

DISCOVER AMERICA

Teacher Guide



Exploring the Frontier: The Adventures of Daniel Boone

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Key Themes

- Exploration and Adventure
- Frontier Life and Survival
- Leadership and Resilience

Core Values

- Community
- Life
- Faith
- Liberty



Students will be able to

- Recognize and name Daniel Boone as a famous historical figure known for his adventurous spirit and exploration of the American frontier.
- Describe key aspects of Daniel Boone's adventures, including his exploration of the wilderness, encounters with wildlife, and contributions to American history.
- Engage in imaginative play by pretending to be explorers like Daniel Boone, using props and storytelling to recreate scenes from his adventures and develop their creativity and storytelling skills.

Key Terms

- 0 1 **blacksmith:** someone who makes tools and other objects out of metal.
- 0 2 **Cumberland Gap:** a natural mountain pass in the Appalachian Mountains.
- 0 3 **long hunters:** brave people who would go into the wild for a long time to hunt animals and sell their skins.
- 0 4 **militia:** an organized group of citizens who defend a community.
- 0 5 **resource:** something that humans need and value such as land, air, and water.
- 0 6 **trailblazer:** a person who is the first to do something that other people do later.
- 0 7 **wagoner:** a person who drives a wagon.
- 0 8 **weaver:** someone who takes long threads and makes them into something useful, like blankets or clothes.

Introduction

TELL Students

Today, we are going to learn about a man who roamed the uncharted lands of what would become part of America, blazing trails where none dared to go before. You can think of him as the original trailblazer. A **trailblazer** is a person who is the first to do something that other people do later. With his rifle by his side and a wide-brimmed felt hat on his head, Daniel went into the unknown, facing challenges that would make even the bravest of us shiver. **[Reference Daniel Boone Image]**

ASK Students

How would you describe Daniel Boone?

TELL Students

That is right! Daniel Boone was a trailblazer. But he was not just interested in the thrill of the hunt. Daniel Boone had a heart as big as the great outdoors itself. He respected the land and the creatures that called it home.

ASK Students

What was important to Daniel Boone? What do you think he saw when he went on his exciting adventures?

TELL Students

Daniel Boone's adventures were very exciting. He saw bears and wolves and crossed rivers and mountains. His adventures are legendary, inspiring kids just like you to follow in his footsteps and seek their own paths through life.

ASK Students

What do you think Daniel Boone liked to do when he was a kid?

TELL Students

When Daniel was a little boy, he loved spending time outdoors. When he wasn't helping his family take care of their cattle, he was wandering through the forests near his home.

[Reference Young Daniel Image]

Introduction

TELL Students (continued)

These adventures taught him many skills that would be incredibly useful later in his life. When Daniel turned 12 years old, something exciting happened. He received his very first rifle! With his new rifle, Daniel became an excellent hunter. He could hit a target with amazing accuracy! Even though Daniel did not go to school like many kids today, he still learned how to read and write. He would often take books with him into the woods, reading and learning as he explored.

ASK Students

What did Daniel Boone like to do when he was a little boy, and how did it help him when he grew up?

TELL Students

Daniel Boone's childhood was filled with adventures and learning. His love for nature and his curiosity about the world around him would lead him on incredible journeys as he grew older. Let's watch an episode of Star Spangled Adventures to learn more about Daniel Boone.

WATCH

Star Spangled Adventures Cartoon Ep. 30: [Daniel Boone](#)



Lesson

TELL Students 📷 🔑

Daniel Boone was a remarkable man who lived a long time ago. He was born in 1734. His dad, Squire Boone, came all the way from England so he could practice his faith freely. Squire Boone was not only a weaver and a blacksmith but also a loving husband to Daniel's mom, Sarah Morgan. **[Reference Squire and Sarah Image]** A **weaver** is someone who takes long threads and makes them into something useful, like blankets or clothes. They use a special machine called a loom to help them do this. **[Reference Weaver/Loom Image]** A **blacksmith** is someone who makes tools and other objects out of metal. Working as a blacksmith involves heating metal and then bending and hammering it into the desired shape. Blacksmiths mainly work with iron and steel, heating it until it is soft enough to bend, fold, and shape using tools.

ASK Students

What types of things do you think Daniel learned from his dad?

TELL Students 📷 🔑

Daniel had the company of ten brothers and sisters to learn from! He soaked up all sorts of knowledge from his family and the different jobs he did. One job he had was called a long hunter. **Long hunters** were brave people who would go into the wild for a long time to hunt animals and sell their skins. **[Reference Long Hunter Image]** Long hunters like Daniel Boone hunted animals and sold their skins for many reasons.

ASK Students

Why would people buy animal skins?

TELL Students 🔑

People bought these skins to make warm clothing to wear in cold weather and to create shelters like tents or blankets. They also traded animal skins for other goods they needed, like food and tools. Some used the soft fur for crafts and artwork, while others turned the hides into leather for shoes, belts, and bags. Animal skins were valuable resources that served multiple purposes in the lives of people, making them important items to buy and sell. A **resource** is something that humans need and value such as land, air, and water.

Lesson

ASK Students

What are some ways people used animal skins in the past, and why were they valuable?

TELL Students 🗨️

Daniel Boone's experiences as a long hunter taught him about the importance of animal skins as valuable resources for trade and survival. Daniel also learned a great deal from his time in the militia. A **militia** is an organized group of citizens who defend a community. When Daniel was in his twenties, he joined the North Carolina militia during the French and Indian War. He was not a soldier, though – he was a **wagoner**! That meant he helped move important things in big wagons.

ASK Students

What role did Daniel play in the militia?

TELL Students 📷

During his time in the militia, Daniel met a man named John Finley (or sometimes spelled Findley). **[Reference John Finley Image]** John shared an exciting story with Daniel about a wonderful place out west called Kentucky. Kentucky was filled with wide open spaces, stunning beauty, and a lot of animals like deer, buffalo, and elk. Buffalo are large animals that travel in groups, creating trails through the forests and mountains as they move. These animals could be hunted for their skins, which meant Daniel could make a lot of money as a long hunter in Kentucky.

ASK Students

What did Daniel learn from his friend John about Kentucky, and why was it such an exciting place for Daniel?

TELL Students 🗨️

John also got Daniel curious about something called the Cumberland Gap. The **Cumberland Gap** is a natural mountain pass. During this time, a lot of Native American tribes lived in Kentucky, and after the French and Indian War, England said Kentucky belonged to the Native Americans. These tribes used paths made by buffalo. One of these paths, called The Great Warrior's Path, went through gaps in the Appalachian Mountains like the Cumberland Gap.

Lesson

ASK Students

What is the Cumberland Gap?

TELL Students

The Cumberland Gap was a famous spot for explorers who had journeyed through it before.

[Reference Cumberland Gap Map] Daniel Boone and his friend John Finley had a big challenge: finding the fastest and easiest way to cross the mountains and reach Kentucky. This is similar to when you use a GPS to find the quickest route to a place, except they did not have GPS back then! If they got lost, they could not just stop at a rest stop for food and help. Every day lost in the wilderness was risky because they could get sick, run out of food, or waste precious time that they could have used for hunting, which was how they made a living. So, Boone had to use all of his skills, like his great memory and sense of direction.

ASK Students

What challenges did Daniel Boone and John Finley face as they tried to find the best way to cross the mountains and reach Kentucky?

TELL Students

In 1769, Boone and Finley, along with four other friends, traveled to Kentucky. Daniel spent the next two years there hunting and trapping before returning home in March 1771. During this adventure, Boone learned a lot about eastern Kentucky and discovered the best way to get there. **[Reference Kentucky Map]**

ASK Students

What did Daniel Boone and his friends do when they traveled to Kentucky in 1769, and what did Daniel learn during their adventure?

TELL Students

This knowledge became very important later on. A few years after Boone's journey, the Transylvania Company bought a huge amount of land from the Cherokee tribes. The Transylvania Company was created to settle the area around the Kentucky, Ohio, and Cumberland Rivers.

Lesson

TELL Students (continued)

But they needed a safe path for people to travel as they moved to Eastern Kentucky and Middle Tennessee. So, they asked Boone to help. On March 19, 1775, Boone led a group of 30 workers along a part of The Great Warrior's Path to the Cumberland Gap and into Kentucky. This path became known as Boone Trace, but it was just a simple dirt walking path. The journey was dangerous, and they were even attacked by the Shawnee tribe along the way! But Boone and his friends kept going until they reached present-day Madison County, Kentucky, in April.

ASK Students

Why was Daniel Boone asked to help by the Transylvania Company, and what did he do to assist them?

TELL Students

By 1810, about 300,000 people traveled along the Wilderness Road to Kentucky to begin new adventures in the West. Thanks to Daniel Boone's bravery, he showed people that even scary and difficult journeys can be possible! So, when you feel a little nervous about going somewhere new, think about Daniel Boone and his adventurous heart. Let's watch an exciting Patriot of the Week to learn more!

WATCH

Patriot of the Week: [Daniel Boone](#)





Trailblazing Adventure with Daniel Boone



Objective:

Introduce kindergarten students to the adventurous spirit of Daniel Boone through a fun and interactive activity.

Materials Needed:

1. Large piece of paper or poster board
2. Markers or crayons
3. Picture of Daniel Boone
4. Dress-up items (wide-brimmed felt or beaver hat, toy rifle, etc.)
5. Stickers or small prizes (optional)

Introduction:

- Gather students in a circle and show them a picture of Daniel Boone.
- Briefly review who Daniel Boone was, emphasizing his adventurous spirit and love for exploring the wilderness.

Dress-up Time:

- Invite students to dress up like Daniel Boone using the provided props.
- Encourage students to use their imagination and pretend they are brave explorers just like Daniel Boone.

Draw a Trail:

- Lay out the large piece of paper or poster board on the floor.
- With students' help, draw a winding trail on the paper, representing the path Daniel Boone blazed through the wilderness.
- Along the trail, draw pictures of trees, animals, rivers, and mountains to represent the challenges Daniel faced on his adventures.



Trailblazing Adventure with Daniel Boone



Follow the Trail:

- Invite students to take turns "exploring" the trail like Daniel Boone.
- As they walk along the trail, encourage students to use their imagination and describe what they see and hear in the wilderness.
- You can also play nature sounds or adventurous music in the background to enhance the experience.

Treasure Hunt:

- Hide small stickers or prizes along the trail.
- Let students go on a treasure hunt to find the hidden treasures, just like Daniel Boone searched for valuable resources in the wilderness.

Reflection:

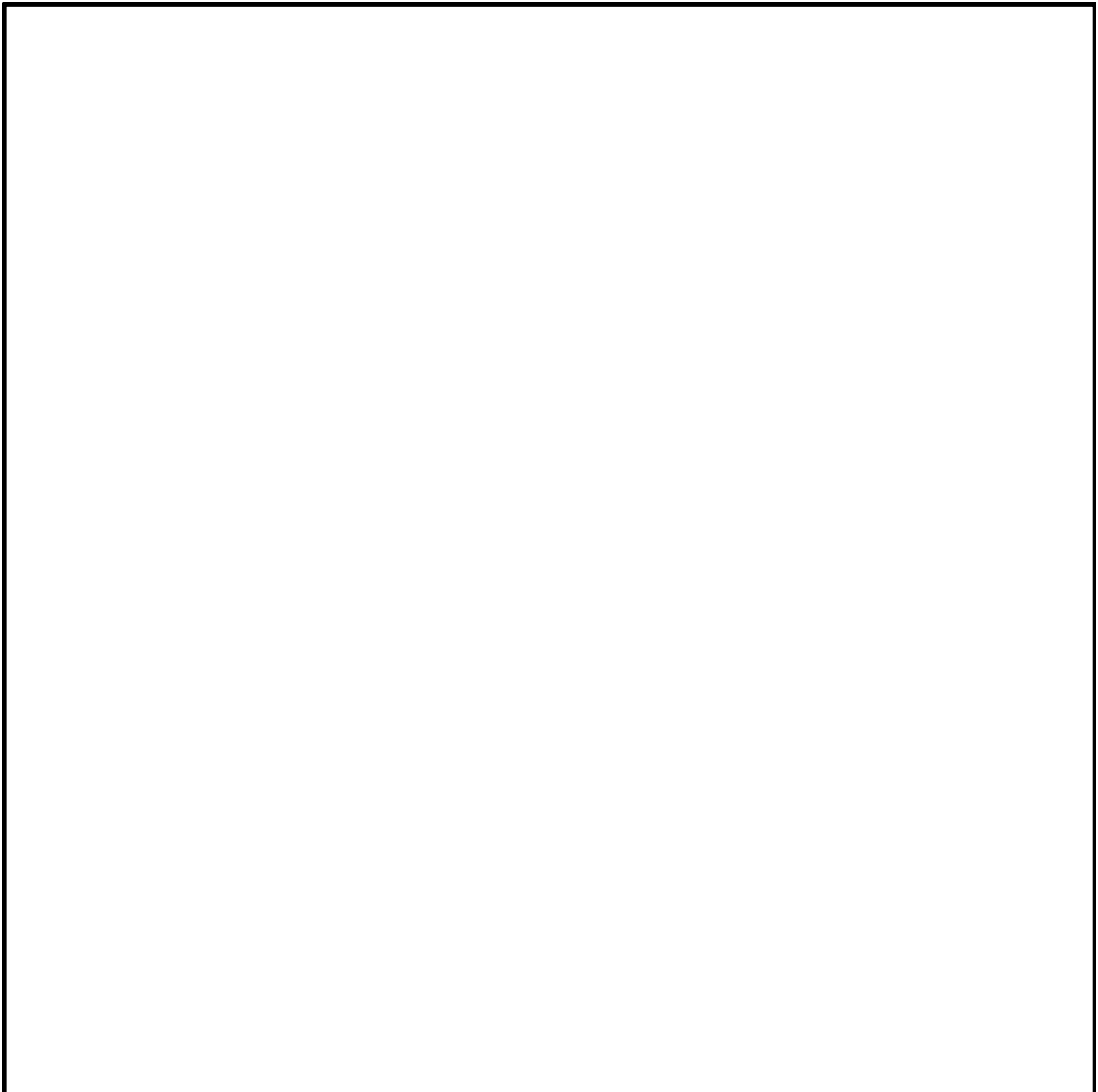
- Gather students and ask them what they enjoyed most about the activity.
- Encourage students to share their thoughts and feelings about being explorers like Daniel Boone.
- Thank students for participating and remind them that they can always be brave explorers, just like Daniel Boone, whenever they go on new adventures.

This activity will engage kindergarten kids in a hands-on exploration of Daniel Boone's adventures while fostering their creativity and imagination.

Draw Your Own Adventure

NAME: _____ DATE _____

Instructions: Draw a picture of yourself going on an adventure like Daniel Boone. What do you see? Where do you go? Use your imagination!

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a child to draw a picture of themselves on an adventure.

Resources

- <https://www.history.com/news/8-things-you-might-not-know-about-daniel-boone>
- <https://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/daniel-boone>
- <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/daniel-boone>
- <https://danielboonetrail.com/history/>
- https://www.history.com/topics/us-states/kentucky#the-first-people-in-kentucky_
- <https://www.nps.gov/cuga/learn/historyculture/warriors-path.htm>
- <https://www.boonetrace1775.com/History/Historical-Significance/historical-significance.html>
- <https://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/items/show/580#:~:text=Originally%2C%20Boone%20Trace%20was%20little,w%20called%20by%20various%20names>
- <https://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/wilderness-road>

Images

Daniel Boone



Credit: Wikipedia

Young Daniel



Credit: Canva Pro.

Images

Squire and Sarah



Credit: Canva Pro.

Weaver/Loom



Credit: Canva Pro.

Images

Long Hunter



Credit: Wikipedia

John Finley



Credit: Episode 30: Daniel Boone

Images

Cumberland Gap Map



Credit: Wikipedia

Kentucky Map



Credit: Wikipedia

