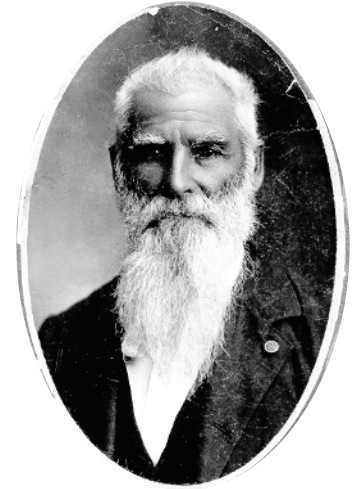




Junior Ranger Program

Explore, Learn, Protect: Be A Junior Ranger

Homestead National Monument of America was established to commemorate the Homestead Act of 1862. This law had a major impact on the United States, including changes in immigration and migration, changes to Native Americans, and improvements in industry and agriculture. This National Park Service site, located on the Daniel Freeman claim, memorializes the lives and accomplishments of all pioneers and the changes to the land and to people brought by the Homestead Act of 1862. You can find out more about Homestead National Monument of America by becoming a **Junior Ranger**.



Daniel Freeman

Junior Rangers are special people who are dedicated to their National Parks. Their mission is to explore, learn, and protect, and to have fun while doing it!

To become a Junior Ranger:

1. Identify your age: 5-8 years old _____
9 years or older _____

Complete any 4 pages
Complete any 7 pages



Windmill indicates activities suggested for ages 5-8.



Plow indicates activities suggested for ages 9 and up.

2. Fill in your name: _____
3. As a Junior Ranger, take care of the monument by following these guidelines:
- Explore the displays, but please don't touch.
 - Discover the tallgrass prairie, but please don't pick plants or collect things.
 - Help keep Homestead National Monument of America clean. Put litter in its place.
 - Avoid ticks, poison ivy, and stinging nettles by staying on the trails.
4. Turn in your booklet at the Heritage Center or the Education Center to have a Park Ranger review it.

Homestead National Monument of America is administered by the National Park Service. For more information, visit our website: www.nps.gov/home

Or, contact:
Superintendent
8523 W State Hwy 4
Beatrice, NE 68310
(402)223-3514



Experience Your America.
Revised 2006

Homestead Bingo

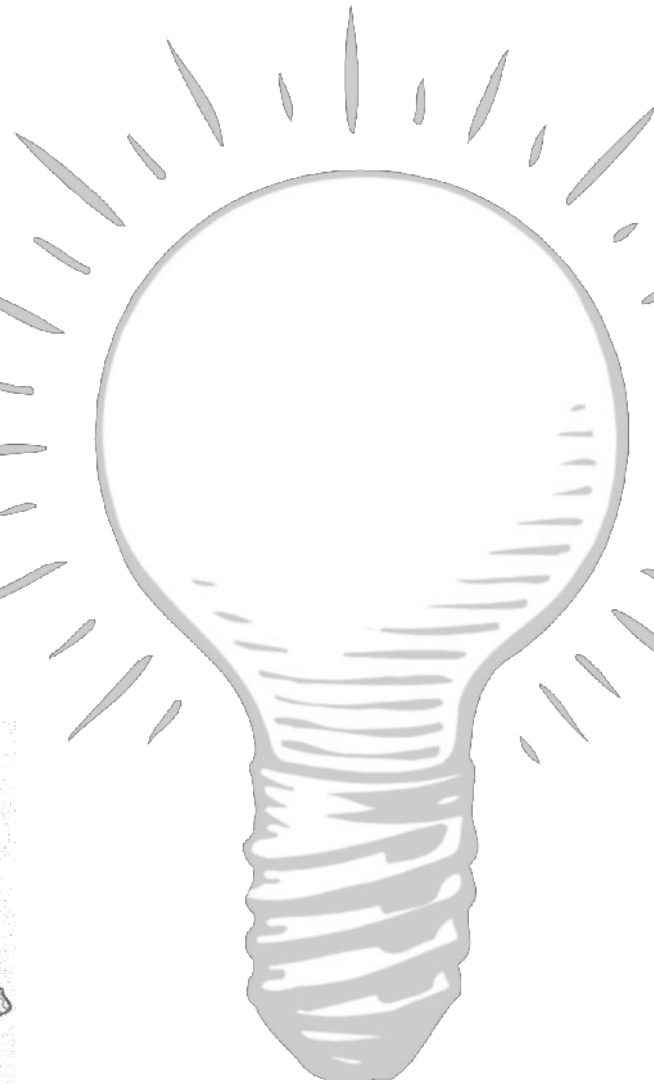
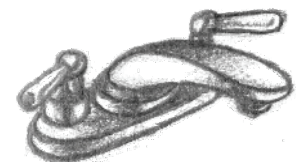
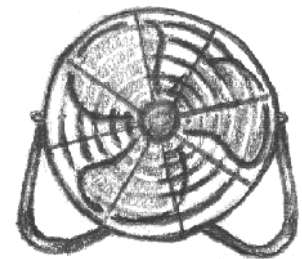
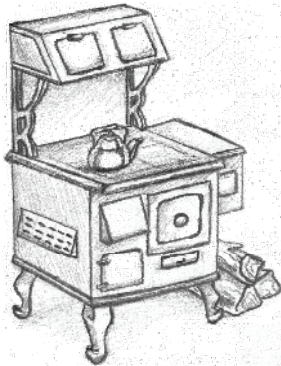
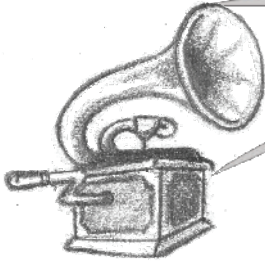
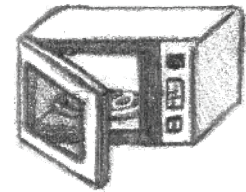
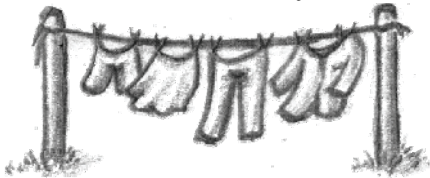
As you explore Homestead National Monument of America, locate as many items as you can and put an over each item you find. When you find 5 items in a row up/ down/across/diagonal you score Homestead Bingo! Have fun looking!

<input type="checkbox"/>	 Freeman Graves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Windmill
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Cub Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Candle Mold	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Free Spot!	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Native Plant Display	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Rocking Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Sod Cutter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Abraham Lincoln
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Let's Light-en the Load

Most farms did not have electricity until the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Electricity changed communication, household appliances, tools, and entertainment. Just think about the many ways you use electricity. How would you store food without a refrigerator? Would you have indoor plumbing without an electric pump to move water through pipes? Match the pioneer objects in the left column with the modern devices in the right column that replaced them thanks to electricity.



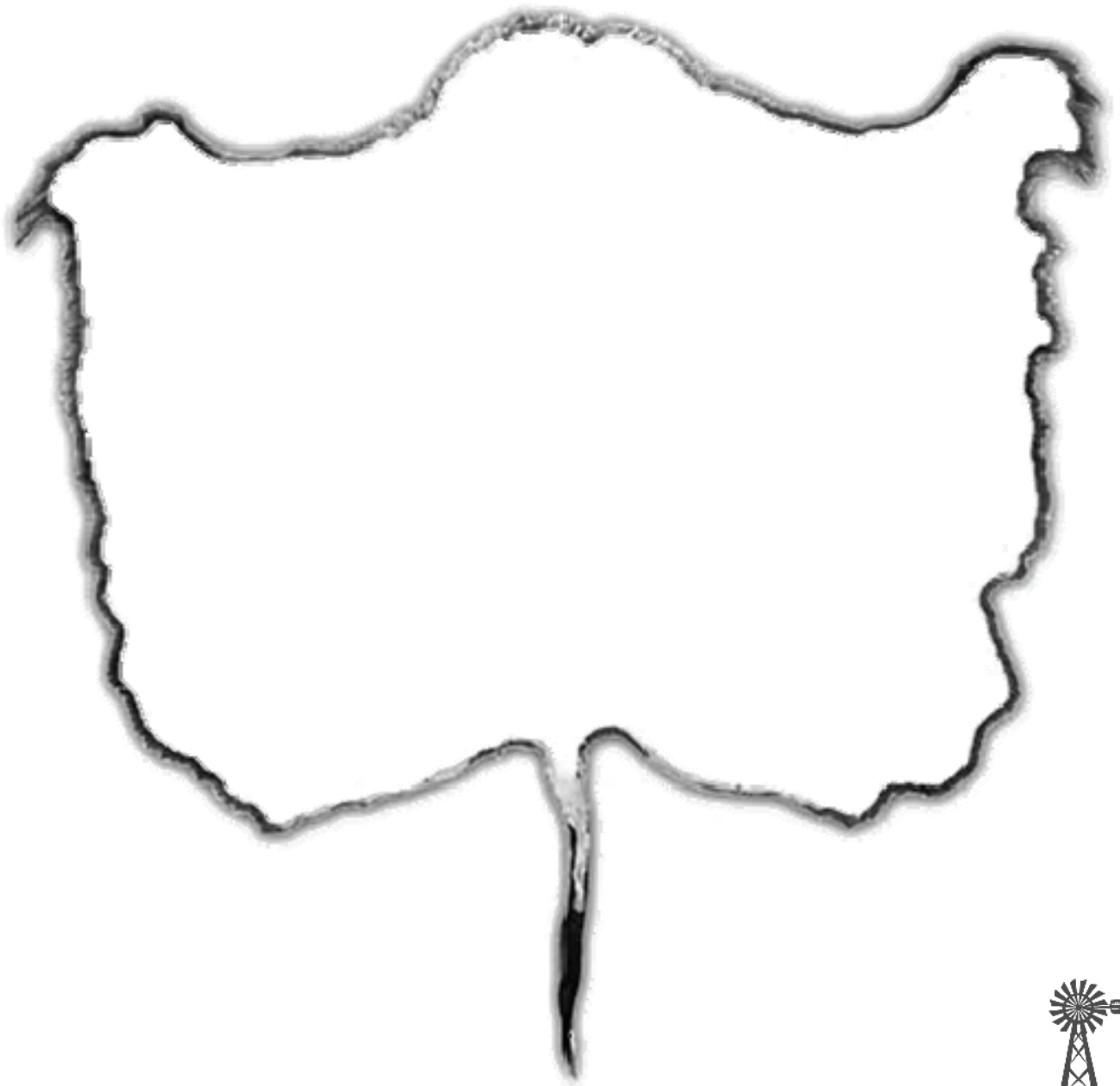
Where the Buffalo Roam

Bison once roamed the open prairie in large herds. This is the largest land animal in North America, and it can run 35 miles per hour and keep that pace for half an hour!



Plains Indian tribes used buffalo hide paintings to record their history. Tribal leaders chose the single most important event of each year, and added one picture representing that event to the hide painting. Members of the tribe often identified the year they were born by referring to the event depicted on these "winter count" hides.

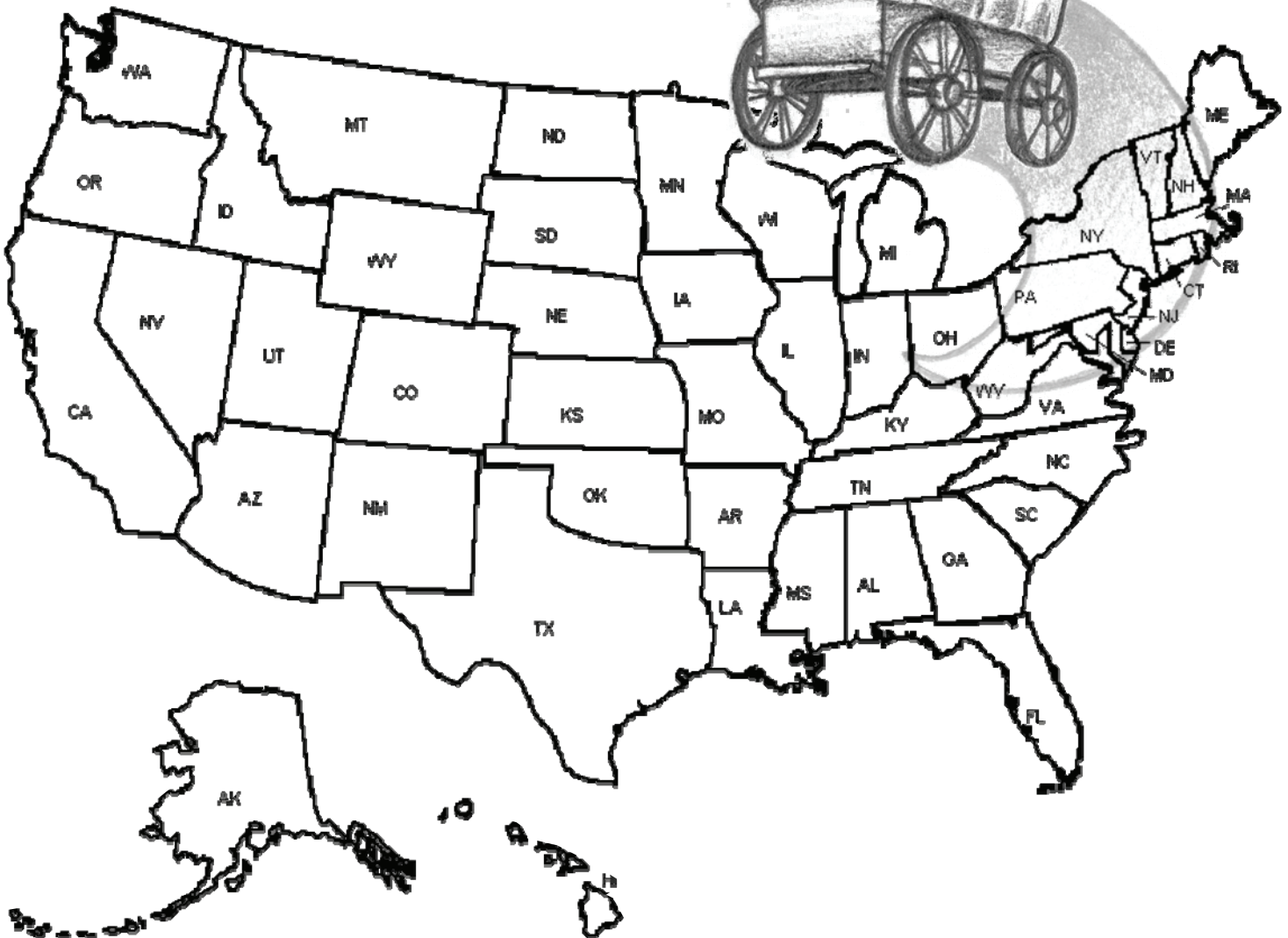
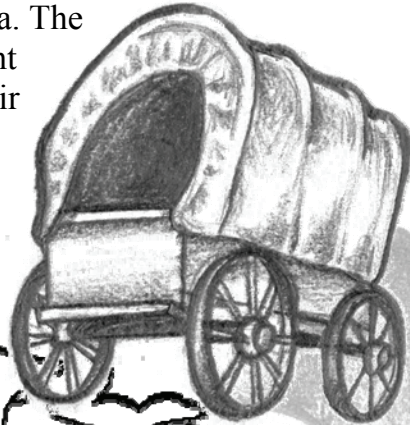
Draw your own winter count. What images will you use to depict important events in your life?



Traveling in the Footsteps of Homesteaders

Locate your home state on the map. Trace the route you've traveled to get to Homestead National Monument of America. Can you imagine taking this trip by covered wagon?

People didn't only travel by wagon to claim a homestead. Immigrants from across the ocean made the long, dangerous journey by ship for the promise of a new beginning in America. The Homestead Act brought people from many different backgrounds and cultures who wanted to claim their very own 160 acres.



The *Living Wall* at the entrance to the Heritage Center shows homesteading states and the amount of land homesteaded in each state. According to the *Living Wall*, was there homesteading in your state?

___ Yes ___ No



Crowded Cabin Word Search

Many homesteaders grew up in one-room log cabins like the one here at Homestead National Monument of America. Imagine living with 9 siblings and your parents in such a small house! At the bottom of the page is a list of things found in the cabin. Can you spot them hidden in the cabin below?



BED
BROOM
CHAMBER POT
CUPBOARD
KEROSENE LAMP
PATENT

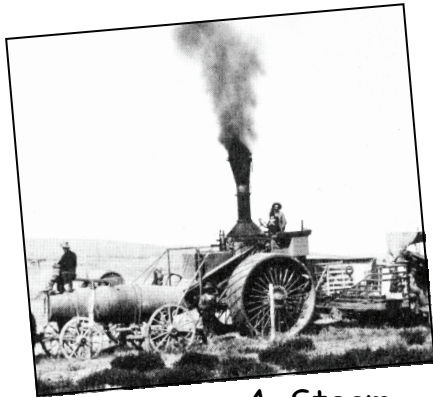
QUILT
CHAIR
SCONCE
SEWING MACHINE
STAIRS
TABLE

KETTLE
TRUNK
WASHBOARD
WOOD STOVE



Necessity is the Mother of Invention

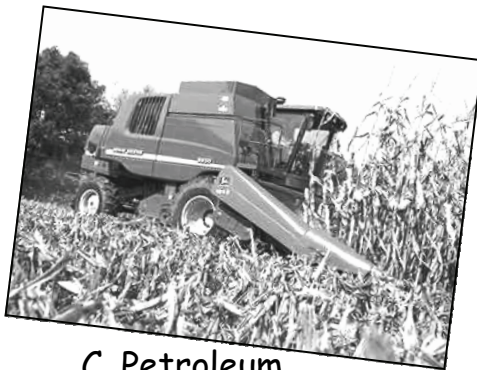
The Homestead Act of 1862 led to the development of new inventions as homesteaders looked for ways to make farm life easier. The pictures below show the various sources of power used to harvest crops over the years. Can you figure out when each method was popular? Write the letter below each picture in the proper square on the timeline.



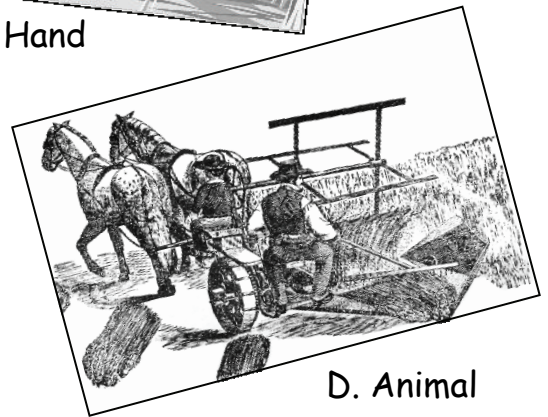
A. Steam



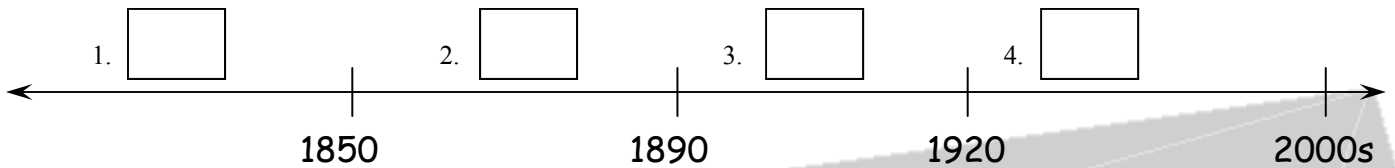
B. Hand



C. Petroleum



D. Animal



Many of these inventions were designed by ordinary people with big imaginations people like you! Be an inventor and use the box to the right to describe or sketch what farms of tomorrow might be like. Will you invent a tractor that uses a new type of fuel? Will space exploration lead to new settlements? Be as silly or as serious as you want!



Farming on the Homestead

The Homestead Act required homesteaders to farm a portion of the land they claimed. Learn about the equipment used for farming by answering the following questions. Answers can be found in the Heritage Center or in the Farm Implement Displays near the Education Center and Palmer-Epard cabin.

1. What year was the McCormick Reaper invented?

2. What was the corn husker used for?

3. What crop was "king" in the Midwest?

4. How many miles would a homesteader walk to plow 10 acres?

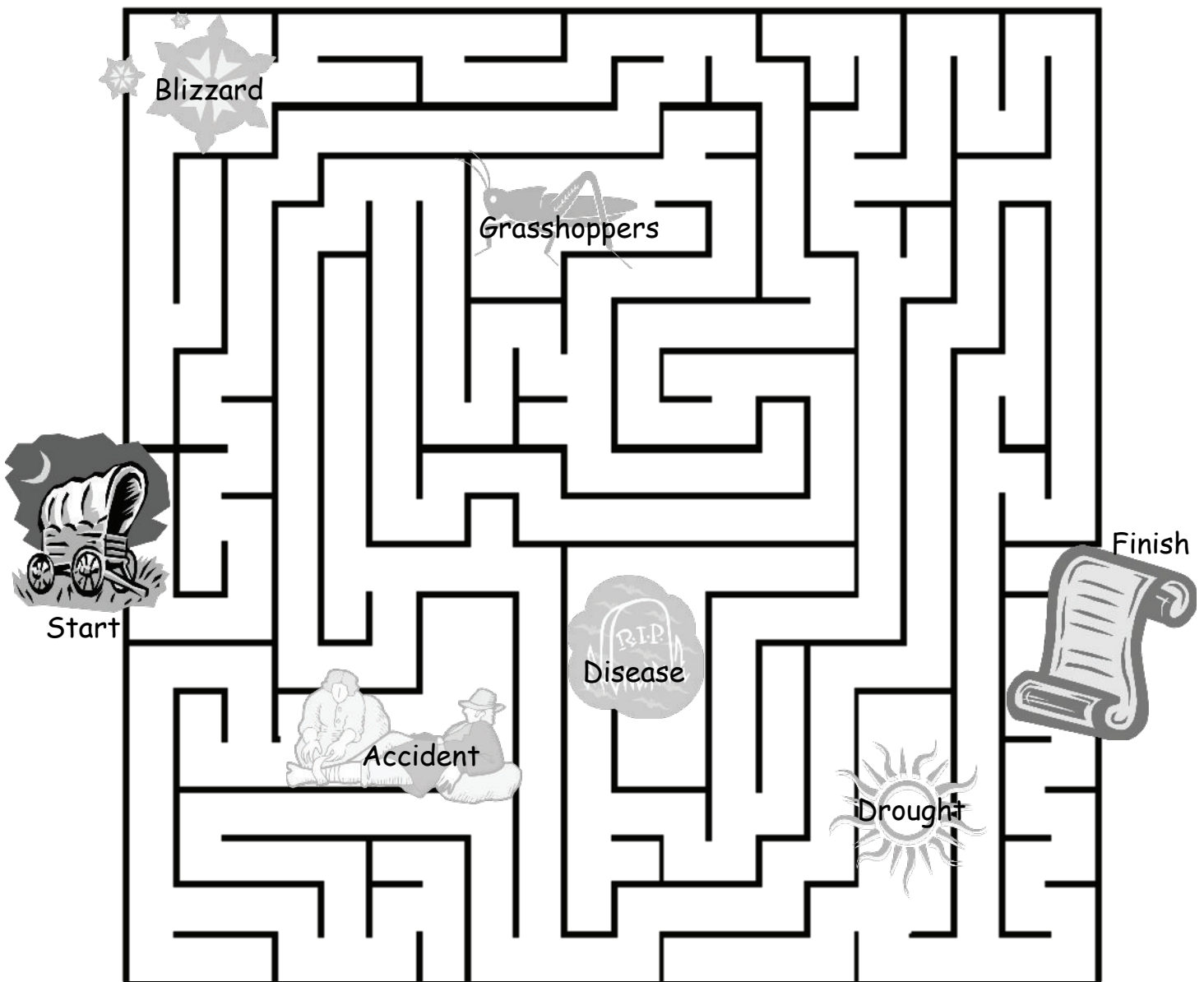
5. What tool made rows for planting, loosened soil around plants, and removed weeds?

6. What hand tool was used for threshing grain?



Perilous Journey

Before homesteaders could receive the patent for their land, they had to survive on it for five years. They faced countless dangers, and many did not stay to fulfill the requirements. Crops could be wiped out by grasshoppers or drought, and many settlers perished from disease, accidents, and in storms. Can you help this homesteading family just arriving in their covered wagon navigate past the obstacles between them and their land patent?



Hidden Critters

The tallgrass prairie is home to many animals. Today there remains only 1% of the original 140,000,000 acres of tallgrass prairie. Homestead National Monument of America is home to 100 acres of restored tallgrass prairie - the second oldest restored prairie in the country.

Unscramble the letters below to discover some of the animals that live on the Monument. Then match the number of each animal with its description.

1. VAEBER

A. I defend myself by spraying an unpleasant odor and I have a white stripe down my back.

2. ALITEHTDEWI RDEE

B. I am a big bird, but you don't often see me flying. Ben Franklin wanted me to be the national bird, but the eagle was chosen instead.

3. KNSKU

C. My name may have originated from my short tail which is only 6 or 7 inches long. I can weigh up to 20 pounds and I am a carnivore, eating rabbits, squirrels and mice.

4. NCCAROO

D. You can find me across the country, usually in green and gray. I can be found day or night protecting and preserving special places.

5. RENGAR

E. I am the largest rodent in North America. I use my front teeth to help me cut trees to build a lodge or dam.

6. YURKTE

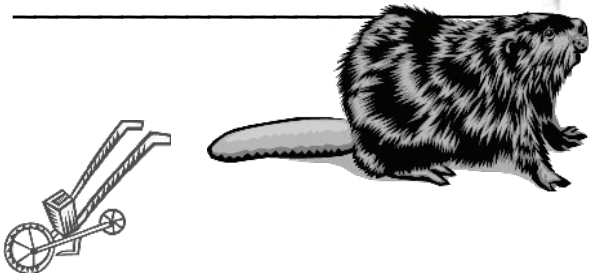
F. I am a large mammal; I have a white tail and spots.

7. BCTABO

G. I am nocturnal, meaning I hunt for my food at night. I scavenge for food such as berries, insects and seeds. I always wear my mask.

8. TECYOO

H. Native Americans call me the trickster. I yip and yelp and howl. I am adaptable to many environments and I'm a member of the canine family.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The early homesteaders had to make due with limited means. In some ways, they were true recyclers. Look at the following items and name two ways homesteaders may have reused these items in their daily lives.



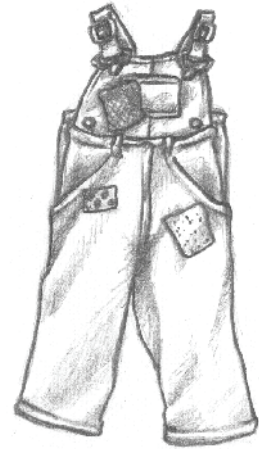
Wooden Barrel

1. _____
2. _____



Glass Jar

1. _____
2. _____



Overalls

1. _____
2. _____

Now, look at these everyday items. How might *you* reuse these items in *your* daily life?



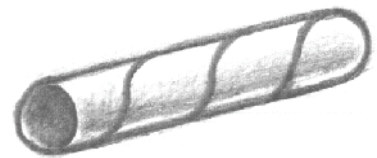
Plastic Liter Bottle

1. _____
2. _____



Plastic Butter Tub

1. _____
2. _____



Paper Towel Roll

1. _____
2. _____



Name That Park!

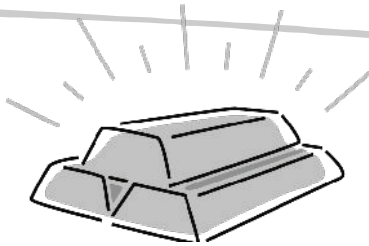
One of the oldest ways for children to learn to read was with a picture story, or "rebus writing." Can you read and solve the names of these National Park sites? Write each word on the blanks provided below the puzzles.



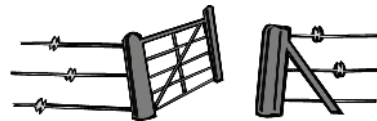
+ &

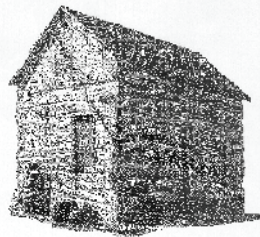


+ yon



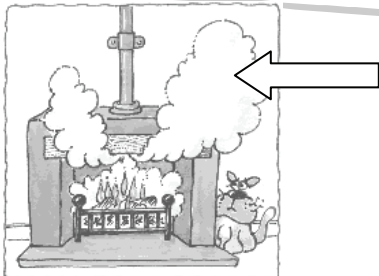
+





+ stead

National Monument





Learn more!

Check out your National Parks online: <http://www.nps.gov>

GPS Prairie Walk



Homesteaders could stake a claim on government surveyed land. The rectangular survey system was enacted by the Land Ordinance Act of 1785. Now known as the Public Land Survey System, this system divided the western lands into grid-shaped townships and sections. Surveyors would use compass and sextant to map out grids across the country.

Today surveying is done with the use of satellites and Global Positioning Systems, or GPS. At Homestead National Monument of America, you can find history using GPS units.

To participate in this activity, have an adult go to the Education Center and provide a driver's license to borrow a GPS unit. The ranger there will give you instructions on how to proceed with this activity. Once you are done, the license will be returned! (If you have your own GPS unit, the coordinates are listed under each stop sign. Set your datum on your unit to WGS 84.) Have fun!



N40°17'24.6"
W96°49'55.2"

Go to waypoint *Cabin*

1. Who lived here and when did they live here _____
2. What did most homesteaders use to build houses? _____



N40°17'18.2"
W96°49'59.5"

Go to waypoint *Soil*

1. What did railroads promote? _____
2. In the 1920s breaking the sod became easier. Why? _____

3. Look north, south, east and west. List four different things that are here now that were not here when homesteaders first settled.

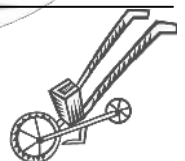
- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____



N40°17'23.3"
W96°50'11.2"

Go to waypoint *Squatt*

1. Who lived here before the Freemans did? _____



Homestead National Monument of America

Junior Ranger

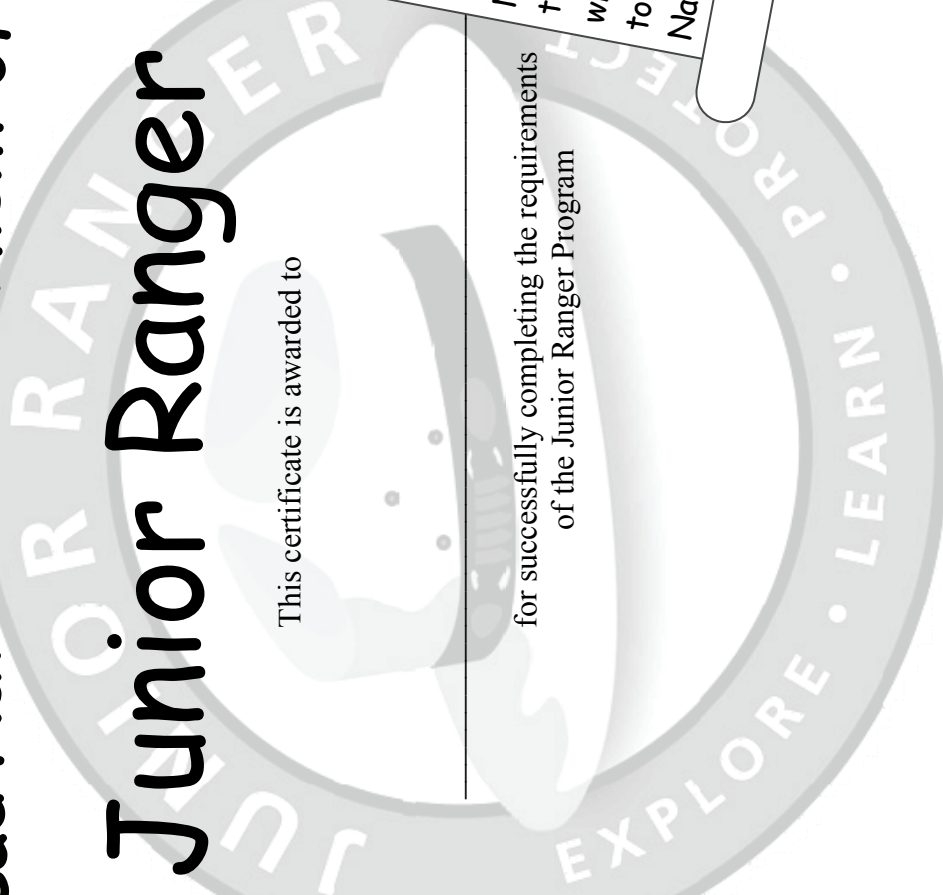
This certificate is awarded to

for successfully completing the requirements
of the Junior Ranger Program

Junior Ranger Pledge:
As a Junior Ranger, I
pledge to protect the
plants, animals, and
history at Homestead
National Monument,
to teach others about
what I learn, and
to keep exploring
National Parks.

Date

Park Ranger



This Junior Ranger booklet was created through the partnership of the National Park Service (NPS), the National Park Foundation (NPF), and the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and was made possible through the generous support of Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., a National Corporate Partner of the National Park Foundation. To learn more about the online Junior Ranger program, visit www.nps.gov/webangers.



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