Indians in Oklahoma e-exhibit**
- **How the West was Settled**

**PLAY** pioneer games like marbles, primer book lessons, spelling bees, sack races, tug-of-war, and three-legged races. You can also create classroom-friendly versions of games like Pack Your Wagon or your own version of Oregon Trail!

**MAKE** traditional turn-of-the-century crafts like corn husk dolls and yarn dolls for younger students, or simple quilting, embroidery, or cross-stitch projects for older students.

**EAT** pioneer staples local to your area and have students learn about how food was grown and processed. Students can make butter, can vegetables, shell peas, or shuck corn.

**RESERVE** a free hands-on history traveling trunk from the Oklahoma History Center, full of historical items, clothing, books, and curricula.

- **Pioneer Life traveling trunk**
- **One-Room School House traveling trunk**
- **Okietales Pioneer Life (Pre-K through 3rd grade) traveling trunk**

**EXPERIENCE** live demonstrations from museum educators, community guests, and experts. Students can learn about traditional crafts like soap making, spinning, quilting, and weaving through hands-on presentations. The Oklahoma History Center also offers Pioneer Woman, Cowboy/Pioneer, and Cattle Driver living history presentations at your school!

**REACH OUT** to tribal nations in your area for resources about the history of your city or county before it was your city or county, and how the land runs affected American Indians (see Resource I.)

**READ** primary-source books for kids like *Pioneers to the West: Children’s True Stories of Migration* by John Bliss or the autobiographical novel *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

**ASK** for help from parents, volunteers, school administrators, museum educators, and community members.
RESOURCES
Tribal Jurisdiction in Oklahoma (Present)

Oklahoma Department of Transportation
Oklahoma Land Openings

Oklahoma Historical Society

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Map of Oklahoma Land Openings:

- **Lands opened by allotment**
  - 1891 Tonkawa
  - 1892 Pawnee
  - 1904 Ponca, Otoe-Missouria
  - 1906 Osage, Kaw

- **Lands opened by run**
  - April 22, 1889
    - Unassigned Lands
  - September 22, 1891
    - Iowa; Sac and Fox; Potawatomi and Shawnee
  - April 19, 1892
    - Cheyenne and Arapaho
  - September 16, 1893
    - Cherokee Outlet
  - May 23, 1895
    - Kickapoo

- **Lands opened by lottery**
  - July 9 – August 6, 1901
    - Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache; Wichita and Caddo

- **Lands opened by sealed bid**
  - December 1906 Big Pasture
You can find more information about tribes indigenous to Oklahoma as well as maps illustrating Indian removal in 1830, 1855, and 1889 on the Oklahoma Historical Society’s website at okhistory.org/research/airemoval. You can also find a detailed timeline of removal and links to tribal websites.
All-Black Towns of Oklahoma

Oklahoma Historical Society
Important Laws

**Homestead Act**
The Homestead Act, passed in 1862, encouraged westward expansion by offering a low barrier to claiming large acreages of public land, transferring that land into private property.


**The Dawes Allotment Act**
The 1887 Dawes act allowed the US government to take control of tribally-held land and distribute it to individual tribal members. Some tribes, including several tribes in Oklahoma, were exempt from the Dawes act.


**The Curtis Act**
The Curtis Act, passed in 1898, granted the US government authority to control Indian affairs. It granted the government the right to allot tribal land, including those tribes exempted in the Dawes Act, and abolished tribal governments.

Commissioner David Jerome headed the Cherokee, or Jerome, Commission tasked with negotiating agreements with tribes in Oklahoma for land cession and allotment. (image courtesy Bentley Historical Library).

The Dawes Commission was tasked with arranging land cessions from the Five Tribes under Congress’s authority (819, OHS Photograph Collection, OHS).
The Iowas were the first tribal nation to negotiate an allotment agreement with the Jerome Commission after trying to avoid giving up their land; they received about 27¢ per acre for the land left after allotment assignments. Here, Iowa tribal members are photographed in Guthrie on September 16, 1889 (3431, W. P. Campbell Collection, OHS).

The Sauk and Fox concluded their agreement, negotiated by Chief Moses Keokuk, on June 12, 1890, receiving close to $1 an acre (67531, OHS Photograph Collection, OHS).
Chief Tawakoni Jim (left), Wichita and Affiliated Bands, requested that a lawyer represent his tribe in negotiations. This was rebuffed by the Jerome Commission as a waste of money. The Wichita refused to negotiate without an attorney, so one was appointed (image courtesy Smithsonian Institute).

Both the Cheyenne and Arapaho quit their negotiations in protest. Many tribal members believed that the signatures collected to approved the agreement were acquired fraudulently.

This image shows Cheyenne and Arapaho delegates who counseled for the Cherokee Outlet, 1889. (20738.N7.0, Edna M. Couch Collection, OHS).
Lone Wolf the Younger, Kiowa, appealed to the Supreme Court to stop allotment in *Lone Wolf v. Hitchcock* (187 US 553, 1903; image courtesy the Smithsonian Institution).

Wapameepto, or Big Jim, was the grandson of Tecumseh and an Absentee Shawnee leader opposed to negotiating an allotment agreement. The Absentee Shawnee received 11¢ an acre in their agreement, with Big Jim refusing to sign (image courtesy Legendsofamerica.com).
Advertisement for the first land run (image courtesy Docsteach).
A woman holding down a claim on a town lot in Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory, following the Land Run of 1889 (15727, D. S. Mitchell Collection, OHS).
Street scene after the land run, April 27 (18026, OHS Photograph Collection, OHS)

In addition to creating individual farms, towns appeared overnight. A man looks for a town lot (19535.2, OHS Photograph Collection, OHS).
Land run strippers were participants in the land run. This image probably shows a town in Kansas prior to the Cherokee Outlet run (4990, OHS Photograph Collection, OHS).
1893 Cherokee Outlet Land Run

Trains and wagons around Perry, Oklahoma in September 1893 (image courtesy Docsteach).

The “Wild West Hotel” in Perry, Oklahoma, in September 1893 (image courtesy Docsteach).
1893 Cherokee Outlet Land Run

Cherokee Outlet opening land office, 1893 (6512, John E. Shanafelt Collection, OHS).

Cherokee Outlet opening, waiting to file at the Enid Land Office, 1893 (20282.76.12.3, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center Collection, OHS).
Additional Primary Sources

Interviews with Tribal Members from the Doris Duke Collection at the University of Oklahoma (OU)

Jess Rowlodge, Arapaho
Jess Rowlodge, Arapaho, Pt.II
Clara Winona Goodbear, Cheyenne
Isaac Jones, Choctaw

Settler Interviews from the Indian-Pioneer Papers from OU

James William Hill
Lizzie Robinson
Charles A. Minaugh
De'Leslaine R. Davis
Louisa E. McGee
George E. Neal
A.M. Capers
Welling Haynes
Eli Perry
Walter Harris

Voices of Oklahoma

Darrell Stiles

Oklahoma State University Library Special Collections and University Archives

Farming Photographs
Newspaper Coverage

1889

*The Indian Chieftain.* (Vinita, Indian Terr.), Vol. 7, No. 33, Ed. 1, Thursday, April 25, 1889 Page: 1 of 4

*The Telephone.* (Tahlequah, Indian Terr.), Vol. 2, No. 49, Ed. 1 Friday, April 26, 1889 Page: 1 of 4

*Oklahoma City Times.* (Oklahoma City, Okla. Terr.), Vol. 1, No. 10, Ed. 1 Monday, April 29, 1889 Page: 1 of 4

1891

*The Indian Chieftain.* (Vinita, Indian Terr.), Vol. 10, No. 3, Ed. 1 Thursday, September 24, 1891 Page: 2 of 4

*El Reno Herald.* (El Reno, Okla., Indian Terr.), Vol. 3, No. 15, Ed. 1 Friday, September 25, 1891 Page: 2 of 6

1892

*The Indian Chieftain.* (Vinita, Indian Terr.), Vol. 10, No. 33, Ed. 1 Thursday, April 21, 1892 Page: 1 of 4

*Stillwater Gazette.* (Stillwater, Okla.), Vol. 3, No. 19, Ed. 1 Friday, April 22, 1892 Page: 1 of 8

1893

*The Guthrie Daily Leader.* (Guthrie, Okla.), Vol. 1, No. 247, Ed. 1, Sunday, September 17, 1893 Page: 1 of 4

*The Oklahoma Times Journal.* (Oklahoma City, Okla. Terr.), Vol. 5, No. 89, Ed. 1 Sunday, September 17, 1893 Page: 1 of 4

*The Daily Oklahoma State Capital.* (Guthrie, Okla.), Vol. 5, No. 128, Ed. 1, Monday, September 18, 1893 Page: 1 of 4

1901

*The Daily Ardmoreite.* (Ardmore, Indian Terr.), Vol. 8, No. 240, Ed. 1, Tuesday, August 6, 1901 Page: 1 of 8

*The Daily Gazette.* (Stillwater, Okla.), Vol. 1, No. 158, Ed. 1 Tuesday, August 6, 1901 Page: 1 of 4
Additional Sources

Lesson Plans

Harvest Time in 1908

The Oklahoma Land Rush-ELA

From Trails to Truths: Oklahoma History from a Native American Perspective

Citizen Potawatomi account of Land Run of 1891

Guidance on Regalia—“Our Culture is Not a Costume”

Pioneer-Era Games

Corn Starch Jewelry

Life in A Sod House

The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture Articles

Green, Donald E., “Settlement Patterns”

Carter, Kent, “Dawes Commission”

Tatro, M. Kaye, “Curtis Act (1898)”

Kidwell, Clara Sue, “Allotment”

Everett, Dianna, “Indian Territory”

Brown, Kenny L., “Oklahoma Territory”

Everett, Dianna, “Land Openings”

Hoig, Stan, “Land Run of 1889”

Hoig, Stan, “Boomer Movement”

McIntosh, Kenneth W., “Harjo, Chitto”

McIntosh, Kenneth W., “Crazy Snake Uprising”

Weber, Michael Lee, “Redbird Smith Movement”

Wilson, Linda D., “Land Runs, Women in,”

Wilson, Linda D., “Sac and Fox Opening”

Wilson, Linda D., “Kickapoo Opening”

Reggio, Michael H., “Cheyenne-Arapaho Opening”

Turner, Alvin O. “Cherokee Outlet Opening”

Blochowiak, Mary Ann, “Sooner”

Kracht, Benjamin R., “Kiowa-Comanche-Apache Opening”
# ACTIVITIES

## Pack Your Wagon

You and your family of four are moving west! You can only pack 2,400 pounds of goods in your wagon safely.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tools</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Axe</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sod plow</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shotgun and ammunition</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revolver and ammunition</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plane</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saw</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammer</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nails</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nail puller</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curry comb</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shovel</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoe</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large hunting knife</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal bucket</td>
<td>3</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food and Cooking</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dutch oven</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine china dishes</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour (per person)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornmeal (per person)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacon (per person)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar (per person)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter churn</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee (per person)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee pot and grinder</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat grinder</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin plates and cups</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pots and pans</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixing bowl</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass pitcher</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silverware</td>
<td>10</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Furniture</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oak china cabinet</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandfather clock</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wooden chair</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rug</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanket</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cradle</td>
<td>15</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Washing and grooming</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soap</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toothbrush</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaving kit</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes (per person)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washboard</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washhtub</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanity set</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Light, heat, and fuel</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matches and a match holder</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lantern and kerosene</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stove (cooking and heating)</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candles</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broom</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewing kit and a darnig egg</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treadle sewing machine</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What will you take, and what will you leave behind?
Make a Whirligig

Supplies

1 large button with 2 or 4 holes, or a piece of cardboard/cardstock cut in a large circle
2.5 feet of string, yarn, or thin ribbon
Scissors

Directions

If you are using a large button, skip to step 3. If you are using cardboard or cardstock, cutout a 4-inch circle. The circle can be decorated using crayons or colored pencils
Punch 2 small holes in the circle, about 3/8 of an inch from the center
Thread the string into the holes and tie the ends together
Pull the string until the button/circle is in the middle