

Westward Expansion

Fun Projects for U.S. History

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Westward Expansion

Welcome to an extensive collection of hands-on activities that focus on America's westward expansion. This book also comes with a CD-ROM featuring full-color presentations of each activity.

WESTWARD EXPANSION

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WESTWARD EXPANSION

GENERAL OVERVIEW

This collection of enrichment activities was designed to complement existing curricula and expand one's understanding of what it was like to live during the past. Studies have confirmed that using one's hands helps students retain information. If you are looking for creative and simple—yet stimulating and exciting—projects to spark learning, take the next step toward a highly engaging encounter.

Regardless of a student's age, learning by doing will help maintain their interest, improve retention of information, and foster a desire to learn now and in the future.

As an educator with 18-plus years of teaching and product development experience, it is my personal goal to encourage young people to be creative. Each of the activities included in this collection is based on actual artifacts and is representative of the era. A conscious effort was made to develop projects constructed from readily available materials that result in a stunning end product.

It is my heartfelt desire that both teacher and student will find the activities in this book a wonderful journey of creativity.

Jean Henrich



Miniature Canoe



“Carrot” of Tobacco



WESTWARD EXPANSION

Make a Miniature Canoe

Canoes were the primary means of transportation for *voyageurs*, the tough-minded adventurers who set out to tame the wilds of the northern U.S. and Canada in the 17th and 18th centuries. Made of birchbark, the canoe allowed for travel along rivers and lakes, yet was light enough to be carried across land when necessary.



In this activity, you will make a miniature paper canoe and re-create a “carrot” of tobacco—one of the items used for trade and for payment by *voyageurs*.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Photocopier (color preferred)
- Scissors
- Gluestick
- **Hot glue gun and glue (ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED)**
- Brown or black magic marker
- Cardstock-weight paper
- Cardboard
- Linen, muslin
- 1–3 pounds of newspaper
- Brown paper bags
- Source for water
- Thick cording such as clothesline
- Rubber bands

WESTWARD EXPANSION

1. MAKE THE CANOE PIECES

- Make a photocopy (preferably color) onto cardstock-weight paper of the canoe patterns on page 8 and the “bark” paper on page 9. If you don’t have a color printer, color the images with magic markers or watercolor paints. Only add small amounts of color each time so the images on the bark can still be seen.



- Cut out each of the pattern pieces.
- Use a glue stick to attach each of the canoe sides to the back of the sheet of bark paper. Cut out each of the sides of the canoe.

- Use a glue stick to attach the bottom of the canoe to a piece of cardboard. Cut out the bottom.

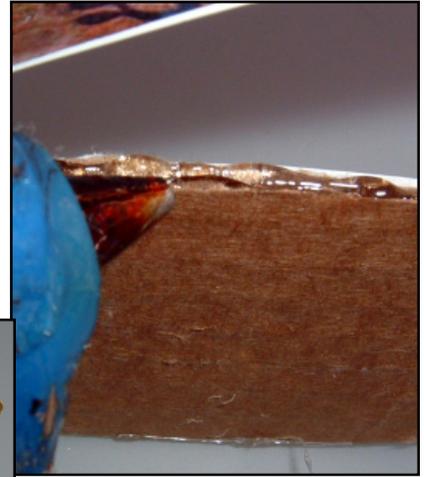


- Turn both ends of the bottom of the canoe slightly upward.

WESTWARD EXPANSION

2. ASSEMBLE THE CANOE

• **WITH ADULT SUPERVISION**, make a line of glue along one edge of the bottom of the canoe. You will have to work quickly and carefully to attach the bottom edge of one of the sides of the canoe to the line of glue. You want to wrap the side of the canoe around the outside of the bottom.



HELPFUL HINT: Before you glue any of the pieces in place, line them all up to make sure you know where to glue them. Once you place them onto the hot glue, it will be difficult to remove any of the pieces.

• Cut strips of the bark paper into $\frac{1}{4}$ " lengths.



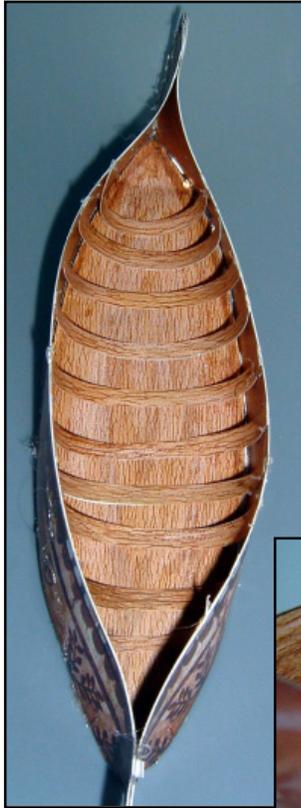
• **WITH ADULT SUPERVISION**, glue one end of the strip to the center inside of the canoe. Curve the strip inside the canoe as illustrated.

• **WITH ADULT SUPERVISION**, attach the other end of the strip to the inside of the canoe.

• Trim off the excess strip of bark paper.

WESTWARD EXPANSION

2. ASSEMBLE THE CANOE (continued)



- Continue adding strips along the inside of the canoe as illustrated. Each strip should be spaced out approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " inch from the other strips.



- Carefully go over any white edges with a brown or black magic marker.

- Fold over each of the glue tabs on the center and top and bottom bars.
- Before gluing, place the seats where you think they will fit best. Make any necessary adjustments.

