



# Activity 18

## Let's Be Pioneers



**Activity:**

Students plan and perform pantomime skits to illustrate mastery of vocabulary and content

**Curriculum Fit:**

**Grade 2 - Social Studies**

**Unit 2.2: A Community in the Past**

**Outcomes: 2.2.3** Appreciate how connections to a community contribute to one's identity

**2.2.6** Analyze how the community being studied emerged, by exploring and reflecting upon the question: What individuals or groups contributed to the development of their community?

**2.2.7** Examine how the community being studied has changed, by exploring and reflecting upon the question: In what ways has our community changed over time

**Grade 2 - English Language Arts**

**Outcomes: 2.2** Discuss, represent or write about interesting or important aspects of oral, print or other media texts

**3.4** Share, with familiar audiences, ideas and information on topics

**4.3** Use effective oral and visual communication



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**Grade 4 - Social Studies: Alberta**

**Topic B: Alberta: Its People in History**

**Major Generalization 1:** Sub-Generalization - Albertans have been affected and challenged by historical events.

**Outcomes:** Process Skills: Gather information by identifying time and place relationships

**Outcomes:** Communication skills: Orally present information on a period of Alberta's history, based on prepared notes and supported by pictorial materials giving consideration to the audience, use of social studies terms, content and organization

**Outcomes:** Communication skills: Role play a historical event or show Albertan's adjustment to a changing lifestyle

**Grade 4 - English Language Arts**

**Outcomes: 3.4** Communicate ideas and information in a variety of oral, print and other media texts, such as short reports, talks, and posters

**4.3** Present to peers ideas and information on a topic of interest in a well-organized form

**4.3** Add interest to presentations through the use of props, such as pictures, overheads and artifacts

**Agriculture Concepts:**

Technology and capital intensity

**Cognitive Level:**

Application, Synthesis

**Materials Required:**

Action cards provided.

**Time Required:**

One class period.

## **Background -- For the Teacher**

In this activity students focus on the community aspect of the lifestyles of the early settlers. Some things the settlers did co-operatively, such as barn-raising; other tasks they did independently, such as planting crops. Discuss the reasons behind both the self-reliant behaviour and the co-operative behaviour. The students will plan and perform pantomime skits using action cards depicting either an independent or a co-operative activity. The skits not only reinforce learning in the social studies area, but also allow for practice in language arts skills.

### **Procedure**

#### **Preparation**

1. Separate and mount action cards on stiff backing, or laminate cards.

#### **Procedure**

2. Separate class into groups of 3 or 4 students.
3. Have one person in each group pick an action card from the pile of cards which are face down on the table.
4. Give students 5 minutes to prepare pantomime role play.
5. Have audience guess the action.
6. Continue with other groups until everyone has had a chance to present or until class time is up.

#### **Conclusion**

7. Have students write a short story "A day in the Life of a Pioneer" in which they incorporate some of the action words read on the cards.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What do you like about being a pioneer?
2. What would you miss if you were a pioneer instead of a student today?
3. Would being a pioneer be easier or harder than being a student today? Why?

## **Related Activities**

1. Divide class into larger groups of 6 - 8. Have each group write a skit about an aspect of rural life that they found especially interesting. These skits may be presented to the class or to the school at an assembly.

# Sheet One

## STUDENT RESOURCE



# Pioneer Action Cards

<p><i>CLEARING LAND FOR FARMING</i></p>	<p><i>PLANTING CORN</i></p>	<p><i>HARVESTING WHEAT</i></p>
<p><i>SHEARING SHEEP</i></p>	<p><i>PICKING WILD BERRIES</i></p>	<p><i>BARN RAISING</i></p>
<p><i>FEEDING THE CHICKENS</i></p>	<p><i>WEAVING CLOTH</i></p>	<p><i>CHOPPING WOOD</i></p>



Sheet Two

Pioneer Action Cards

***MAKING  
BUTTER***

***GATHERING  
EGGS***

***PLOUGHING  
THE FIELDS***

***GRINDING  
FLOUR***

***BUILDING A  
LOG CABIN***

***BAKING  
BREAD***

***QUILTING  
BEE***

***HUNTING  
DEER***

***MILKING  
THE COW***