

Teacher Resource Guide for *Building the Bridge School*

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Lexile measurement of 3-4th grade.

Mean sentence length: 11.09

Mean Log Word Frequency: 3.52

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INTRODUCTION:

Dear Parent or Educator,

Building the Bridge School resource guide will enhance your curriculum whether you are instructing one student in your own homeschool setting or teaching in a classroom. The variety of activities will add to or supplement any subject area with a special focus on Michigan history during the early to mid-1800's. These activities are geared for 2nd grade through 4th grade. As an educator and parent, I hope you can appreciate a book that engages young children as well as the older student using the additional informational material and activities provided in this guide.

Happy discoveries,

Laura A. Stewart

Author, educator and more importantly, wife, mom, and grandmother

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Activities for grade levels 2nd-4th

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4. Michigan History, Technology and Geography Activities
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6. Field Trip Opportunities interwoven throughout the guide
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8. Evaluation Activities

Summary:

Building the Bridge School: A Story about Michigan's First Public School is a historical fiction with informational side bars that share the story of how the first public school came to be through the eyes of one of the descendants that founded and possibly helped to build the school. The storyline is loosely based on true events.

Supplemental Activities for Language Arts:

Activity # 1 Together as a class

1. White Board Story Bullet Points-
 - I. Who, what, where?
 - A. Prominent Character Description
 - B. Important Places
 - C. Important Events in chronological order
 - D. Foundational Ideas
 - II. Comprehension
 - A. Students first narrate the story in their own words verbally
 - B. Write or dictate the story
 - C. Draw or act out the storyline
 - D. Play the "Who said that?" Quiz. For example, "Will we ever get to fish?"

Language Arts

Activity # 2 Individual Student Project

2. Living History Project- Student develops a set of questions and then interviews his/her oldest living relative. Record and then written into in interviewer and interviewee format to present to the class. Include photos, music from the interviewee's generation, and any other pertinent information or visuals.

Activity # 3 Language activities that correspond with the pages in the book

3. Illustration on Pages 6-7

Research the negative effects of smoking, vaping, or drug use. Make an advertisement educating your family, classmates, or school.

4. Word Search

Activities for Math

Activity # 1

1. Illustrations on Pages 8-9

Create patterns to make dolls or doll clothes for both girls and boys.

2. Illustrations on Pages 4-5

Make different bread recipes and homemade butter with dried herbs. Write and reproduce the recipe to share.

3. Field trip to see maple tree syrup tapping (Anderson Trading Post located on Raisinville and N. Custer Rd., occurs after the 1st warm day of winter. Check with Monroe County Museum for more information)

Make hotcakes in an iron skillet and measure out some syrup.

4. Illustrations on Pages 26-27

Clay and mud were used to layer in between the logs. Pitch may have been used to seal any cracks.

Math and Science:

How to make pitch- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-5E_aGFmW0

Write out a recipe with measurements to share.

5. Construct a box-lined desk- Enlist the help of a parent that has building skills. Many different uses in the classroom.
6. Draw a simple design to construct a cabin using medium size sticks and then mix a bag of concrete or mix mud and clay. Try to create your own table top cabin with a chimney.

Time Lapse video of building a cabin from start to finish.

https://youtu.be/WmYCUljsrDg?si=295hs1FiQ_6p-Tvx

How cabins were built in the 1800's:

<https://www.theoutdoorhacker.com/how-log-cabins-were-built-in-the-1800s/>

7. Make a Jacob's Ladder (See craft section)

Activities for Science

1. Illustrations on Pages 10-11

Research the flora in Monroe County near the River Raisin and write a short essay with sketches. Get outside to collect specimens!

2. Research why we call the river, River Raisin and not Raisin River? How long is this river? How has it changed in width over the years and why? Why did the Native Americans or indigenous people of the area name the river, River Raisin?

3. The River Raisin Watershed Council- Great resource to come to your class!

4. <https://www.monroeisd.us/buildings/knabusch-math-and-science-center/>

Visit the Knabusch Math and Science Center. They are another amazing resource and one of the best biology field trips I've attended.

5. Plant or buy herbs and when they are grown, harvest them by hanging around the classroom or house.
6. (*History and Math*) Make homemade bread by milling.
7. (*History and Math*) Make homemade butter by churning or shaking in jars.
Add dried herbs for flavor!

Activities for Michigan History and Geography

1. Illustrations on Pages 4-5 (*History and Science*)

Discover the process of candle making in the 1800's and set up a candle making time in the school kitchen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyz6I8Q3udE>

2. Illustrations on Pages 10-14

People and Cultures:

Research the indigenous Americans from the Monroe County Area

Include a field trip to the Monroe County Museum

3. Research the history of Farming in the 1800's

Working animals, farm equipment, uses for the covered wagon

4. Illustrations on Pages 13-14

5. Research the history of the crosscut saw in the 1800's

6. Research the historical dress of the period. Trappers, hunters, farm folk.

7. Visit the Eby Cabin at the Monroe County Fair Grounds to see

demonstrations of life in the early 1800's during fair week.

Illustrations on Pages 6-7

8. Why did family generations live together? What were the benefits? How does this differ from how we value our older generations today?
9. Illustrations on Pages 8-9

Making and use of straw brooms

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIFVp9soVsU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ukz5L9rYHU>

Activities for Cooking (also check the math section)

1. Making butter with a churn or shaking in jars.
2. Making food in the 1830's
https://youtu.be/Gq4C1yOU6Ag?si=6VoHDvIXvGOk_ShE
3. Visit Eby Cabin during fair week in Monroe County, Mi to witness what daily life was like in the 1800's.

Arts, Crafts and Games

Illustrations on Pages 23-24

1. How to make and create a Jacob's Ladder
https://youtu.be/wcmGFL_6iiM?si=qR2DN4Ifx2nzhyXk
2. How to use a Jacob's Ladder

<https://youtu.be/KiIpUUsIsVE?si=eDsvSJd1vJdI1Jxi>

3. Playing marbles

https://youtu.be/4g4_JeRngao?si=2z5s4p1RejodSyiP

4. Making no sew dolls (Super cute and simple!)

<https://youtu.be/U8vQrTnlXvU?si=wM0Fz3D7FQ90eXSi>

5. Red Rover- Played with two teams lined up, facing each other, and holding hands. Chosen teams call out, “Red Rover, Red Rover, let _____ come over!” If the runner breaks through the hand chain, they get to choose one of the “links” to join them on their team.

6. Eeeny I Over-

Played with two teams on opposite sides of the school house. You toss a ball back and forth and if you get hit, you must join the opposite team.

Further Research Projects

1. Research the American Flag time line. Describe what it looked like during different time periods and why. Draw your favorite flag.

2. Write out the Pledge of Allegiance to display patriotically in your school.

<https://www.united-states-flag.com/evolution-of-the-american-flag.html>

3. Family bibles throughout the years.

Evaluation Activities

1. Oral Narration- The best way to see if a child understands a particular subject is to have them narrate what they have learned through conversation. From this conversation, they can then put together a small written or oral essay about the story or subject matter.

FUN RANDOM INFORMATION FROM THE 1800'S IN THIS AREA and from my "Oral Traditions" interviews:

Note: These also could be created into a teacher's resource guide to be used in classrooms.

*Any person permitting a stallion to run wild was liable to a fine of \$10.00

*Fine for a ram running wild was \$3.00

*Owners need to register with the township clerk their personal mark for cattle, hogs and sheep.

*You will be fined \$1.00 if you have more than one dog.

*From 1828-1840 all persons of any age were allowed to attend the free Bridge School. After 1840, the age limit was 21 or a small fee was required if you were between 22-24 years old.

*The bible was the most available book at this time.

*A normal school day was in session from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. during months that were not planting or harvesting.

*A typical day proceeded with one grade reciting and the other grades doing seatwork. Memory gems were rhymes that helped the children to learn their lessons.

*The room would get only as noisy as the teacher could tolerate.

*Subjects were reading, writing and arithmetic. Other possible subjects were penmanship, recitation, geography, and science. Any writing and math were done on a slate (define slate). In later years, the "blackboard" was made of plaster and painted black.

*The children would bring lunch in a pail or tied cloth. There were no snack breaks with granola bars and pudding cups. If you were thirsty, you would ask to get a drink from the pail of water with a shared water dipper that resembles a soup ladle. If there was no well on the property, someone would bring water from the nearest farm.

*If you had to use the bathroom, you would go to the outhouse. What do you think they used for toilet paper? Find out.

*If you needed to be disciplined by the teacher with a paddle, you could also expect to get a paddle when you returned home.

*The mode of transportation to school were your feet. Sometimes you might get a ride in the wagon or by bob sled if the snow was deep.

*Clothes and bedding were made and sewed by your mother and shoes were re-soled by your father. Soap making took up a whole day and weeks before the soap cured. You had to make a batch before your previous batch ran out. There was not much idle time to lounge around. No video games to while away your day.

Page 10

*Father made all the furniture from the woods around them. Very few pieces of furniture were store bought. Most of these farmers migrated from the eastern part of the United States.

*Teachers didn't get paid much and most of them were untrained. It was a temporary business for teachers that included very strict rules for the teachers themselves.

Resources cited:

General information and some quotes taken from these sources include:

Newspapers:

Dundee Independent Newspaper- Thursday, June 5, 1997, by Byron Pilbeam

Monroe Evening News- September 20, 1967, quoted on photo page.

Monroe Evening News- January 14, 1988, by Carol Schlagheck Bridge School

Monroe Evening News- April 20, 2008, titled: 1828 Bridge School

Information from the 100th year anniversary program of the Bridge School

Maps:

1839 Plat map from Monroe Historical Museum Archives

1859 Plat map

Research Papers:

Past and Present- Country Schools of Monroe County: Old School Houses in Monroe County by: Robert and Gay Trace and Arthur Meyers copyright 1996,1998

Dissertation by Dr. Don Spencer November 20, 2008, Case Study on the History of Monroe Public Schools- Reference book at Ellis Library in Monroe County

Wikipedia facts: The River Raisin

Articles:

Was this Michigan's first free public school? By E.W. with thanks to F.M. Ayres superintendent of schools in Dundee, December 1951

Written interviews from the Monroe County Historical Museum Archives:

Recollections of Life in Monroe County 1956-62 by Marion Childs

William Cominess

Personal interviews that so graciously helped me get a feel for what it was like to attend the Bridge School or one of the "Country Schools".

