

BACKPACK THE PARKS

Expeditions in Education



Backpack the Parks!



At Expeditions in Education, we believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom walls. That's why we're thrilled to introduce our "Backpack the Parks" initiative, designed to ignite students' curiosity and love for the great outdoors while fostering a deeper understanding of our national parks. With "Backpack the Parks," educators have the unique opportunity to curate and pack 8 engaging activities into backpacks, making it easier than ever for students to check out and explore the wonders of our national parks.

From hands-on science experiments to wildlife scavenger hunts to historically accurate simulations, each activity is carefully crafted to immerse students in the beauty, history, and natural wonders of these treasured landscapes. Join us in empowering the next generation of park enthusiasts and conservationists as they embark on unforgettable learning adventures in our nation's most cherished natural spaces. With "Backpack the Parks," the journey to discovery begins with the turn of a backpack strap, and the possibilities for educational exploration are endless.

Backpack the Parks!



Instruction

Step 1: Ask for Donations of Backpacks and Clean Them Up

- Reach out to parents, local businesses, or the school community to request donations of gently used backpacks.
- Inspect the donated backpacks for any damage or excessive wear.

Step 2: Print the Activity Cards and Laminate

- Prepare activity cards that detail each of the educational activities you plan to include in the backpacks.
- Print these activity cards on durable cardstock paper.
- Laminate the activity cards to protect them from wear and tear during use.

Step 3: Put Cards on Rings

- Hole punch each laminated activity card.
- Use rings or zip ties to secure the cards together, creating a set of instructions for each activity.

Step 4: Purchase or Collect the Materials Needed for the Activities

- Create a list of materials required for each activity, as outlined in your activity plan.
- Gather all the necessary materials for each activity. This may include items such as magnifying glasses, sketchbooks, rocks, clay, flashlights, and more.

Step 5: Put Materials in Ziplock Bags

- Organize the materials for each activity into separate ziplock bags.
- Ensure that each bag contains all the necessary materials, making it easy for students to access and use them.

Step 6: Attach the National Park Tag to the Outside of the Bag

- Create or print a National Park-themed tag that identifies the backpack as part of the Backpack the Park program.
- Attach this tag securely to the outside of the ziplock bag or backpack.

Activity 1: Explore Historical Artifacts

- **Materials:**

- PHOTOS of historical artifacts related to Lincoln's boyhood
- Notebooks and pen

- **Instructions:**

- Examine replicas of historical artifacts linked to Abraham Lincoln's boyhood, such as tools, household items, or clothing.
- Take detailed notes in your notebook about the appearance, materials, and potential uses of each artifact.
- Share your observations and discuss the historical significance of these artifacts with your classmates.

Activity 2: Create a Time Capsule

- **Materials:**

- Small box or container
- Items representing Abraham Lincoln's life and era (e.g., photos, letters, small objects)

- **Instructions:**

- Choose items that symbolize Abraham Lincoln's life, his time in Indiana, and his contributions.
- Place these items inside a small box or container to create a Lincoln-themed time capsule.
- Write a letter to future generations explaining the significance of the contents and why you chose them.
- Decide as a class where to store the time capsule, either within the classroom or in a designated area inspired by Lincoln's Boyhood Home.

Activity 3: Historical Role-Playing as Young Lincoln

- **Materials:**

- Costumes or props representing Abraham Lincoln's boyhood era (e.g., pioneer clothing)

- **Instructions:**

- Ask permission to redesign old clothes into clothing reminiscent of young Abraham Lincoln's time.
- Research Lincoln's early life and experiences in Indiana.
- Engage in role-play activities or discussions with classmates, portraying young Lincoln and sharing insights into his daily life.

Activity 4: Archaeological Dig at the Lincoln Farm

- **Materials:**

- Sand or soil
- Small "artifacts" related to Lincoln's era (e.g., toy replicas)
- Brushes and small shovels

- **Instructions:**

- Create a mock archaeological site resembling the Lincoln Farm using sand or soil.
- Bury small "artifacts" linked to Lincoln's time in the simulated site.
- Work in teams, equipped with brushes and small shovels, to carefully excavate the area.
- Document your findings, including the location and condition of each "artifact," and discuss the historical context of your discoveries.



Activity 5: Map Interpretation of Lincoln's Journeys

- **Materials:**

- Maps depicting Abraham Lincoln's early life and journeys
- Markers or colored pencils

LINCOLN BOYHOOD

- **Instructions:**

- Examine historical maps that illustrate Abraham Lincoln's early life and travels in Indiana.
- Analyze the maps, paying attention to symbols, landmarks, and geographical features.
- Create a modern interpretation of the same area on a blank map, adding key elements from the historical maps.
- Present your interpretations to the class, explaining the historical significance of the locations.

Activity 6: Write Letters to Abraham Lincoln

- **Materials:**

- Paper and pens

- **Instructions:**

- Imagine writing a letter to young Abraham Lincoln during his time in Indiana.
- Research Lincoln's early life and experiences to better understand his background.
- Write a letter to Abraham Lincoln, addressing him directly and expressing your thoughts or questions about his life and journey.

Activity 7: Create Historical Art Inspired by Lincoln's Boyhood

- **Materials:**

- Art supplies (paint, paper, brushes)

- **Instructions:**

- Explore Abraham Lincoln's early life and surroundings in Indiana.
- Create an artwork inspired by Lincoln's boyhood era, incorporating artistic techniques and styles reflective of that period.
- Present your historical art pieces to the class, sharing your creative process and the historical elements you incorporated.

Activity 8: Prepare Historical Recipes from Lincoln's Time

- **Materials:**

- Historical recipes from Lincoln's era
- Ingredients for preparing a historical dish

- **Instructions:**

- Select a historical recipe that Abraham Lincoln might have enjoyed during his time in Indiana.
- Collaboratively prepare and cook the chosen historical dish as a class, following the instructions from the provided recipe.
- Taste the prepared dish and discuss its flavors and cooking methods, drawing connections to Lincoln's era.

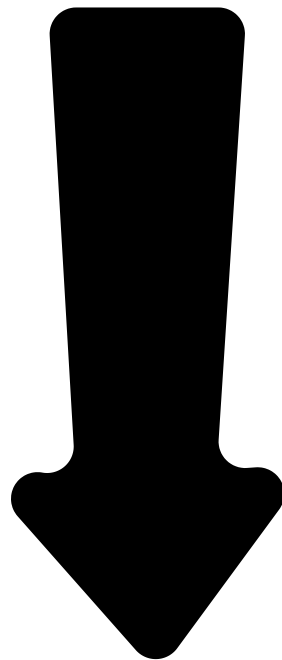
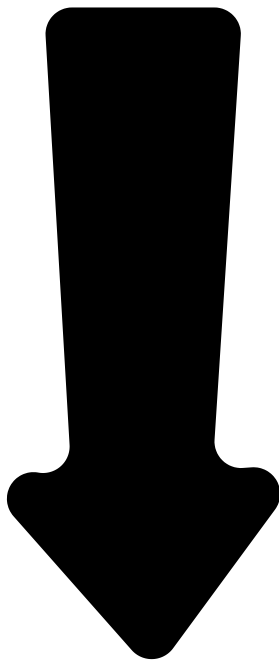


Activity Cards

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BAG TAG BELOW!



**Lincoln Boyhood
National Memorial
Backpack the Parks!**

#ExploreTheParksWithUs

**"Pack Your Curiosity,
Explore Nature's Beauty!"**

www.expeditionsineducation.org

Historical Artifacts from Lincoln's Time

1. Pocket Watch:

- A simple, yet prized possession, pocket watches were symbols of punctuality and were commonly carried by individuals like Abraham Lincoln.

2. Quill and Inkwell:

- Writing with quill pens dipped in inkwells was the standard method of recording information, emphasizing the importance of handwriting and patience.

3. Oil Lamp:

- Before electric lighting, oil lamps were used for illumination, casting a warm and soft glow in homes during evenings.

4. Cast Iron Stove:

- These stoves were revolutionary for cooking and heating, improving home comfort and efficiency.

5. Daguerreotype Photograph:

- Early photographs like daguerreotypes captured precious moments, offering a unique glimpse into the past.

6. Farm Tools:

- Tools like the scythe and pitchfork were essential for farming, a common occupation in Lincoln's era.

7. Horse-drawn Carriage:

- Horse-drawn carriages were the primary mode of transportation, with various styles reflecting social status.

8. Period Clothing:

- Clothing from the 19th century, such as bonnets, waistcoats, and hoop skirts, reflects the fashion of the time.

9. Wooden Toys:

- Handcrafted wooden toys, including dolls and spinning tops, provided entertainment for children in the absence of modern gadgets.

10. Slavery-era Artifacts: - Artifacts related to the period of slavery, such as slave tags and shackles, serve as powerful reminders of the social challenges Lincoln faced.

11. Farmhouse Furniture: - Wooden furniture, including rocking chairs, wooden chests, and simple tables, were common fixtures in homes.

12. Tinware: - Tin plates, cups, and utensils were durable and commonly used in households.

13. Buggy Whip: - Essential for controlling horses, buggy whips were common accessories for those who owned carriages.

14. Hand-cranked Sewing Machine: - The introduction of sewing machines revolutionized clothing production, making it more efficient.

15. Abolitionist Pamphlets: - Pamphlets and newspapers advocating for the abolition of slavery were influential in shaping public opinion during Lincoln's time.

16. Glass Medicine Bottles: - Glass bottles containing various medicines and remedies were used to treat illnesses and ailments.

Clothing During Lincoln's Time

Title: Clothing of Abraham Lincoln and His Family in the 1800s

Introduction: The clothing worn by Abraham Lincoln and his family during the 1800s reflected the fashion trends and practical considerations of the era. This one-pager explores the types of clothing commonly worn by the Lincolns, providing insight into their everyday attire.

Abraham Lincoln's Clothing: Abraham Lincoln, known for his modest and unpretentious style, typically wore the following types of clothing:

1. Everyday Attire:

- Lincoln's everyday clothing consisted of a long-sleeved shirt, often made of cotton or linen, paired with wool trousers.
- He frequently wore a waistcoat (vest) over his shirt, adding a layer of warmth and formality to his attire.
- Simple leather boots or shoes completed his daily look.

2. Formal Wear:

- For more formal occasions, Lincoln would wear a tailored suit consisting of a frock coat, dress trousers, and a waistcoat.
- His suits were often dark-colored and made of wool.
- A cravat or necktie would be worn with his formal attire.

3. Outerwear:

- In colder weather, Lincoln would don an overcoat, often made of heavy wool, to keep warm.
- A top hat was a common accessory, symbolizing formality and social standing.

Mary Todd Lincoln's Clothing: Mary Todd Lincoln, Abraham's wife, embraced the fashion of the mid-19th century with a more extensive wardrobe, including:

1. Dresses:

- Mary Todd Lincoln wore dresses characterized by full skirts, fitted bodices, and multiple layers of petticoats and hoops to create a bell-shaped silhouette.
- Fabrics ranged from silk and satin for formal occasions to more practical cotton for everyday wear.

2. Shawls and Outerwear:

- Shawls, capes, and mantles were essential for warmth and style.
- She often wore fashionable bonnets adorned with ribbons, lace, and feathers.

3. Gloves and Accessories:

- Gloves and hand fans were common accessories.
- Jewelry, including brooches and necklaces, added a touch of elegance to her ensembles.

Excavations at Lincoln Boyhood Home

1. **Nancy Hanks Lincoln Site Excavation (1933):** This was one of the earliest excavations conducted at the park. It aimed to locate the site of Nancy Hanks Lincoln's grave, Abraham Lincoln's mother. Although the exact location of her burial remains uncertain, the excavation revealed historical markers and provided valuable historical context.
2. **Foundation Remnants (1959):** Archaeologists uncovered the remnants of the foundation of Thomas Lincoln's cabin, providing evidence of the family's residence at the site. This discovery helped in reconstructing the cabin that visitors can see today.
3. **Artifact Discoveries:** Various excavations at the park have yielded numerous artifacts, including pottery fragments, nails, glass, and other items from the 19th century. These artifacts offer insights into the daily life of the Lincoln family.
4. **Lincoln Spring Site Investigation:** Archaeological work has been conducted around the site of Lincoln Spring, which was a vital source of water for the Lincoln family. Excavations aimed to locate the original springhouse and understand its historical significance.
5. **Boundary Surveys:** Periodic boundary surveys and archaeological investigations have been conducted to define the park's boundaries accurately and protect its historical integrity.
6. **Documenting Cultural Features:** Archaeological work has also focused on documenting and preserving cultural features within the park, such as trails, historical markers, and the foundation of the Lincoln cabin.

Recipes

1. Cornbread:

- A staple of the era, cornbread was a versatile and filling accompaniment to many meals. It was often made from cornmeal, buttermilk, and a touch of salt, baked to perfection in a cast-iron skillet.

2. Fried Chicken:

- Fried chicken was a favorite dish, with chicken pieces coated in flour or cornmeal and fried to a crispy golden brown. It was typically seasoned with salt, pepper, and herbs.

3. Sausage and Gravy:

- A comforting breakfast option, sausage and gravy featured homemade sausages and a creamy white gravy served over biscuits or cornbread.

4. Apple Pie:

- A classic American dessert, apple pie made use of seasonal apples, sugar, cinnamon, and a flaky pastry crust.

5. Roast Pork:

- Roast pork was a popular main course, with cuts of pork seasoned with herbs and roasted to perfection in a wood-burning oven or open hearth.

6. Fried Catfish:

- In regions with access to rivers and streams, fried catfish was a delectable dish. Catfish fillets were coated in cornmeal and fried until crispy.

7. Stewed Tomatoes:

- Stewed tomatoes were a common side dish, prepared by simmering fresh tomatoes with onions, butter, and seasonings.

8. Succotash:

- Succotash was a nutritious and economical dish made from lima beans, corn, and sometimes other vegetables, all simmered together.

9. Fried Green Tomatoes:

- Unripe green tomatoes were sliced, battered, and fried to create a crispy and tangy side dish.

10. Gingerbread: - Gingerbread was a beloved dessert, made from molasses, ginger, and spices. It was often baked as cookies or in a cake form.

11. Bean Soup: - A hearty and nourishing soup made from dried navy beans, ham hocks, and vegetables, often served with a piece of cornbread.

12. Boiled Cabbage: - Cabbage was a readily available vegetable, and it was often boiled and seasoned with butter, salt, and pepper.

13. Hoecakes: - Hoecakes were simple cornmeal pancakes that could be easily prepared over an open fire or on a griddle.

14. Hardtack: - Hardtack, also known as "pilot bread" or "ship's biscuit," was a durable and long-lasting cracker-like bread often used by soldiers during the Civil War. It was made from flour, water, and salt.