Murray County Museum
Take Home History
3rd – 4th Grade

Instructions for parents/guardians:

- This packet includes five days of lessons all connected to local history.

  1. Pioneers

  2. The Lakes

  3. The Railroad

  4. Farming

  5. Pets

- For each lesson, there is an introductory paragraph for your child to read to you, a journal or draw section, and at least one activity/craft.
- We would love to hear feedback about this packet! Let us know what you thought about it by emailing the Murray County Museum at Museum@co.murray.mn.us.
- Have fun!

Instructions for Educators

- Codes for the Minnesota Education Standards met by the lesson in the Social Studies category have been listed under the title of each lesson. More standards have been met, but are not listed, in the ELA and Arts Categories.
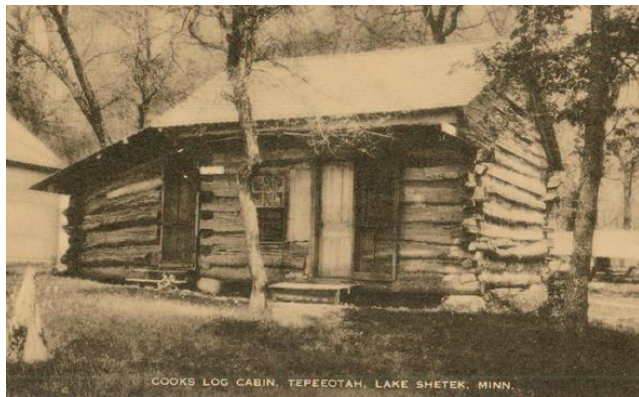
Lesson 1: Pioneers

Education Standards: History: 3.4.1.1.1

Introduction paragraph—read this to your parent/guardian. Whenever you see a question, try to answer it before reading the answer!

What is a pioneer? A pioneer is someone who is one of the first people to do something—a space explorer is a pioneer and an inventor is a pioneer. Today we are going to learn about a group of pioneers who came to Murray County. From 1492 through today, many people from other parts of the world come to America to find a new home. In the 1800s people moved from the eastern coast toward the middle of the country. These people were called pioneers because they were the first people from Europe to move to this land. Before the pioneers came, who lived in Murray County? Native Americans! They had lived in this region for over 5,000 years!

The pioneers in Murray County lived very differently from how we do today. They lived in dug outs, houses dug into the side of a hill or in sod houses made from the first layer of dirt on the ground that has all the roots in it. The roots held the dirt together and the grassy part on top made it shed water on the roof. They also made log cabins. They had to grow or gather their own food. They had to sew their own clothes. They had to make their own toys. Pioneers lived without electricity or running water. They did not have cars, cellphones, or televisions. Many of the pioneers came to Murray County to farm. They used horses and oxen to pull their wagons and farm tools.
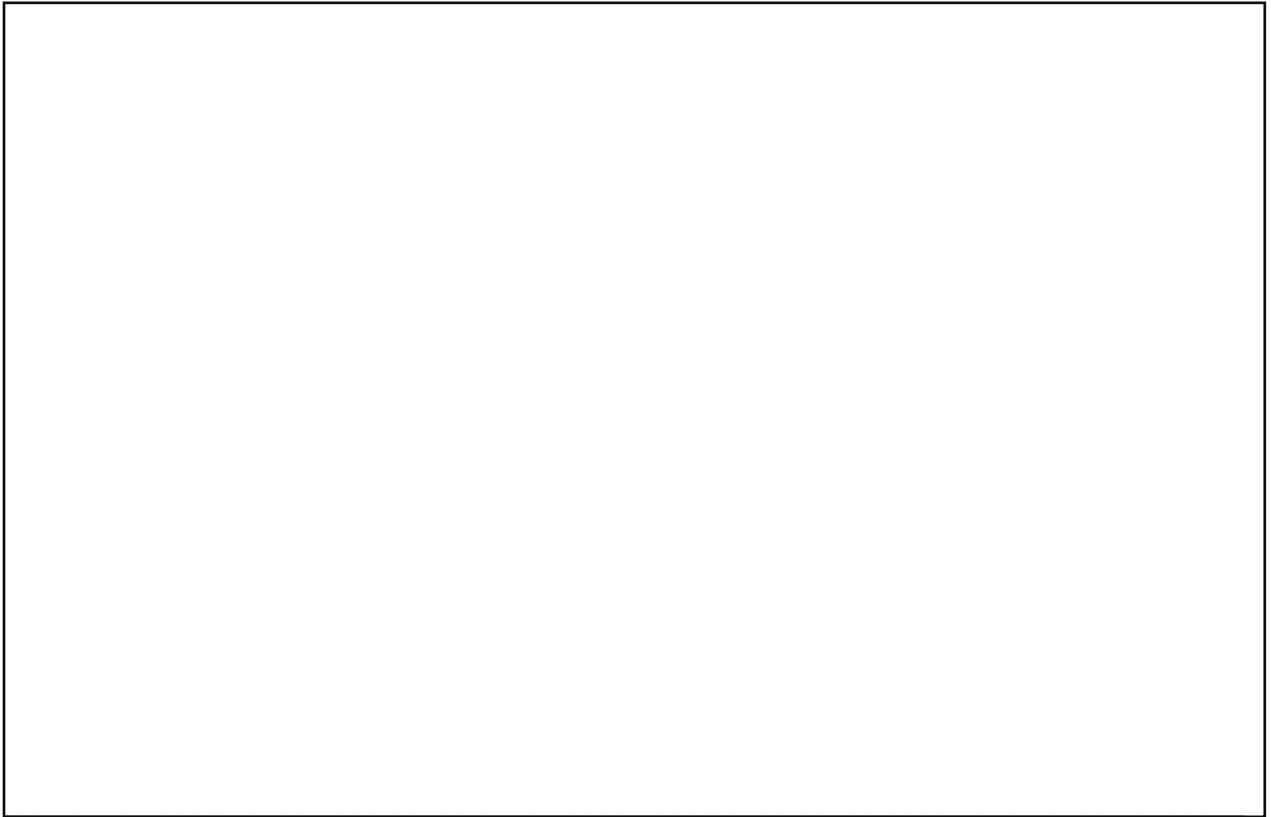

Koch Cabin

Wornson Cabin

Journal and Drawing

Write or draw a picture about how your life would be different if you were a pioneer.

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Activity 1 – Hide the Thimble

This is a game similar to a scavenger hunt played by pioneer children.

For this activity you will need a thimble or other small object.

Instructions: Gather everyone who is going to participate into one room. Choose the player who gets to hide the thimble first. All other players leave the room while the chosen player hides the thimble somewhere in the room. Once the thimble is hidden, all the other players come back into the room and must try to find the thimble. Whoever finds the thimble first is the winner. The game then starts over, and the winner gets to hide the thimble next.
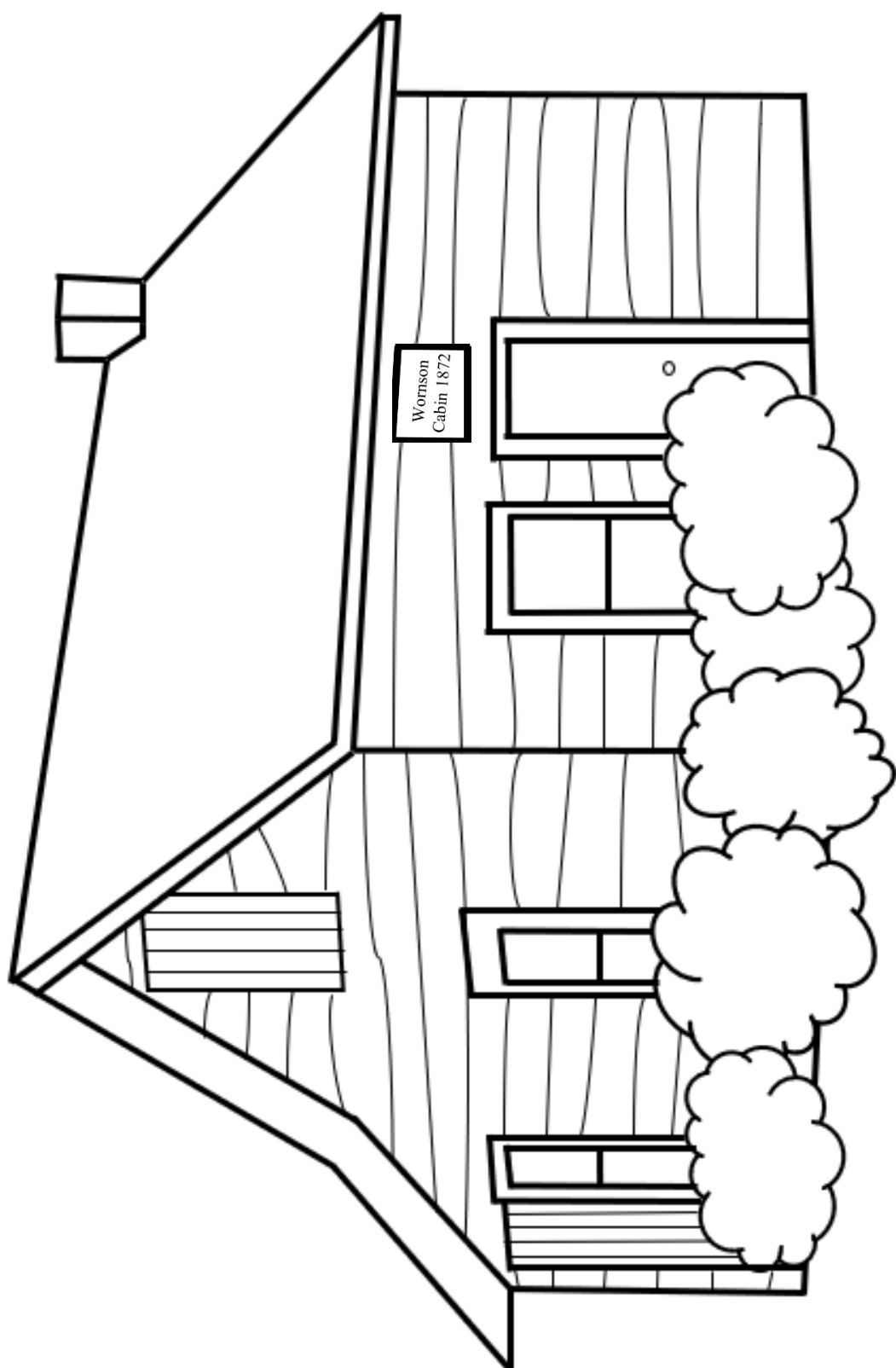

Activity 2 – Butter Making

What you will need: An emptied clean plastic jar with a tight lid, like a clean peanut butter jar, heavy whipping cream, a marble, crackers.

Instructions: After washing the marble, place it inside of your jar. Pour about 1 and ½ cups of heavy whipping cream into the jar. Seal the jar tight and shake! This process will take several minutes, and you might want to pass it between you, your siblings, and the adults in the house! The fat in the cream will start to turn into butter and separate from the butter milk. Drain off the buttermilk from the butter. Pour very cold water in your jar and shake gently. This will rinse the last buttermilk out of your butter. Drain off all the water and put your butter in a bowl. Take a spoon and stir it lightly. This will release the last of the water. You can add some salt to your butter or eat it the way it is. Enjoy your homemade butter on a cracker!

Activity 3 – Coloring Page

What you will need: The Wornson Log Cabin Coloring Page, markers, colored pencils, or crayons.

Background: Located behind the Murray County Museum is the Wornson Log Cabin! This cabin was built in 1872 by Ole and Martha Wornson. The Wornson's lived in the cabin with their eight children. This cabin was located near Hadley until it was moved to the Murray County Fair Grounds in 1976. What color would you paint the cabin?

Wornson
Cabin 1872

Lesson 2: The Lakes

Education Standards: Geography: 3.3.1.1.1, 4.3.1.2.1, 4.3.1.2.2, 4.3.2.3.1

Introduction paragraph—read this to your parent/guardian. Whenever you see a question, try to answer it before reading the answer!

What is a lake? A lake is a body of water that is surrounded by land on all sides. Did you know that there are 48 named lakes in Murray County? These lakes were created by glaciers many, many years ago. Do you know what a glacier is? A glacier is a very deep wide river of slow moving ice. Some glaciers were a mile thick! By slowly moving over the land, these large sheets of ice dug holes in the land. When the ice melted it filled the holes with water that are now our lakes! Does your family ever go to the lake? What does your family do there? Some things you can do at a lake include boating, swimming, fishing, and hunting. Lakes are home to many animals such as fish, ducks, geese, frogs, and plenty of bugs!
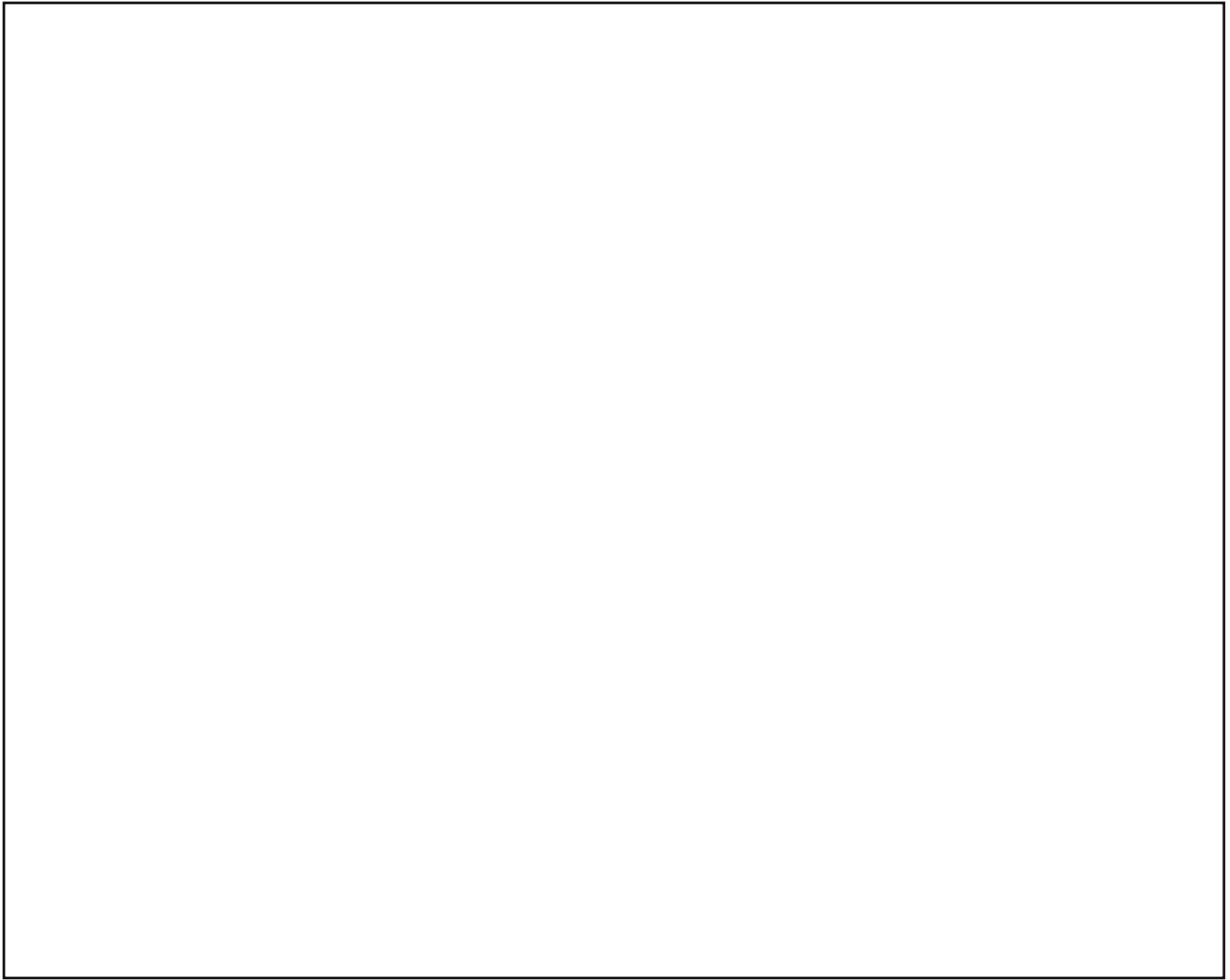

Etta May on Lake Shetek

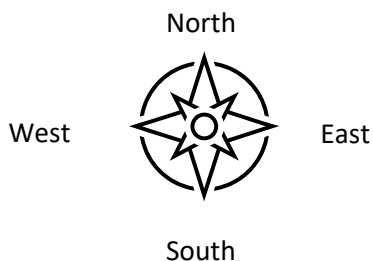People on the shore of a Murray County Lake

Journal and Drawing

Write or draw a picture about what you like to do, or would like to do, at a lake.
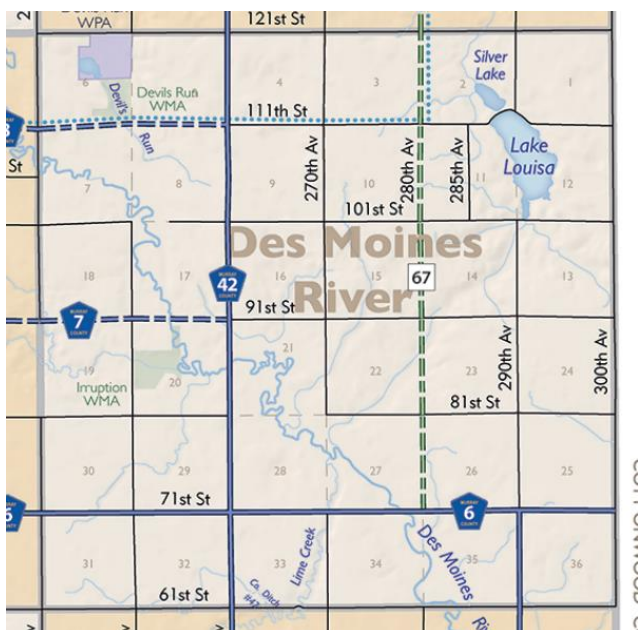
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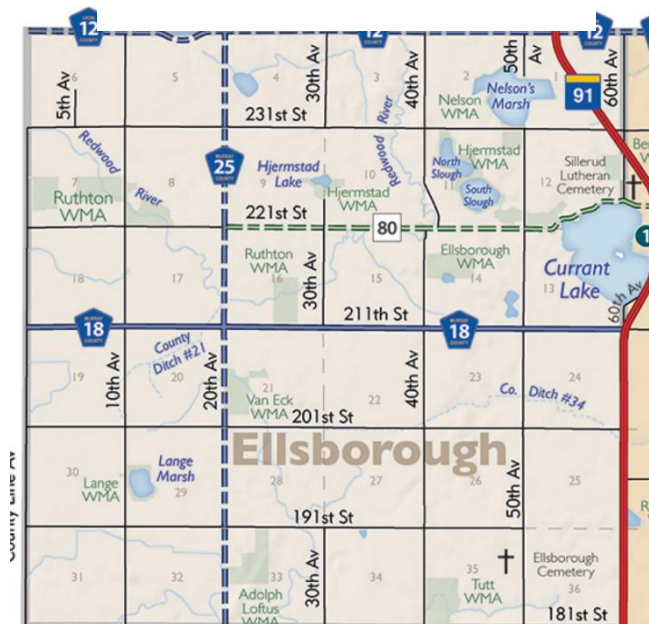
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Activity 1 – Murray County Lakes and the Compass

Background: A compass is a tool used for finding directions. There are four main directions, north, east, south, and west. A compass rose, depicted below, is used on maps to tell direction

North

West   East

South

In this map of Des Moines River Township, which lake

Is furthest north? Is it Silver Lake of Lake Louisa?

In this map of Ellsborough Township, which like is furthest east?

Activity 2 – Goldfish Pod

What you will need: Goldfish crackers (or a similar type of cracker), cream cheese, blue food coloring, a plate, and a spoon.

Instructions:

Put a tablespoon of cream cheese onto your plate. Squeeze 1-3 drops of blue food coloring onto the cheese. Mix thoroughly with your spoon. Spread the cheese on the plate into a circular shape to make a pond. Add a few Goldfish crackers onto the top of the pond. Take a few photos then enjoy your crackers dipped in cheese as a snack!

Activity 3 – Fish Hand Puppets

What you will need: paper, markers, colored pencils, or crayons, scissors, glue, and a popsicle stick.

Trace our hand on a piece of paper. Cut out your handprint. Color your fish whatever color you would like, be sure to add an eye onto the palm! Cut out a small heart shaped piece of paper for the fish's lips. Glue the lips on the fish where the wrist would be and then glue the decorated fish onto a popsicle stick. Now it's time to create a play or simply swim around the house!

Example

Lesson 3 – The Railroad

Education Standards: History: 3.4.2.3.1, 3.4.1.1.1

Introduction paragraph—read this to your parent/guardian. Whenever you see a question, try to answer it before reading the answer!

Have you seen a train rolling down the tracks? Was it loud? Was it going fast? Unlike cars that drive on roads, trains run on tracks. Tracks are made of heavy metal bars called rails laid on top of large square wooden posts called ties. The first trains reached Murray County in 1879, about 150 years ago. When the trains came to Murray County, there were no cars around. How do you think people travelled before the trains came? People would ride horses, in wagons pulled by horses, or walk. It would take a long time to get from one place to the other, especially if the people were bringing a lot of stuff with them like famers bringing crops into town. When the trains came to Murray County, it meant that people could travel much faster and further. Train travel was popular in Murray County for about 50 years. That is when many families began to buy cars to drive around. The last time a train ran in Murray County was in the 1980s, about 40 years ago!

Train in Dovray

Train in Slayton

Journal and Drawing

Write or draw a picture about what you think you would see looking outside the window of a train.

[drawing box]

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Activity 1 – Railroad Word Search

Instructions: Find all of the words in the wordsearch!   (Answers on last page)

Railroad Word Search

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K Q S W A G O N S L
G O T V A M E T A L
A V E C W Y S C T F
S F A S T E R O S U
C M M R J S Z A M R
A T R A V E L L O T
R A I L R O A D K H
S T R A C K S P E E
N X D H I N T E V R
D L N A T R A I N B
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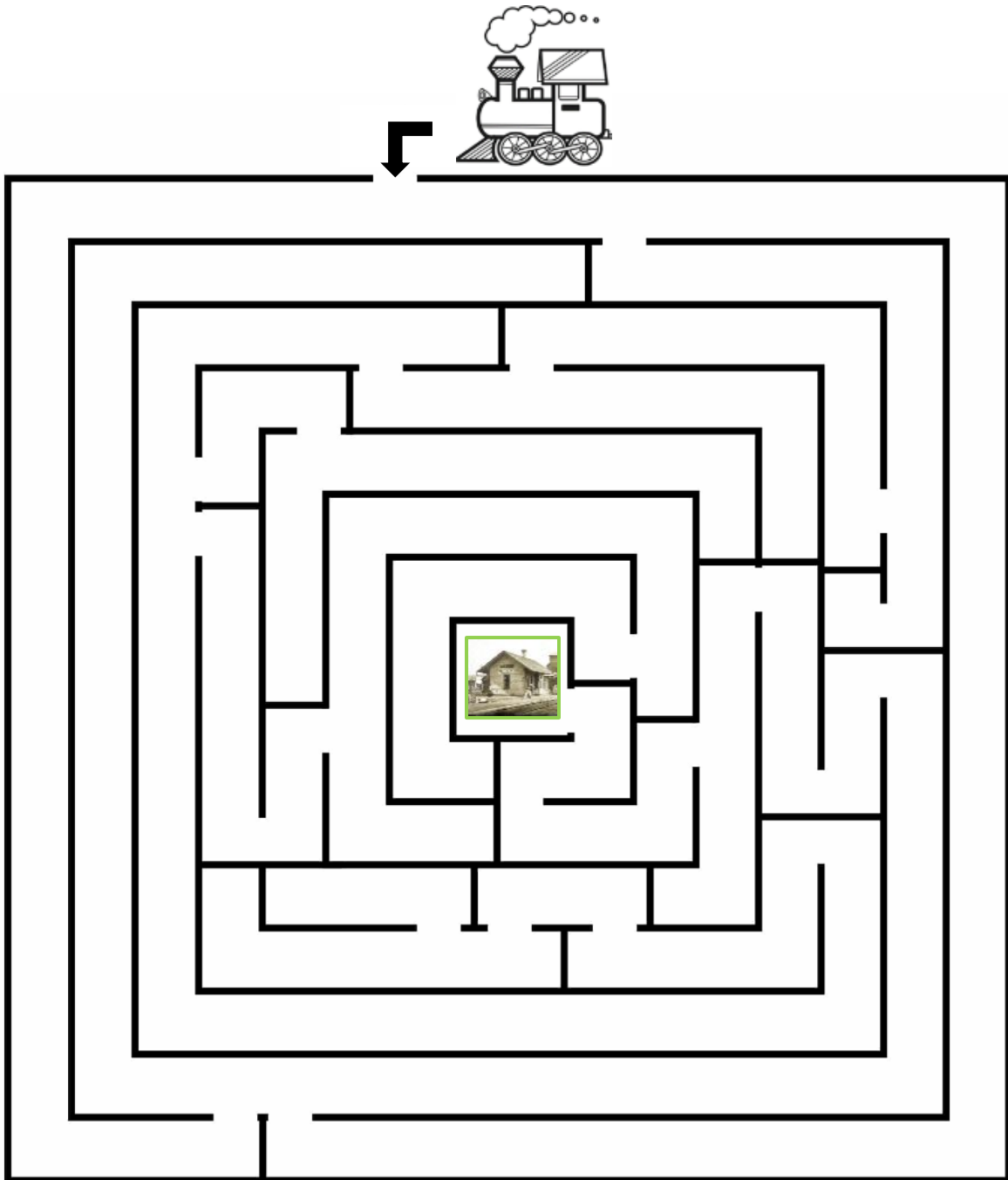
Railroad	Further	Tracks	Travel
Faster	Wagons	Train	Metal
Smoke	Steam	Cars	Coal

Activity 2 – Maze

Instructions: Complete the maze to get the train to the depot!

Lesson 4 – Farming

Introduction paragraph—read this to your parent/guardian. Whenever you see a question, try to answer it before reading the answer!

Have you ever seen a tractor? Or a grain bin? Or a cow? Or a chicken? All of these have to do with farming! Most of the food we eat is raised on a farm. Do you or someone you know live on a farm? Many people in Murray County make their living by farming! Farming in Murray County has changed a lot over the years. Early farmers used equipment powered by animals. Oxen or horses would pull large plows to help farmers get the soil ready to plant. At harvest they pulled wagons to gather the crops. As time went on tractors replaced much of the animal power. Today, large combines do a lot of harvest work in the fields! The equipment used by farmers today makes farming much faster than a long time ago. Farmers can have much larger fields. Changes in farming also include how cows, pigs, and chickens are raised. For example, new equipment makes it much easier for farmers to milk cows. In the past, cows were milked by hand. Today, cows are milked by a machine!

Horses pulling farm machinery in Murray County

Farm in Murray County

Journal and Drawing

Write or draw a picture about what it would be like to farm with animal power.

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Activity 1 – Farm Word Search

Instructions: Find all of the words in the wordsearch!   (Answers on last page)

Word Search

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C H I C K E N V R F
Q C W Q B C R O P S
G M Q T R A C T O R
R I H G I X S A G Z
A L O S Z X H Z O E
I K F A R M E R O G
N S H E D X E G S G
H O R S E Y P X E S
S Q Y L L J Q C G C
R Q G C A T T L E P
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Chicken	Tractor	Cattle	Farmer
Grain	Crops	Horse	Shed
Eggs	Goose	Sheep	Milk

Activity 2 – Duck, Duck, Goose

Instructions: Gather everyone who is going to participate into a circle. Choose one player to be "it." This player walks around the outside of the circle tapping the heads of each of the others while saying "duck." When the player who is "it" taps a player and says "goose," the tapped player must get up and chase the "it" player. The "it" player tries to sit in the tapped players stop before getting caught. If they are caught, they are "it" again, if they are not caught the tapped player is now "it" and the game begins again.
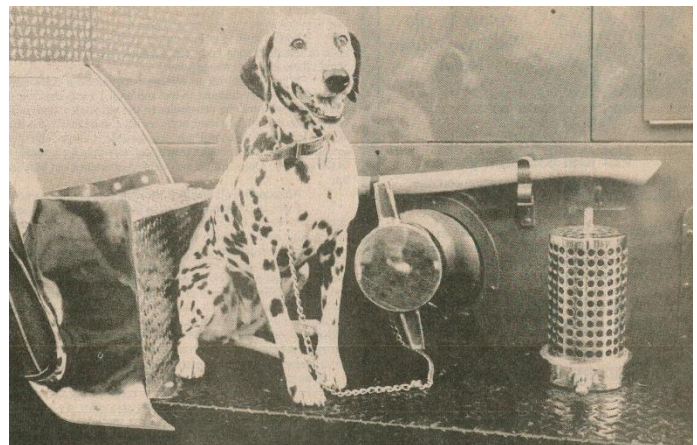

Activity 3 – Gather the eggs.

What you will need: Colorful plastic eggs and a container of any kind.

Instructions: An adult will hide the eggs around the house or yard. Now it's your turn to go and gather all the eggs!
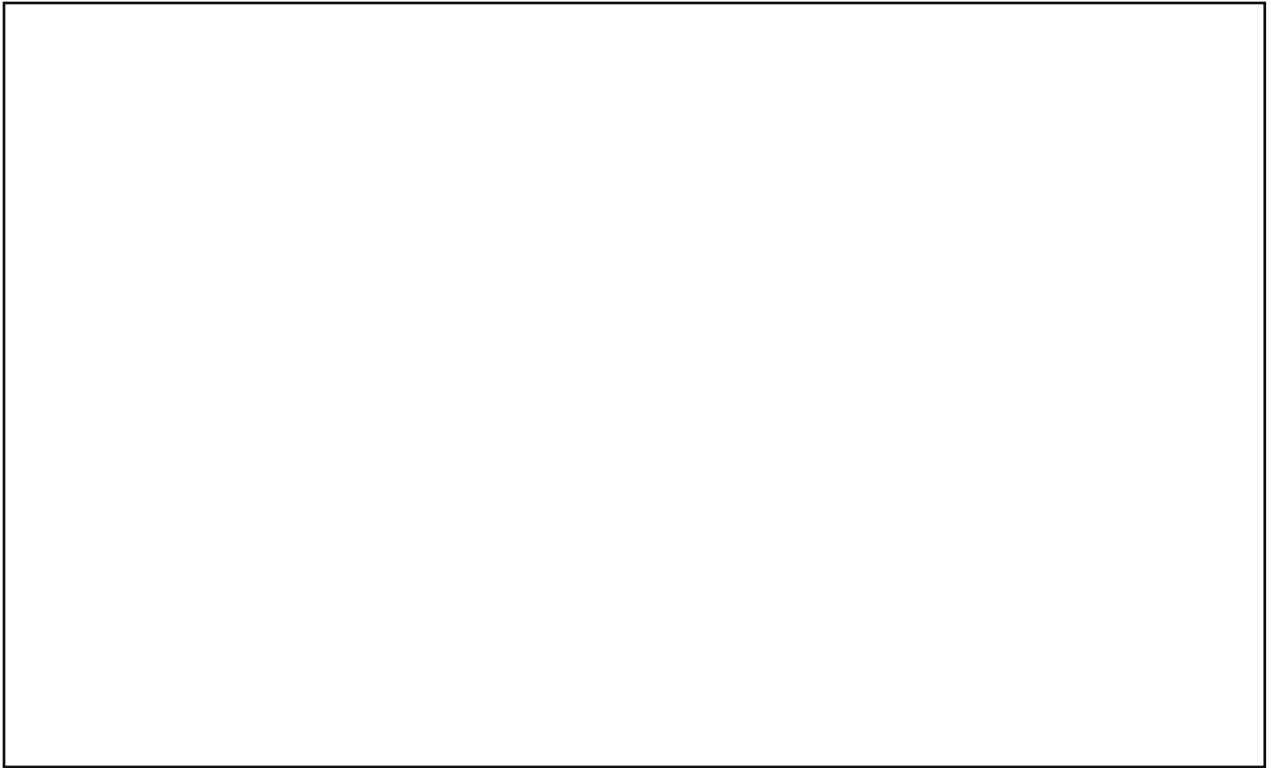
Lesson 5 – Pets (Fun Topic Friday)

Introduction Paragraph-Read to your child.

 Do you have any pets? . Having a pet is not a new idea. People have had pets for thousands of years! At the Murray County Museum, we have a lot of examples of pictures showing people with their pets throughout the years (take a look at the photos below). Having a pet is a lot of responsibility. You have to feed and water it. You have to make sure it is healthy and that it gets enough exercise. What kinds of animals do you think of when you think of a pet? You could have a dog, cat, bird, fish, hamster, snake, frog, horse, and many more! Pets make great companions, or friends. You can read to them, play with them, and they can cheer you up when you are feeling down. Some pets have important jobs. There are dogs that are trained to work with police officers or to help blind people. There are horses and dogs that help with farm work. There are cats that keep mice out of homes and farm buildings. Take a look at the picture of the dog below who once worked with the Slayton Fire Department!

Journal and Drawing

Write or draw a picture about a make-believe animal you would like to have as a pet.

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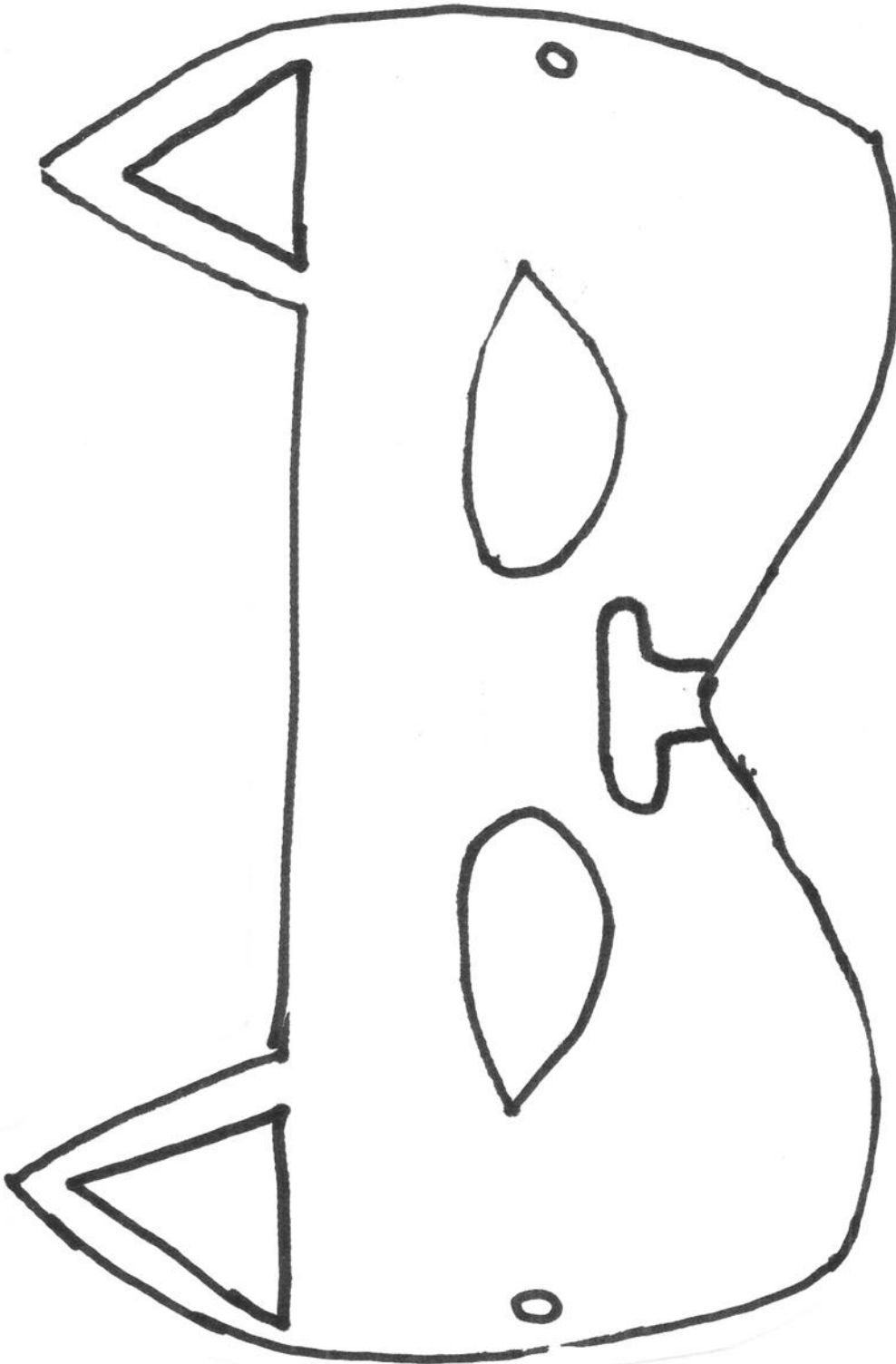
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Activity 1 - Cat Mask

What you will need: the template below, a safety scissors, crayons or markers, yarn.

Instructions: With the help of an adult, cut out the mask template—be sure to cut out the eye holes. Color the cat any color you want! Poke holes on the sides of the mask and add a piece of yarn to tie it on to your face. Alternatively, glue or staple a strip of paper to slide the mask over your head. Now it's time to act like a cat!

Activity 2 – Dog Trainer Says

This game is similar to "Simon Says"

Instructions: Gather your family members into a room. One player gets to be the dog trainer and the others are the dogs. The trainer give instruction for the dogs to follow, starting out by saying "Trainer says…" To get "out" the trainer would say a command without saying "trainer says…" first. If the dogs complete the command, they are then "out."

Examples of instructions could be sit, growl, lie down, wag your tail, jump, stay…etc.

Activity 3 – Guess the Animal Sounds

Print and cut out the following animal names and place them in a bowl. Each player takes a turn by drawing one of the slips of paper, reading the name of the animal, and then making the noise that animal would make! The others must guess what animal they are trying to be! You can also change up this game by trying to act out what they animal does without using sounds!

Cat	Dog	Chicken
Duck	Horse	Cow
Pig	Sheep	Elephant
Lion	Fish	Frog
Snake	Monkey	Whale
Dolphin	Rabbit	Turkey

Map/Lakes Answers: Map 1: Sliver Lake, Map 2: Current Lake

Word Search Answer Keys:

Railroad Word Search

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K Q S W A G O N S L
G O T V A M E T A L
A V E C W Y S C T F
S F A S T E R O S U
C M M R J S Z A M R
A T R A V E L L O T
R A I L R O A D K H
S T R A C K S P E E
N X D H I N T E V R
D L N A T R A I N B
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Railroad	Further	Tracks	Travel
Faster	Wagons	Train	Metal
Smoke	Steam	Cars	Coal

Word Search

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C H I C K E N V R F
Q C W Q B C R O P S
G M Q T R A C T O R
R I H G I X S A G Z
A L O S Z X H Z O E
I K F A R M E R O G
N S H E D X E G S G
H O R S E Y P X E S
S Q Y L L J Q C G C
R Q G C A T T L E P
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Chicken	Tractor	Cattle	Farmer
Grain	Crops	Horse	Shed
Eggs	Goose	Sheep	Milk