

“Historic” Journal Activity

Essential Question:

How does the study of the 1800's help students understand how life was back then?

Objective: Students are able to explore life in an 1800's homestead. They will write narratives to explain their understanding of life at an 1800's homestead.

Background:

Before making journals talk about the importance of journals to preserving history. Much of what we know about life in the 1800's comes from stories and from these primary documents.

Visit the Carroll Homestead in Acadia National Park*, and learn about the land, how the Carroll's built houses, their farms and how they lived off the land and sea as well as the dangers they faced.

*If you cannot get to ANP you can set up a lesson outside and teach about how people lived in the 1800's. Take a walk back in time!

Materials:

Material to make Journal:

Paper Bags (one per two students)
White paper or lined
String
Scissors
Sharpie or Marker
Hole punch
Pencil

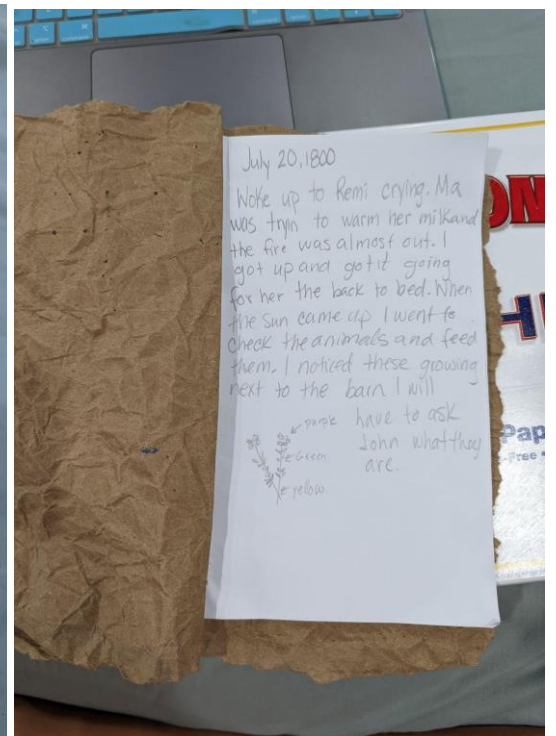
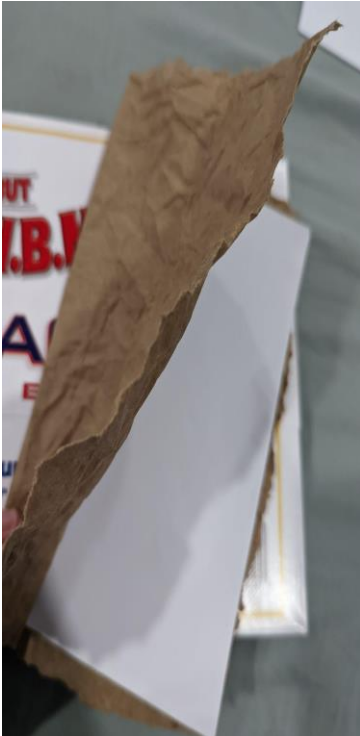
Activity one: Crumpled Paper bags to use for the journal cover. Rip the edges to make them look older. I used a half sheet of paper inside the covers. You could easily make them full-sized if you would like. Hole punch paper to fit in cover and tie together.

Write on the front of your journal, don't forget your name. A picture is attached for reference.



Activity two: When the journals are complete, have each student write a first-person narrative. Students will pretend they are a Carroll and tell us what a day may be like in the 1800's from sun-up to sun-down. Students can draw pictures, sketch, etc. Anything you may do in your own journal can go in these journals from the 1800's. Have fun!

You can do this writing outside anywhere! In Acadia, a great location is the Carroll Homestead. Students will take 5-10 min to write in their journals.



July 20, 1800
Woke up to Remi crying. Ma
was tryn to warm her milk and
the fire was almost out. I
got up and got it going
for her the back to bed. When
the sun came up I went to
check the animals and feed
them. I noticed these growing
next to the barn I will
have to ask
John what they
are.

← pink
← green
← yellow