

## **Week 2: Library Reading/Video Choices**

An \* denotes that it or an equivalent of same subject matter is necessary in order to complete an assignment.

+ Younger Reader

++ Mid-level Reader

+++ Older Reader

### **Focus: Pioneer Life**

JB FULTON Robert Fulton: Inventor and Steamboat Builder/  
James M. Flammang (++)/+++)

J AME Kristen, an American Girl/ Janet Shaw (++)

J BRI Caddie Woodlawn/ Carol Ryrie Brink (NEWBERRY AWARD WINNER) (++)\*

J WIL Little House in the Big Woods/ Laura Ingalls Wilder (++)\*

J 386.48 D The Erie Canal/ Craig A. Doherty (++)

J 386.48 S The Erie Canal/ Andre Santella (+)

J 388.341 A Conestoga Wagons/ Richard Ammon (++)

J 391 K 19<sup>th</sup> Century Clothing/ Bobbie Kalman (++)

J 973 K Pioneer Life from A to Z/ Bobbie Kalman (+)

J 978 M Pioneers/ Leonard Matthews (++)

J 978 S Rivermen/ Gail Stewart (++)

J 978.02 B Pioneers/ Linda Burnett (+)

J 978.02 D Great Women of Pioneer America/ Sarah De Capua (+)

386.48 P Waterway West: The Story of the Erie Canal/ Mary Kay Phelan (++++)

610.97 V Frontier Fever: The Scary, Superstitious, and Sometimes Sensible Medicine of  
the Pioneers/ Elizabeth Van Steenwyk (++++)

DVD 791.4372 L Love Comes Softly/ Based on a Janette Oke novel

## **Westward Ho! Part I**

### **Week 2**

#### **Focus: Pioneer Life**

#### **Supplies:**

A Bible Atlas  
The local daily newspaper, daily national newspaper, and a news magazine  
A sheet of poster board  
Glue  
Different-sized vegetable tin cans, empty, clean, labels removed  
Reserved can labels  
Permanent marker  
Masking tape  
Hammer  
Different-sized nails, an awl, ice pick, or Phillip's head screwdriver  
Bath towel  
Spray paint  
Pebbles  
Tea lights  
Galvanized wire and wire cutters (optional)  
Ingredients for homemade butter (page 33)  
Ingredients for Pioneer Stew and Johnnycakes (page 34-35)

#### **Daily Activities:**



**Independent Reading:** Week 2 Library Choices

#### **Family Read-Aloud:**

**Option 1:** *Little House in the Big Woods* (Book 2 of the *Little House* series)

**Option 2:** *Caddie Woodlawn*

#### **Once-a-Week Activities:**



#### **Family Devotional:**

This week you will learn about a man named Horace Greeley whose four simple words turned settlers into pioneers overnight. Those words were "Go west young man."



One man's words and the power they wielded, in addition to the hopes and dreams they inspired, would help trigger the great migration. Horace Greeley's powerful words caused people in America and around the world to pack their belongings and trade in everything they had ever known for the hope of a new and better life for themselves and generations to come.

From the beginning of time mankind has marched farther and farther westward. In fact, "go west" was essentially what the Lord said to Abram in Genesis 12:1 when He said, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you." The Lord then inspired Abram with promises of blessings in the Scripture that follows.

- Read Genesis 12:1-5.

What was Abram's response to God's command? He seemingly did not argue or plead, beg, quibble, or refuse. He just went!

Like the pioneers who heeded the words of Horace Greeley, Abram packed up his family and belongings and traded in everything he had ever known in Haran for the promises of a new and better life in Canaan.

- Locate Haran and Canaan in a Bible atlas. What direction did Abram and his family travel in order to get to Canaan?

On the contrary, Jonah's response to God was quite the opposite.

"The word of the Lord came to Jonah... 'Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it because its wickedness has come before me.' Unlike Abram who immediately obeyed, Jonah made a different decision. He chose to run away.

Granted, Jonah's situation may have looked a bit bleaker than Abram's, but as Psalm 139 explains, there is nowhere we can go that God cannot find us. That is reassuring to those of us who trust Him to watch over and protect us, but disturbing to anyone like Jonah wishing to run from God.

- Read Jonah 1:1-3 and Psalm 139:1-16.

But God was not about to give up on Jonah or the people of Nineveh, for that matter. To find out what happened next, read Jonah 1:4 - 4:11.

God will ask us to do many things in this life; some will be more difficult than others. But the comparison between Abram and Jonah shows us that one way or another, God's plan *will* be accomplished. We just have to choose whether to immediately obey Him, as Abram did, or to be disciplined, as in Jonah's case, until we do.

- Discuss how this comparison relates to children and their willingness (or reluctance) to obey their parents. What are the consequences of each decision?
- Will you choose to be an Abram or a Jonah the next time your parents or the Lord tell you to “go” do something?



### History/Geography:

Once Daniel Boone had breached the barrier of the Appalachian Mountains, there would be no holding back the tidalwave of pioneers soon to follow. Boone’s Wilderness Road would provide a thoroughfare for wagonloads of pioneers.

By 1780, there were already more than 50,000 pioneers living west of the Appalachians. *(Shhh!...Don’t tell King George! Remember, crossing the Appalachian Mountains was against British law, and we were still officially under the king’s rule until the Treaty of 1783.)*

The Wilderness Road was just one of many paths the pioneers would follow. The Mohawk and Natchez Trace Trails, the Cumberland Road, and other old Indian footpaths were others.

Waterways would also play a significant role in America’s westward expansion. The Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri Rivers, as well as the 1825 engineering feat of the *Erie Canal* (TL), were all major waterways used by pioneers as they travelled west.

Another engineering achievement of the early 1800s (1807 to be exact) was Robert Fulton’s steamboat, the *Clermont* (TL). Steam power, as you will soon discover, played a major role in the settling of the west.

Whether by foot, horseback, wagon, stagecoach, raft, flatboat, keelboat, or steamboat, droves of early pioneers were packing up their few possessions and heading west.

- Trace the Mohawk and Natchez Trace Trails, the Cumberland Road, as well as the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri Rivers, and the Erie Canal on your map using different colored markers for the trails and waterways.



### History/Vocabulary:

- Take the time this week to read about the achievements of Robert Fulton and New York Governor, Dewitt Clinton’s Erie Canal. Choose books from this week’s library list, or look them up in an encyclopedia.



- Look up the definitions of the word *pioneer* in a dictionary. Explain to your family how one of its definitions applies to the pioneers of the 1800s and how another applies to the

landmark achievements of the steamboat and the Erie Canal. Explain how each achievement was significant to America's westward expansion.

The Erie Canal has changed a lot since 1825. Go to YouTube.com (with your parent's supervision) to learn more about today's Erie Canal and how its locks function.



**History/Vocabulary/Language/Current Events:**



"Go west young man" was a popular saying on the lips of many Americans in the mid-1800s and it was Horace Greeley who had put it there. Horace Greeley stood on the threshold of the newspaper industry. He was a newspaper publisher, editor, and founder of two of America's first penny papers: the New-York Weekly Tribune (1841-1866) and the New York Tribune, still in existence today.

Up until 1833, the cost of a newspaper was too expensive for the common man. Penny papers changed all that.

Freedom of the press (newspapers, news magazines, television, and internet news sources) gives Americans the freedom to voice their opinion, fairly critique, and print comments about events, people, and their activities. It is, in fact, one of your 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights. That freedom, however, does not allow you to commit *libel*, *slander*, *malice*, or to *defame* someone's character.



**Horace Greeley  
(1811-1872)**

- Look up the words *libel*, *slander*, *malice*, and *defamation* in a dictionary. In your own words, write the definition of each one. Explain the difference between *libel* and *slander*.

Newspapers try to make it easy for readers to distinguish between fact-based news stories and opinion by printing those columns in separate sections of the paper. That does not mean that some journalists don't try to occasionally insert their personal opinion into a hard news story, however.

- Read several newspaper stories throughout the week. Can you tell the difference between fact and opinion? If so, how?



**Family Discussion/Current Events:**



(BSA Req. 1)

We have the Founding Fathers to thank for America's freedom of the press. The Founders had the foresight to include a Bill of Rights in our United States Constitution. In fact, they believed freedom of the press to be so imperative to the security of a free nation that they included it in the very *first* amendment, along with freedom of religion, speech, the right to peacefully assemble, and to petition the government regarding unfair treatment.

For a more in-depth study of the Constitution and your Bill of Rights, you will enjoy:  
Homeschool Legacy's *We the People Once-a-Week Unit Study*.

Not all countries enjoy such freedom, however. We Americans often take our freedoms for granted, but many people around the world are only allowed to read in newspapers or see on television that which their governments say they can. Their governments recognize the power of words and the influence they can have on an entire populace.

Horace Greeley's words, "Go west young man" were so powerful that they not only influenced Americans, but immigrants from around the world, as you will discover throughout the course of this unit study.

As you travel west with the pioneers over the next few weeks, Horace Greeley will occasionally send you out "on assignment" to cover a story for his New York Tribune. You will be able to easily identify those assignments whenever you see the icon shown here. Be prepared to use the power of words to effectively report on the events and people of the day.



- To familiarize yourself with how news stories are written, read a story about the same event from four different news sources: today's local paper, a national paper, a news magazine, and (with your parent's supervision) an on-line news source.
- Clip out each of the articles and glue them to a sheet of poster board.
- Compare each of the stories:
  1. How long is each story?
  2. How accurate is each story?
  3. Are they fair and balanced? (Do they fairly represent opposing points of view?)
  4. How is each different from the other depending on its purpose and audience?
- Use your poster as a visual aid while presenting your findings to your family.

(Boy Scouts will also want to present their findings to their counselor. – BSA Req. 2a)



### **Arts & Crafts:**

It would be several years before Thomas Alva Edison (**TL**) would invent the first commercially practical light bulb (1879), and a few more years after that before it would illuminate the home of the common man. Until then, pioneers would have to make-do with candles and punched-tin lanterns.

- Make a punched-tin lantern!

*A night or two before completing this assignment, fill some reserved vegetable cans two-thirds full with water. Gently remove and reserve the can labels. Place the cans of water*

*in your freezer. (The ice will provide support to the can while the metal is being punched.)*

Using a permanent magic marker, sketch a swirly or geometric design onto the back of the reserved vegetable label. Tape the label to its can.

Lay the can on a folded bath towel.

With your design to guide you, carefully use a hammer and nails, awl, ice pick, or Phillip's head screwdriver to punch holes in the can, working from the bottom up.

Working from the bottom of the can up will result in less ice breakage and less denting to the can. After the ice has melted, gently hammer out any possible dents.

Hammer a few more holes in the bottom of the can if you are planning to use your lantern outside. This will allow for drainage in the event of rain.

If you would like to hang your lantern, hammer two holes in the top rim, one across from the other. Cut a length of galvanized wire and attach it to the rim.

Spray paint your lantern, and allow it to dry.

Place some pebbles in the bottom of your lantern in which to nestle a tea light.

Turn out the lights, light your lantern, and enjoy this week's family night by lantern light. (AHG Req. 2T)



AHG – Teach this craft to your unit or a younger unit. (AHG Req. 6E)



### Life Skills:

- Make homemade butter.

Pioneers had to make everything from scratch.

There were no general stores out west yet. Those would come in time as communities sprang up across the frontier. There was an occasional fort where the pioneers could stock up on supplies, but for the most part, they had to use their own wits and ingenuity to survive.

Many pioneers took with them at least one cow on their journey west. The family cow provided milk, butter, and meat if necessary.

Old-fashioned butter churns, like the one shown here, were commonly used by settlers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to churn cream into butter.



This butter churn was sometimes called an *up and down churn* named for the action used when making butter. Cream was poured into the tub, and the *plunger* or *staff* was moved up and down until butter was formed.

But the pioneers found an even easier way to make butter on the trail. They just hung a bucket of cream from the wagon! By the end of the day, after all the jostling of the bumpy trail, they had butter for their evening meal!

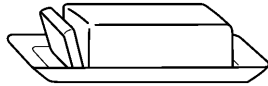
You can easily make your own delicious butter with the following recipe, even if you don't have an old-fashioned butter churn...or a wagon and a bumpy trail.

Supplies:

Jar with a tight fitting lid  
Colander  
Wooden spoon

1 pint whipping cream  
¼ tsp salt

Directions:



Let the cream sit out for a couple of hours to come to room temperature.

Pour the cream into a jar. Screw the lid on tightly.

Take turns shaking the jar vigorously until the cream starts to form a ball and the buttermilk separates from the butter.

Drain off the buttermilk. Reserve it to drink, or use in your Johnnycake recipe for this week's family night (pioneers never let anything go to waste).

Place the butter in a colander, and rinse under cold water until the water runs clear.

Transfer butter to a bowl. Press the excess liquid out of the butter using a wooden spoon.

Stir in salt.

Cover and store butter in the refrigerator until ready to use.

(AHG Req. 9)



Field Trip:



Horace Greeley has just learned of another newspaper opening a few doors down from the Tribune. He needs you to spy on the competition to see what they are up to...

- Arrange to tour the editorial, business, and printing divisions of a local newspaper or news magazine facility.



- Ask a newspaper executive about the management aspect of the business and its relationship to its reporters, photographers, and editors. Find out what makes a good newspaper or news magazine. (BSA Req. 2a)



### **Family Movie Night/Life Skills:**

- Prepare a pioneer meal of stew and johnnycakes (and your homemade butter!) for your family using the following recipes. Like true pioneers, turn out the lights and eat by lantern light, using your homemade lanterns.
- Spend the evening reading this week's family read-aloud by lantern light or watching the movie *Love Comes Softly*, based on a novel by Janette Oke.

If you enjoy the movie *Loves Comes Softly*, you might also like the rest of the series: *Love's Enduring Promise*, *Love's Long Journey*, *Love's Abiding Joy*, *Love's Unending Legacy*, *Love's Unfolding Dream*, *Love Takes Wing*, and *Love Finds a Home*.

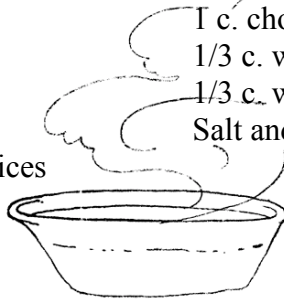
### **Pioneer Stew (Serves 6-8)**

Pioneers typically made their stew out of anything they were fortunate enough to have shot. In most cases that would be rabbit, deer, squirrel, or raccoon. This recipe, however, calls for using stew beef.

Stews are a great way to cook an inexpensive, lean piece of meat that would otherwise be tough. The long, slow-cooking process tenderizes the meat...and makes your home smell good, too! It's also a great way to stretch the budget by making a little food go a long way.

### **Ingredients:**

- |                                       |                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 large onion, chopped                | 1 medium parsnip, chopped |
| 2 lb. stew beef, cut into 1" chunks   | 1 medium potato, chopped  |
| 1 Tbsp. bacon fat (or oil)            | 1 c. chopped cabbage      |
| 4 c. water                            | 1/3 c. white flour        |
| 3 beef bouillon cubes                 | 1/3 c. water              |
| 1½ tsp. dried marjoram                | Salt and pepper to taste  |
| 2 medium carrots cut in ½ inch slices |                           |



### **Directions:**

In a Dutch oven (or other thick-bottomed soup pot) heat bacon fat (or oil) over medium-high heat.

Add meat and onions to pot, and cook until meat turns brown.

Stir in water, bouillon cubes, and marjoram. Bring to a boil.

Turn heat down, and simmer partially covered for 40 minutes.

Add the vegetables. Simmer uncovered over low heat for another hour or until meat and vegetables are fork tender.

In a small bowl, mix together flour and water to make a paste. Stir in a tablespoon or two of stew broth. Mix with a fork until smooth. Whisk mixture into the stew.

Simmer stew for 5 more minutes or until stew thickens, stirring occasionally.

Add salt and pepper to taste.

#### Johnnycakes:

Johnnycakes (journey cakes) were the fast food choice of the 1800s, since pioneers could quickly cook and eat them for breakfast, and take the leftovers along for the day's journey.

#### Ingredients:

2 c. stone ground cornmeal  
1 tsp. salt  
4 Tbsp. unsalted melted butter or bacon fat  
1 c. whole milk (including your buttermilk)  
2 Tbsp. boiling water

Homemade butter  
Molasses (optional)  
Maple syrup (optional)

Directions:

Cream the cornmeal, salt, and butter together. Add the milk and enough water to make a moist, but firm batter.

Generously grease a cast iron pan (or thick bottomed frying pan) with bacon fat or oil. Heat the pan over medium-high heat until good and hot. Pan is ready when water sizzles upon sprinkling.

Drop large spoonfuls of batter into the pan. Flatten each cake slightly with the back of a spoon. Flip when golden brown.

Serve hot with your homemade butter.

Molasses and maple syrup were also favorite johnnycake toppings.  
(AHG Req. 7E)

**! Stump Your Dad Trivia:**

Q: Highways are often referred to as turnpikes. Where did the term *turnpike* originate?

A: As early as 1795, American roads were built by private companies who charged a toll to anyone wishing to travel on the road.

The companies blocked the entrance to the road with a gate that was made of long, sharp, wooden shafts called pikes. When the toll was paid, the gatekeeper *turned the pikes* which opened the gate and allowed travelers to pass.