

Grey Roots @ home

Do you think you have what it took to settle in 1850s Grey County?

Settlers had to move away from everything they knew, to a brand new country and start their lives over. In what was to become Grey County, to get 50 acres of land settlers had to:

- + clear one-third of that land in a five-year time span
- + build a permanent home
- + build a portion of road as laid out by surveyors.

Doing something like that with the technology and resources available at the time was a challenge. So. Do you have what it takes to be a settler?

This is a package with activities for intrepid time explorers to look at issues faced by new settlers. The activities are based on the grade three Ontario Curriculum but can be adapted for any age or grade level.

Books for Children

Bean, Jonathan. *Building Our House*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 2013.

Ellis, Carson. *Home*. Candlewick. 2015.

Laroche, Giles. *If You Lived Here: Houses of the World*. HMH Books for Young Readers. 2011.

Activity: Measure Twice, Cut once

Background Information for Teachers & Parents

Using math, students will lay out the perimeter of the settler (1853) Log Cabin in Moreston Heritage Village at Grey Roots. Students can interact with the space and use the experience to compare this settler space with their own homes.

Log cabin living during settlement may feel very different to students today. Challenge them to think about how much space they need to live/enjoy their life in versus how much space they have at home.

The activity can also be done in the reverse, starting with actual measurements of a modern home and then looking at the log cabin measurements. Use whatever flow works best for you.

What you need:

- ★ Space Outside + chalk/cones OR space Inside + painters' tape
- ★ Measuring Tape or metre stick
- ★ "Perimeter of Polygons at Home" PDF
- ★ "Perimeter of Log Cabin Polygons" PDF



Activity

How much indoor space did a settler family have? Would you and your family fit comfortably into that space today? Compare what settlers may have lived in and what you live in now.

Using the perimeter measurements in the “Perimeter of Log Cabin Polygons” worksheet, metre stick(s) and a large indoor or outdoor space, mark out the perimeter of the Log Cabin. Compare the space to current social distancing guidelines. How many students could fit?

Students can go home and get their own perimeter measurements of furniture or rooms in their home or comparable spaces (bed, kitchen table). Students can record their measurements on the “Perimeter of Polygons at Home” worksheet. With their numbers (or generic measurements of things from the classroom, like a desk) have students start working on the Perimeter of Log Cabin Polygons worksheet.

When completed, engage students in discussion about the space and the implications. No pantry or fridge. Where was food stored? How much space does your food take up at home? How many beds? Sharing was sometimes a requirement, not an option.

More Resources

★ Book a synchronous experience in the log cabin. Using Teams or Zoom students can tour the log cabin and get more in-depth detail about the space. Contact programs@greyroots.com.

★ Ledyard, Stephanie. *Home Is a Window*. Neal Porter Books. 2019.

Modern comparison to what settlers would have done as they settled in Grey County.

★ Kelkar, Supriya. *The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh*. Sterling Children's Books, 2019.

A modern picture book looking at some of the struggles children can face when they move.

★ Coy, John. *Their Great Gift: Courage, Sacrifice, and Hope in a New Land*. Carolrhoda Books, 2016. An American look at immigrants in the twenty-first century that focuses on children.

Activity Centre

Build a scale replica of the log cabin or their home using blocks, paper, etc.

Assessment Suggestions

Assess student worksheets, ability to draw comparisons and conclusions. If students are working off-site, photograph their scale layout.

Assess student participation in discussions or other responses.

Curriculum

Grade 3, Social Studies A1.2 compare some of the roles of and challenges facing people in Canada around the beginning of the nineteenth century with those in the present day

Grade 3, Social Studies A2.5 evaluate evidence and draw conclusions about some of the major challenges facing different groups and communities in Canada during this period, and measures taken to overcome these challenges

Grade 3, Social Studies A3.6 describe some key aspects of life in selected First Nations, Métis, and settler communities in Canada during this period, including the roles of men, women, and children

Grade 3, Mathematics E1.2, E2.1, E2.2

