

Final Project: Pioneer Family Night (2 Days)

Getting Started

? Big Ideas

- How were the pioneers dependent on the natural environment?
- How are family members interdependent?

⦿ Skills

- Interact with the text by making connections, answering questions, and locating information. (LA)
- Summarize main ideas from written or spoken texts, using succinct language. (LA)
- Read aloud grade-appropriate text with fluency, comprehension, and expression. (LA)
- Use oral and written language to present information in a sequenced, logical manner in order to support the following skills: discuss and sustain conversation on a topic, share information and ideas, recount or narrate, and share written and oral products in a variety of ways. (LA)

✂ Materials

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| ✓ <i>Little House in the Big Woods</i> by Laura Ingalls Wilder | ✓ allspice |
| ✓ cinnamon | ✓ nutmeg |
| ✓ oranges | ✓ ribbon |
| ✓ whole cloves | ✓ zip-lock bag |

Introduction

Tell your child that today she will prepare for her final project to complete her study of *Little House in the Big Woods*.

Activities

Preparing for Pioneer Family Night

For the final project, let your child plan a Pioneer Night for the family. To set the mood, turn out the lights and light candles or a fire; pretend there is no electricity. She will use the "Preparing for Pioneer Family Night" pages as her guide.

1. For dinner, let your child prepare a meal from scratch using only fresh ingredients (no processed or canned foods).
2. She will lead her family in making the orange clove craft (instructions provided on the "Orange Clove Decoration" page) and explain how the pioneers were dependent on natural resources.
3. Next, she will read one or two of her favorite sections from the book and explain why they are her favorites.
4. Your child will play a song on an instrument, sing a song, or play a traditional pioneer song (found online) and explain how important music and dance were for the pioneers. Let her teach the family some of the square dance moves she learned.
5. Then she can tell a story and let other family members take turns telling stories. Encourage her to explain the importance of storytelling in the lives of the pioneers.

Day 2

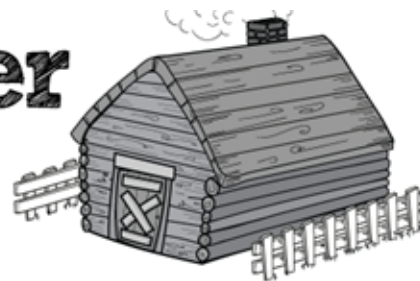
Hosting Pioneer Family Night

Today your child will get things in place for the evening. Give her the checklist provided on the "Pioneer Family Night Checklist" page to guide her through the event. Let her read through each task on the list to make sure she is prepared. She can take notes on the lines provided to remind her of anything she needs to remember about each step.

Wrapping Up

Ask your child to reflect on her Pioneer Family Night. Ask her what she enjoyed most and what she would have done differently.

Preparing for Pioneer Family Night



- ☐ Make dinner for your family using recipes that call for fresh ingredients. Make a list of foods to prepare.

- ☐ Look over the directions for the orange clove decoration. Gather the materials that family members will need for the craft. Prepare to explain to the family how the pioneers were dependent on natural resources.

- ☐ Select your two or three favorite sections from the book. Practice reading them aloud. Be ready to explain why they are your favorites.

- ☐ Select a song you can play on an instrument or sing for your family. Practice the song a few times until you are comfortable with it. If you prefer, you can find a pioneer song online, play it for your family, and encourage them to sing along. Review the square dance moves you learned and think about how to demonstrate or teach them to your family. Prepare to explain how important music and dance were to the pioneers.

- ☐ Be ready to tell your family about the importance of stories in Laura's family. Prepare a story to tell to your family members.

Orange Clove Decoration

1) Wrap a ribbon around the orange and tie it off at the top (illustration).



2) Now stick cloves, pointed side down, into the skin of the orange. Cover the orange, except where the ribbons are.



3) Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon of nutmeg, $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon of cinnamon, and $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon of allspice in a zip-lock baggie.



4) Take the ribbon off the orange, put the clove-covered orange in the bag and shake it.

5) Take the orange out of the bag and put the ribbon back on where it was tied originally.

6) Now you have a great smelling, natural craft!



Pioneer Family Night Checklist

- ☐ Make the meal and serve it to your family.



- ☐ Lead your family in making the orange clove decoration. Tell your family about how the pioneers made things from natural resources.



- ☐ Read one or two of your favorite parts of the book aloud to your family. Tell them why you liked these parts so much.

- ☐ Explain how music and dance were important in the lives of the pioneers. Play, sing, or present your song. Demonstrate some of the square dance moves you learned and ask your family to join in.



- ☐ Describe the importance of stories in Laura's family. Tell your family a story and then invite other family members to tell stories.

