

HANDS-ON INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

Pre-Visit Activity #1 **Creating a Copybook**

Please note that this copybook is necessary for the students to prepare before their visit to Oak Hill School. It will be used as part of the living classroom experience.

For making one copybook:

Materials: Tan paper for copybook cover
*Sample copybook pages from Appendix, page 95-97
Paper hole punch
Yarn (12ö-18ö long)
Scissors or paper cutter

*Note: We suggest that a heavier quality copy paper be used for copybook pages, because the ink will soak through newsprint and thinner papers.

Directions: The teacher will instruct the students to:

- Cut two pieces of light brown paper 6ö x 9ö. These will be used for the front and back copybook covers. **** (Leave the front and back covers blank.)**
- Make a copy of each copybook page from the Appendix; then cut each page along the dotted line and place in order. (This will make six copybook pages.)
- Line up the short edges of all the copybook pages with the short edges of the front and back covers, placing copybook pages between the cover sheets.
- Make sure that page one of the copybook is the first page facing up just inside the front cover. Align the front cover over the first page and the rest of the copybook.
- Punch two holes approximately two inches apart on the left side of the front cover, passing through the covers and all the pages.
- Turn the copybook over, keeping the pages and covers aligned.
- Secure all the pages together by inserting the ends of the yarn through the holes on the back cover of the copybook.
- Turn the copybook right side up, pull the yarn through and tie a loose bow on the top cover.
- Write their first and last name on the back cover.
- Bring the copybook for class work during the visit to Oak Hill School.

** The front and back covers will be decorated as part of a drawing lesson during the school day at Oak Hill.

Pre-Visit Activity #2
The U.S. Flag (1891-1896)

This 44-star flag became the official flag on July 4, 1891, and was used for five years with both President Harrison and President Cleveland serving under its banner. The 44th star was placed on the flag for Wyoming, which became a state on July 10, 1890.

The Pledge of Allegiance was first said to this flag. Francis Bellamy wrote the pledge to honor the 400th anniversary of Columbus's voyage to America. The pledge first appeared in a magazine and was to be recited in celebration of Columbus Day.

Objective:

Students will be able to compare the 1892 U.S. flag with today's flag.

Students will be able to recite the states added to the Union since the 44-star flag.

**Tennessee Comprehensive
Curriculum Guide:
Fourth-grade Language Arts**

Writing:

Students will demonstrate the ability to use the writing skill.

- Write comparisons.

Materials: Paper
Pencil or pen
Encyclopedia or access to White House web site

Activities: The teacher will instruct the students to do the following. Some activities will require a little research.

1. Draw the American flag as it appears today.
2. List the Presidents who have served under our current 50-star flag.
3. List the states in order of their acceptance to the Union after 1891. (States 45-50)
4. Compare the first Pledge of Allegiance to the one said today.

Write a paragraph about which pledge you like better and why.

Pre-Visit Activity #3
Memorization and Penmanship

The following is a sample of memory work used in late nineteenth-century readers. Many of the early lessons taught manners as well as reading, **penmanship**, and memory work.

Objective:

Students will be able to write a manners statement that they have learned by rote (memorization), using the cursive form of writing taught in 1892.

Tennessee Comprehensive Curriculum
Guide:

Fourth-grade Language Arts
Mechanics:
The students will identify correct capitalization and punctuation.
- Write legibly in cursive style.

Materials: Manners statements below or list of **maxims** from Appendix.
Hand Chart of Spencerian Writing from Appendix.
Paper
Pens or pencils

Directions: The teacher will instruct the students to:

Choose one of the manners statements below and two maxims from the list in the Appendix.

Read and memorize the chosen statement/**maxims**.

Using the **penmanship** strokes of the Spencerian Writing Chart, practice writing the manners statement/**maxims**. Try to use your best handwriting. (Do not use copybooks for practice handwriting. The copybook will be used during your day at Oak Hill School.)

Manners Statements

Be kind and gentle to those who are old

For kindness is dearer and better than gold.

- New Education Reader Book 3,
American Book Company, NY

Show not yourself glad at the misfortune of another, though he were your enemy.

- George Washington
Appleton's Fifth Reader,
American Book Company, NY

Pre-Visit Activity #4 **Constructing a Lunch Pail**

Children at Oak Hill School brought lunch to school in tin pails with handles. These could have been syrup cans, coffee cans, lard cans, cans milled for that purpose or cans ordered from the country store. The following directions on making a lunch pail will help make the visit as authentic as possible. The pails should be made at least one week ahead of the trip and can be made at school or at home.

Objective:

Students will be able to make a lunch pail similar to pails used in 1892.

For Making One Lunch Pail:

Materials: 1 large empty coffee can; large shortening can; or large family-size, #10 can for vegetables, peanut butter, etc. (School cafeteria may have these large cans.)
One nail
Hammer
Water
A freezer
Twine, rope, or metal approximately 12-15 inches for the handle
Cloth cover (See Constructing a Nine-Patch Quilt Square, Pre-Visit Activity #7.)
Permanent pen or marker.

Directions: The teacher or parent will instruct the student to do the following:

1. Remove label from can.
2. Wash and clean can.
3. Fill the can with water and freeze. (This will ease the hole punching.)
4. With an adult's assistance, use the hammer and nail to punch holes on the two opposite sides of the can approximately two inches below the top rim.
5. Let the ice in the can melt.
6. Drain and dry the can.
7. Insert the material you choose for the handle (rope, twine or metal) through the holes that have been punched.
8. Tie each end of the rope or twine into a large knot on the outside of your pail, or bend and twist the metal to complete the handle.
9. Make a cloth covering for your lunch pail. (See Constructing a Nine-patch Quilt Square Pre-Visit Activity #7.)
10. Using the permanent marker or pen, write your name on the bottom of your pail.

(See Pre-Visit Activity #5 for lunch food information and Pre-Visit Activity #6 for putting together in 1892 school lunch.)

Pre-Visit Activity #5
1892 School Lunch Food

If your class is planning to have lunch during your visit to the schoolhouse, the lunch food brought by the children should be as authentic as possible. You might ask the school cafeteria or parents to provide these lunches. The following is a list of food items brought to school by Oak Hill students:

Cornbread with butter
Biscuits with butter or maybe a piece of country ham
Molasses, honey, applebutter or jelly to put on plain biscuits or cornbread
Baked sweet potato kept warm in the winter on top of the **pot-bellied stove**
Baked Irish potato kept warm on the **pot-bellied stove**
Homemade beef jerky (This can be made with a tabletop dehydrator. See recipe that follows this activity.)
Hard boiled eggs
Block of homemade cheese
Raw carrots grown at home
Apple or pear from trees at home

For their lunches, children at Oak Hill School usually brought milk which was kept cool in nearby Knob Creek. Water was gathered from a nearby spring and brought into the classroom in a large **galvanized bucket**. The children drank this water using a single, common dipper, or they used their own tin cup.

Children should bring their lunches in the lunch pails they have made. Clean tin cups will be provided for each child to drink water. Water will be provided from a pitcher. You may store a pitcher of milk in the refrigerator next door at the Heritage Alliance office or at the Visitors Center.

Activities: 1. To help the children plan their lunch, discuss with your class:

The list of foods that Oak Hill students took to school for their lunches in 1892.
The food city children would have as compared to farm children.
The fruits and vegetables readily available to rural farm children.
What the food was wrapped in.

Write the children's ideas on chart paper or on the chalkboard so they can be copied and sent home to help parents prepare their lunch.

2. Make homemade beef jerky using the recipe on the following page. Explain how in earlier days before dehydrators, the beef was dried in the sun.

BEEF JERKY

Most meats are suitable for making jerky. Leaner cuts such as round, flank, or rump are preferred over chuck and rib. Pork should be avoided, and chicken is best and safest when it is cooked first before dehydrating.

Have your butcher slice the meat to about 1/4ö thick. Cut the slices into 1ö wide strips around 6ö long. Be sure to cut across the grain. Excess fat and gristle should be removed. Meats are usually easier to slice if they are partially frozen.

There are many seasonings that may be used for marinating: onion powder, garlic powder, salt, pepper, Worcestershire sauce, Tabasco sauce, soy sauce, paprika, basil, ginger, marjoram, curry powder, rosemary, thyme, and oregano all work well. Use these according to your own persona taste. Salt should be used in moderation because dried meats are much more savory as they lose moisture. Of course, the longer the meats are marinated and the more seasonings that are used, the more flavorful the jerky will be. A little lemon juice will help maintain the red color of the meat. Vinegar cuts out some of the gamey taste of wild meats.

Before dehydrating, make sure to remove excess moisture from the marinated meat. This can be done by placing slices of meat on absorbent paper towels and patting dry. If using a dehydrator with stackable trays, place meat on each tray and place atop the heating element. Trays should be rotated during drying for the most effective, even dehydration. Drying time is approximately eight to ten hours. Before testing for desired dryness, take care that foods are cool.

Pre-Visit Activity #6
Making an 1892 School Lunch

Children in 1892 did not have fast foods, sandwich wrap (aluminum foil, plastic wrap, wax paper), or any of the convenience foods we are accustomed to today. The students of Oak Hill School brought food for lunch that was home grown and carried in lunch pails or baskets. They did not have the information we do today about balanced meals from the major food groups. Most children brought only what they had on hand at home, and sometimes it was just one biscuit. Something to drink, usually milk, was kept cool in nearby Knob Creek.

Objective:

Students will be able to make a lunch similar to lunches by Oak Hill students in 1892.

Activity: From the 1892 lunch food list (see Pre-Visit Activity #5), separate the foods into the four major food groups below. (Do not use the fats, oils, and sweets groups):

Bread, cereal, rice, and pasta
Fruits and vegetables
Milk, cheese, and yogurt
Meat, fish, **poultry**, dry beans, eggs, and nuts

Materials: Lunch pail (see Pre-Visit Activity #4)
Lunch pail cover (see Pre-Visit Activity #7)
Cloth napkins to wrap the food items or a piece of cloth 12 inches square
List of food items (See Pre-Visit Activity #5)

Directions: Choose at least one food item from each major food group on the list of 1892 lunch foods.
Wrap selected items with the cloth napkin or 12x12 square cloth.
Place items in lunch pail.
Cover lunch with your quilt square or any other piece of cloth.
Bring lunch on the day of your visit to Oak Hill School.

