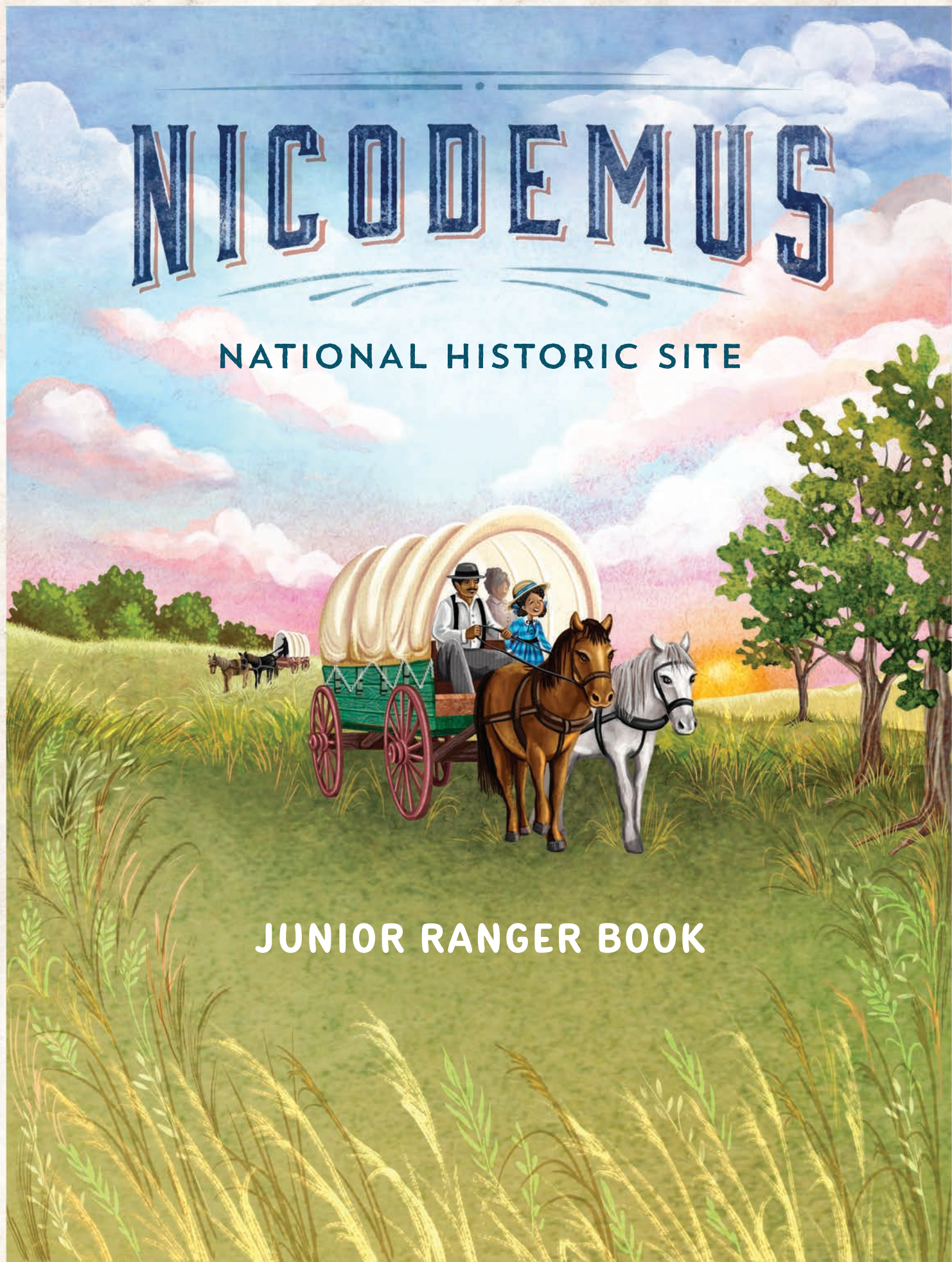


NICODDEMUS

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

JUNIOR RANGER BOOK





Hello friends! My name is Ola

I AM 14 YEARS OLD AND I'M EXCITED TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE JOURNEY MY FAMILY TOOK TO GET TO OUR NEW HOME OF NICODEMUS, KANSAS.



MA AND PA WANTED THEIR OWN LAND TO FARM.



THEY KNEW THAT OPPORTUNITY WOULD NEVER HAPPEN IN KENTUCKY.

ONE NIGHT AT A CHURCH MEETING...



REV. ROUNDTREE AND A WHITE MAN NAMED W.R. HILL CAME AND SPOKE TO THE CHURCH MEMBERS.



EVERYONE WAS EXCITED AND SCARED FOR THIS NEW ADVENTURE.

IS IT TRUE?

HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

WILL WE BE SAFE OUT THERE?



MY MA AND PA DECIDED THAT WE WERE GOING!



THEY TOLD US TO BE READY!

WELCOME TO NICODEMUS

LET'S GO! As a Junior Ranger, it's your duty to discover why this little Kansas town is so important to all Americans. Through some activities, you will learn the history of Nicodemus.



INSTRUCTIONS

Complete at least 4 activities for your age group and bring your booklet to a ranger when you're done.

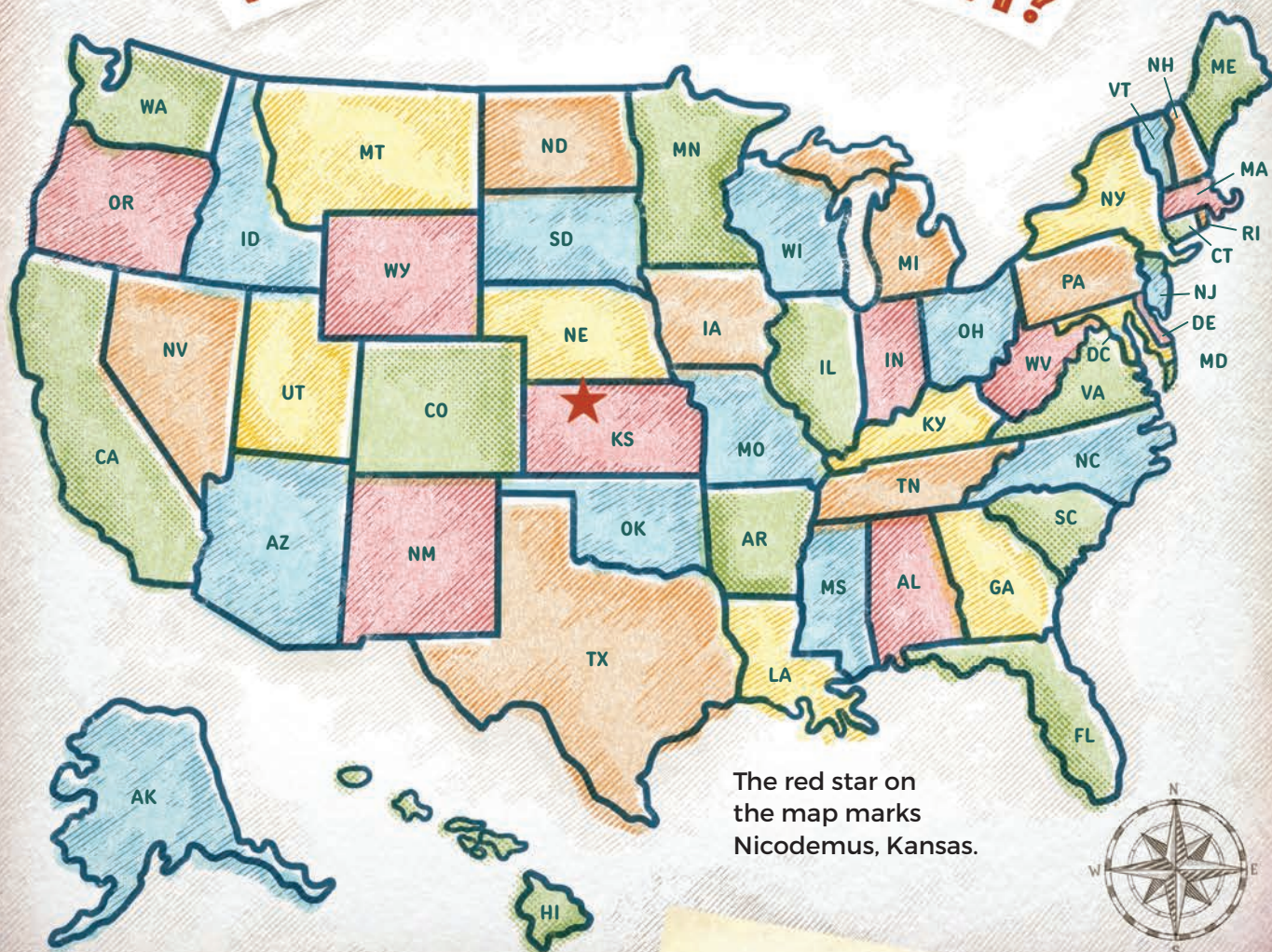


Activities for ages 9 and younger
are marked by Tractor



Activities for ages 10 and
older are marked by Wagon

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?



The red star on the map marks Nicodemus, Kansas.

Where do you live?

Mark it on the map.



Draw a line between your home and Nicodemus. List the states you go through.

For thousands of years, many different people have called Kansas home. Nicodemus National Historic Site is on the traditional homelands of many Indigenous people, including:

BAXOJE (IOWA) • CAUIGU/KA'IGWU (KIOWA) • HINONO'EI
(ARAPAHO) • KANSA (KAW) • KIIKAAPOA/KIIKAPOI (KICKAPOO) •
KIRIKIRISH, WACO, TAOVAYA, TAWAKONI AND KICHAI (WICHITA AND
AFFILIATED TRIBES) • NE MA HA HA KI (SAC & FOX NATION OF
MISSOURI) • NŪMŪNŪ (COMANCHE) • PÂRI (PAWNEE) •
MSHKOTĒNI BOTWEWATMI (PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI) •
TSISTSISTAS (CHEYENNE) • WAHZHAZHE (OSAGE)

These Indigenous cultures are represented today by over 12 Federally Recognized Indian Tribes.

1 After which Tribe is the state of Kansas named? (Hint: It's one of the Tribes associated with Nicodemus!)

2 Do you live in a town/county/state that is named after a Tribe?

What is their name?

3 Do you know what Tribes lived or live where you live today? Who are they?

WHAT WOULD YOU PUT IN YOUR WAGON?



Circle any items you would take with you on the journey.





PRAIRIE HOME BUILDING

When we first got here we had to build our own home. You should try it out! Try using the things you see in the picture to help you get ideas. You could dig into the hill or in the limestone rock.

Use your critical thinking skills to draw a house that could be made using the tools you brought and the resources in the picture below.



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO WITH YOUR LAND?

Now that you have your own land, what do you want to do with it?

Many people farmed, ranched, or started a business on their land.

Find a ranger and ask them about homesteading.



Draw or write down what you would like to do with your land.

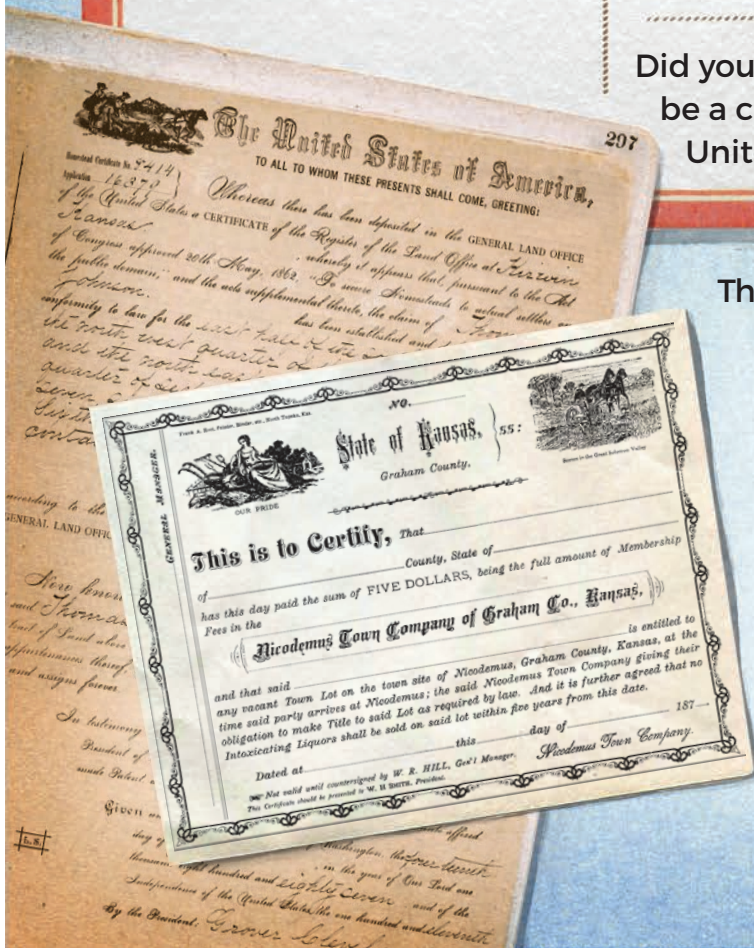
Who lived on the land before the mass migration heading west?

How old did you have to be to make a claim?

Could women make a claim?

Did you have to be a citizen of the United States?

What did you have to do to earn the deed to the land?



This is what Ma and Pa had to do to claim their land:

- Live on the land
- Farm the land
- Build a home
- Pay a filing fee. It was the only money required.
- Make improvements

Anyone over 21 or the head of a household could apply for free federal land, as long as they:

- Were a citizen of the United States or declared their intent to become one.
- Did not fight against or help enemies of the United States.



The illustration consists of two parts. The top part shows a close-up of a cow's head, facing forward, with large, dark, expressive eyes and a white blaze on its face. The bottom part shows a full-body profile of a cow standing, facing right. It has a brown and white speckled pattern and a small bell around its neck.

BULL	\$90
HEIFER	\$18.75
COW	\$26
CALF	\$2.50



WORK HORSE \$150
HORSE & ^{-GOOD-}SADDLE \$200



COOK
STOVE



FURNACE CO



BUGGY \$75

WAGON



\$65

GENERAL STORE RECEIPT

ITEM DESCRIPTION

PRICE

TOTAL:

Add up your list!

SADDLE

\$1.00

RIFLE \$8

Beef \$8
PER BARREL

PORK
\$9 PER BARREL

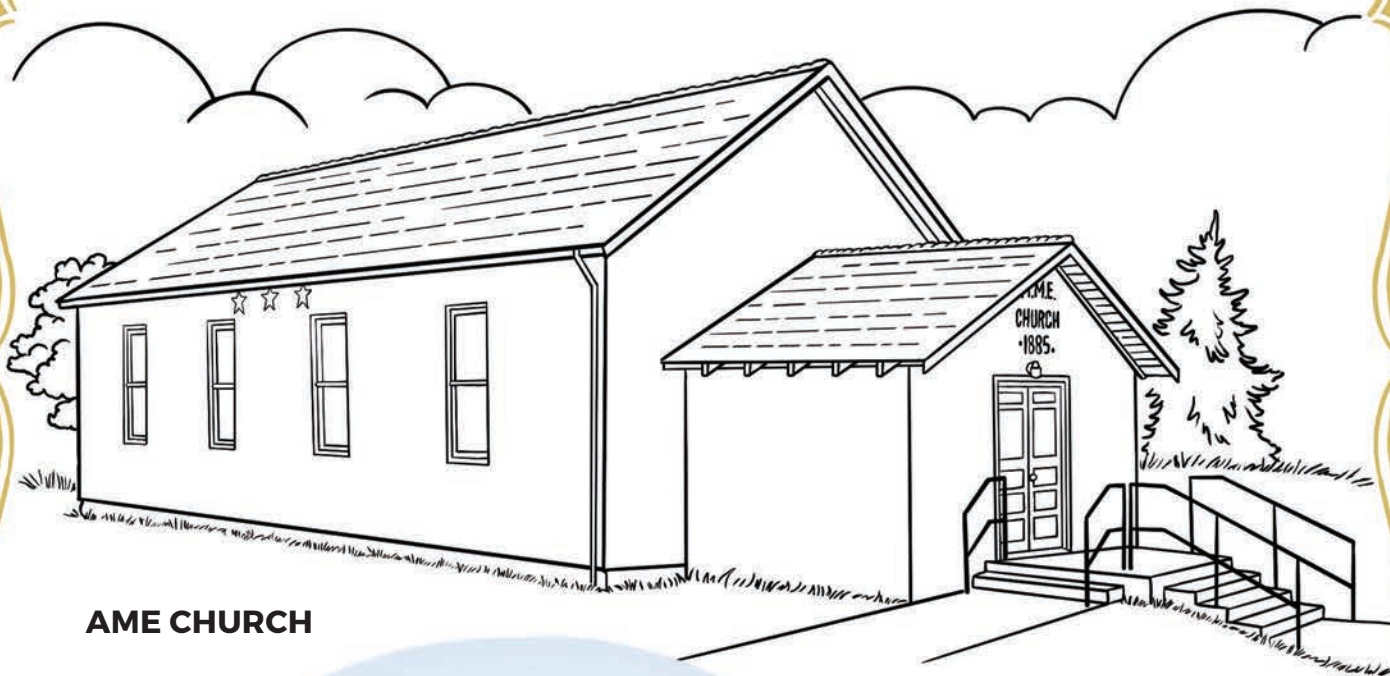
RED PATENT
WOLFF
5 Lbs. Net Wt. BLEACH

WHEAT \$1.02
PER BUSHEL

FLOUR
4¢ 1B

\$80 PER YEAR

COAL



AME CHURCH

"Because Nicodemus residents really valued faith and education, the AME Church and District #1 Schoolhouse were two very important buildings in town. Bring them to life with your coloring skills!"

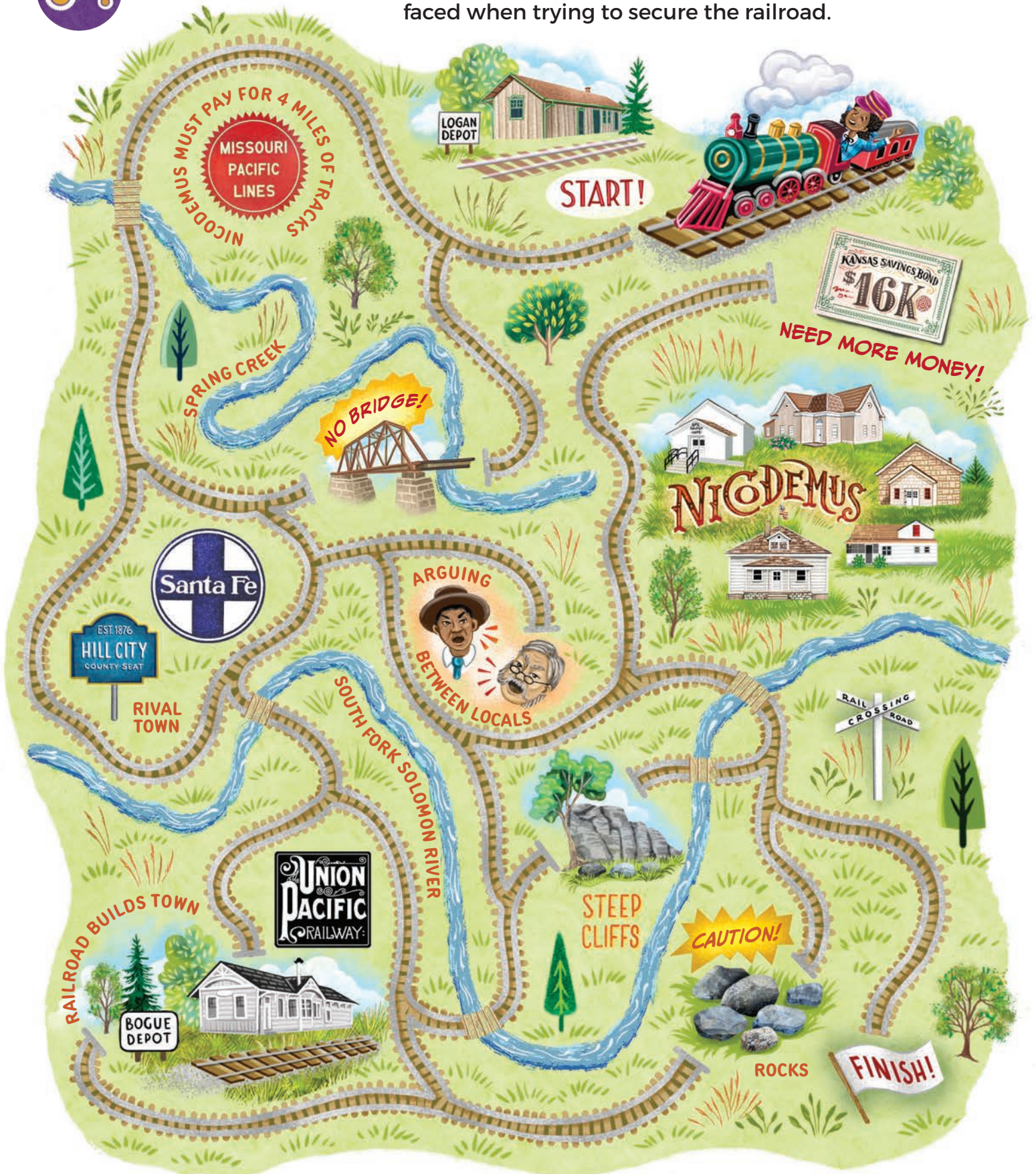


DISTRICT #1 SCHOOLHOUSE

RAILROAD MAZE



In the late 1880s, the people of Nicodemus tried to convince a railroad to come to town but failed. Start at the beginning of the maze and work your way through some of the obstacles the people of Nicodemus faced when trying to secure the railroad.



FIND THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN TOWN!

Find the different buildings in town and make observations based on what you see!



DISTRICT #1 SCHOOL (1918)

How big is your school compared to this one?

This church is on the same spot as the two churches built before it. How do you think they accomplished that?



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (1907)



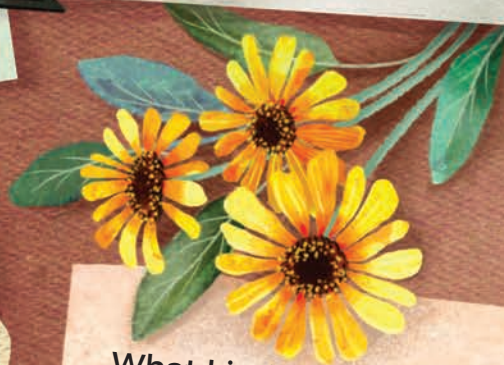
ST. FRANCIS HOTEL (1881)

If you could open a business on the Plains, what would it be?

Does this building remind
you of any places of worship
in your town? How is it different?



**AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH (1885)**



TOWNSHIP HALL (1939)

What kinds of activities do you
think they did in this building?



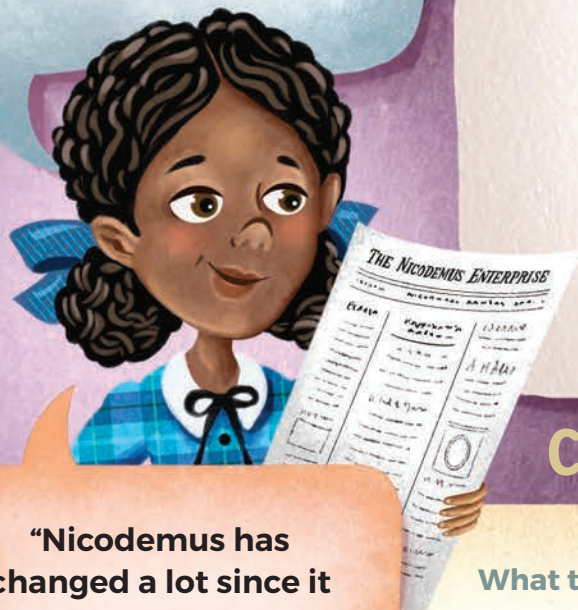
DOES THE TOWN STILL LOOK LIKE IT DID IN THE 1880S?



"In the 1880s, Nicodemus was a bustling community! Dozens of homesteads were spread out in the countryside, and farmers could buy almost everything they needed in the growing town. We had all kinds of businesses like hotels, general stores, a blacksmith, livery stables, newspapers, and even a dress shop!"



While you're exploring Nicodemus, imagine how it would have looked back then and draw the scene in the space below.



COMPARE AND CONTRAST

"Nicodemus has changed a lot since it was founded. As you're exploring Nicodemus, look around and find a place to focus on."

What three things stand out to you about this place?

- 1
- 2
- 3

How might they have looked in the 1880s?





Dear _____,
(Name)

We had a few _____ years so far living in Nicodemus. In the
(Adjective)

wintertime, it was _____, and the wind was howling. Luckily
(Adjective)

some Native Americans stopped by and gave us some _____ to
(type of food)

help us get through the first winter. They told us their people have been
_____ through this area for _____! Can you imagine? It's
(Verb ending in -ing) (Length of time)

been _____ work out here on the prairie, but it's so _____
(Adjective) (Adjective)

to finally be free. This _____ we are going to have a big party in
(Month)

town. It's called the Emancipation Celebration. We are going to have
_____ games and as much _____ as you can imagine!
(Noun) (Noun)

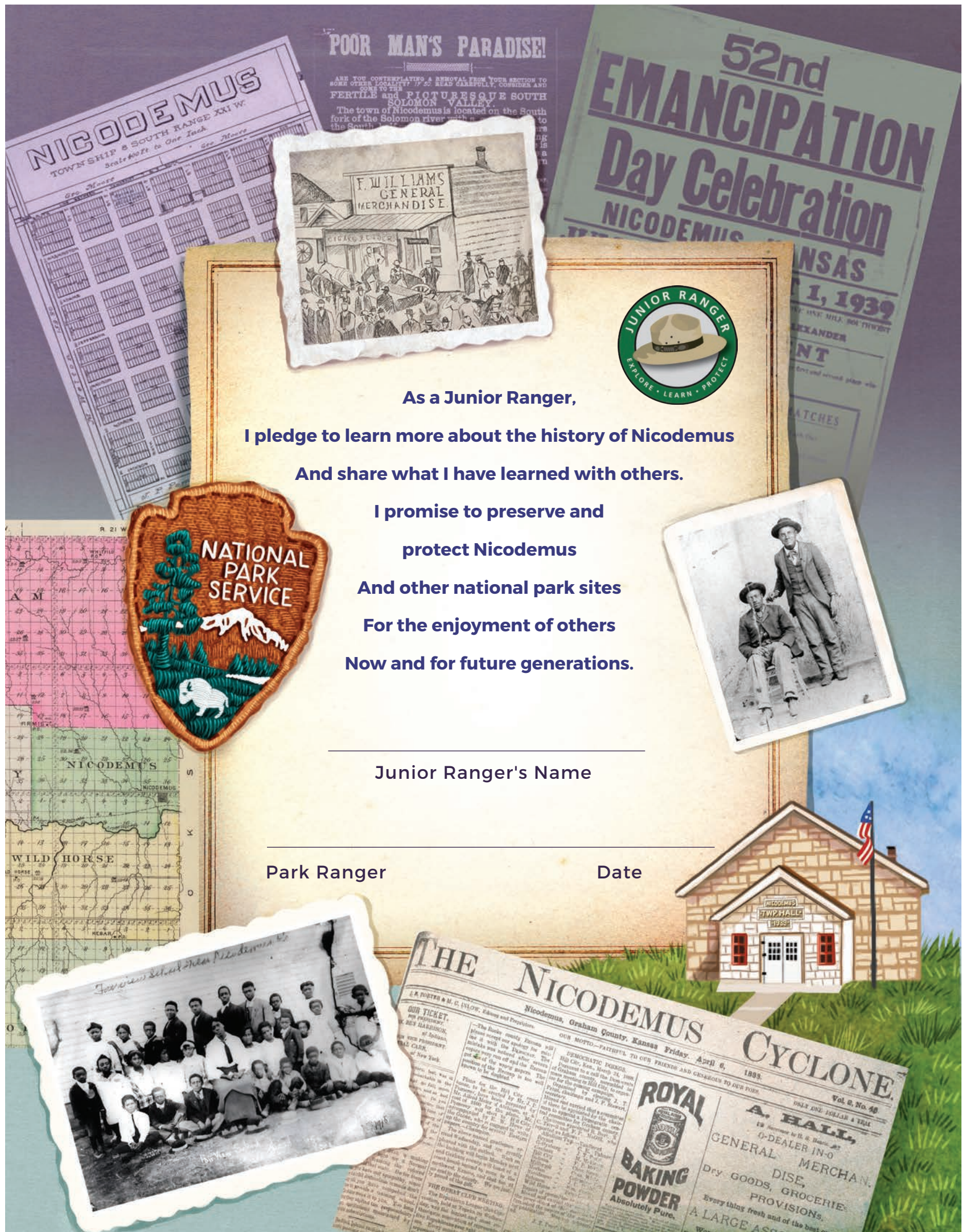
I heard we're even going to have a parade. Surely this will be so much
fun that we do it every year.

Sincerely,

(signature)

We are just about to
have our Emancipation
Celebration! Help me
write this letter to
my friend.





As a Junior Ranger,
I pledge to learn more about the history of Nicodemus
And share what I have learned with others.
I promise to preserve and
protect Nicodemus
And other national park sites
For the enjoyment of others
Now and for future generations.

Junior Ranger's Name _____

Park Ranger _____

Date _____

