

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

- Define pioneer.
- 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 **pioneers:** men, women, and children who started new lives on the U.S. frontier in the 1800s.
- 0 6 **resource:** something that humans need and value such as land, air, and water.
- 0 7 **trailblazer:** a person who is the first to do something that other people do later.
- 0 8 **wagoner:** a person who drives a wagon.
- 0 9 **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 and a legendary pioneer. A **trailblazer** is a person who is the first to do something that other people do later. **Pioneers** were men, women, and children who started new lives on the U.S. frontier in the 1800s. With his rifle by his side, 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

After the war, Daniel married Rebecca Bryan. **[Reference Daniel and Rebecca Image]** They were married for a long time and had ten children. To support his family, Daniel hunted and trapped animals. Sometimes, he had to go away for many months during the fall and winter to find animals. But when spring came, he would come back home and sell the fur he collected to traders.

Lesson

ASK Students

What did Daniel Boone do to take care of his family after he got married to Rebecca Bryan?

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.

ASK Students

What is the Cumberland Gap?

TELL Students 📷

The Cumberland Gap was a famous spot for explorers who had journeyed through it before. 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. **[Reference Kentucky Map]**

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.

Lesson

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. But they needed a safe path for people to travel as they moved to Eastern Kentucky and Middle Tennessee. [Show Locations on a U.S. Map.] 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](#)





Daniel Boone's Adventure Story

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 whiteboard
2. Markers or crayons
3. Pictures of Daniel Boone and various wilderness scenes (optional)
4. Dress-up items (cap, toy rifle, etc.)
5. Storytelling props (animal toys, tree branches, etc.)

Introduction:

- Review Daniel Boone as a famous explorer who lived a long time ago. Show pictures of Daniel Boone and scenes from the wilderness to spark interest.

Dress-up Time:

- Provide dress-up items such as wide-brimmed felt or beaver hats and toy rifles for kids to dress up like Daniel Boone.
- Encourage students to use their imagination and pretend to be explorers going on an adventure.

Create a Story:

- Start a collaborative storytelling activity where each child adds a sentence or two to create an adventure story featuring Daniel Boone.
- Begin with a simple sentence like, "One day, Daniel Boone went on a big adventure into the wilderness."
- Encourage each student to take turns adding to the story, describing the challenges Daniel faced, the animals he encountered, and the discoveries he made.



Daniel Boone's Adventure Story

Illustrate the Story:

- As the story progresses, invite students to draw illustrations on the large piece of paper or whiteboard to depict key scenes from the adventure.
- Provide guidance and prompts to help them visualize the story and bring it to life through their drawings.

Act Out the Story:

- Once the story is complete, invite students to act out different parts of the adventure using storytelling props and dress-up items.
- Encourage students to use expressive gestures, facial expressions, and voices to convey the emotions and actions of the characters.

Reflection:

- Gather students together and ask them to share their favorite parts of the story and what they enjoyed most about the activity.
- Emphasize the importance of imagination and creativity in storytelling

Closing:

- Thank students for participating and remind them that they can always use their imagination to go on exciting adventures, just like Daniel Boone.

This interactive activity encourages first graders to use their creativity and imagination to craft a collaborative adventure story inspired by Daniel Boone's explorations. It also promotes teamwork, communication, and storytelling skills in a fun and engaging way.

Daniel Boone Worksheet

NAME: _____ DATE _____

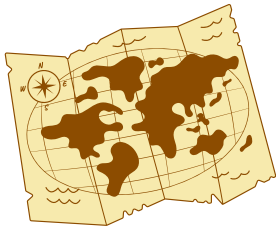
1. Color the picture of Daniel Boone below using crayons or markers.



Daniel Boone Worksheet

NAME: _____ DATE _____

2. Draw a line to match each item with its corresponding picture.



Beaver Hat



Tent



Rifle



Map

Daniel Boone Worksheet

NAME: _____ DATE _____

**3. Draw a picture of yourself going on an adventure like Daniel Boone. What do you see?
Where do you go?**

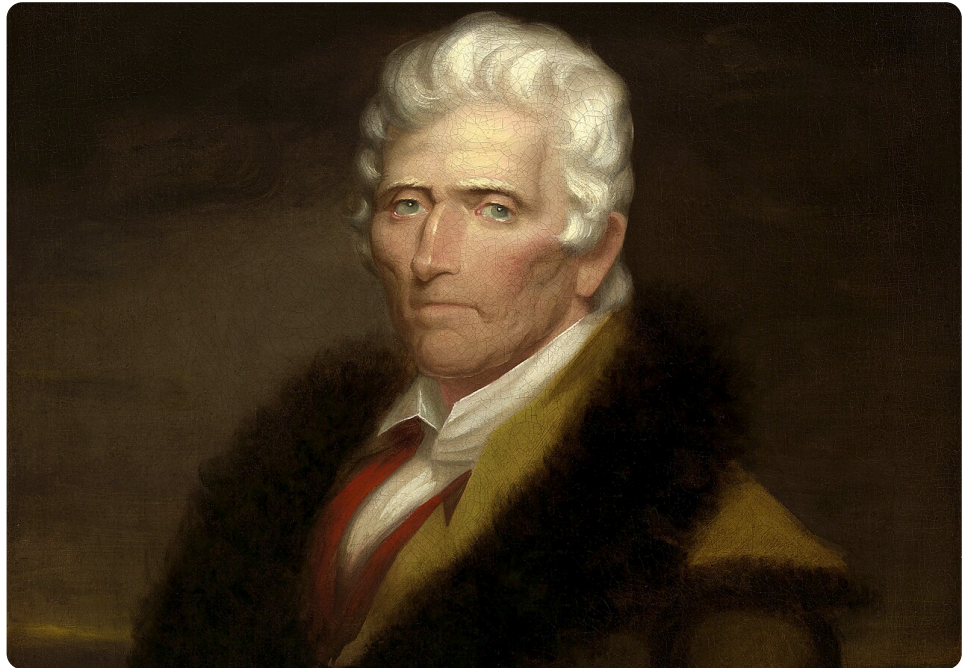
Great job, explorer! Keep learning about Daniel Boone and his exciting adventures!

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

**Daniel and
Rebecca**



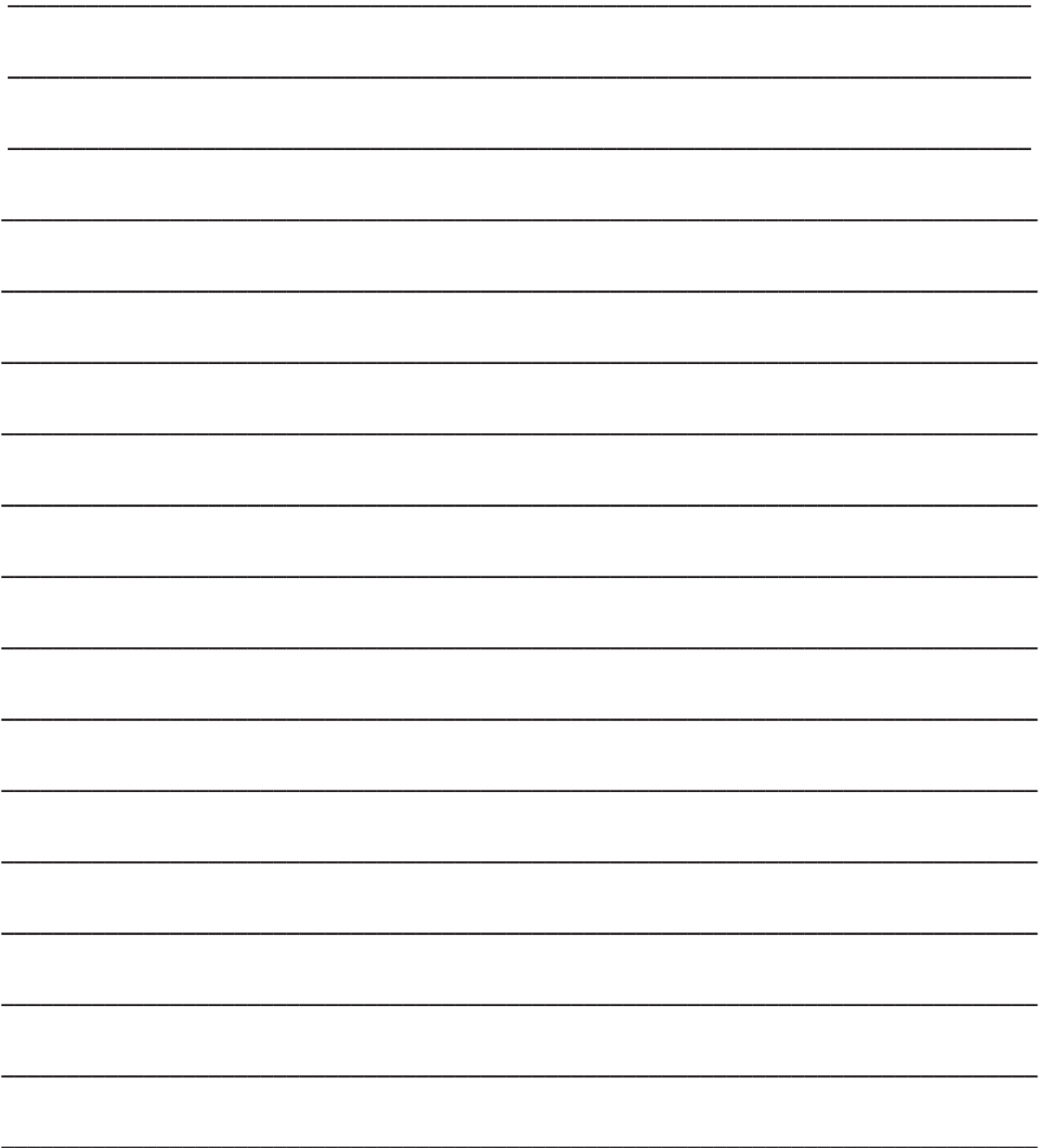
Credit: Canva Pro.

Kentucky Map



Credit: Wikipedia

Notes



A series of 18 horizontal lines for writing notes. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the page width. Above the first line is a thick, solid teal horizontal bar that spans the entire width of the page.