Early Settlers of Arkansas

Aligns with standards G.9.3.3, G.10.3.1, G.10.3.3, H.12.3.1, H.12.3.2 for third grade Social Studies. Created 3/16.

http://www.arkansasheritage.com
Imagine a friend told you about a land few people had been to. There are no pictures of it, no one you can call and ask about it. All you have is someone telling you there is a new place to live for someone who wants to start over. Would you want to go? Why or why not?

Henri de Tonti was called “The Iron Hand” and “The Father of Arkansas.” Do you have a nickname? Can you think of other people who have nicknames? How did those names come about?
Get Moving!

Journal your Journey

We know what explorers found on their journey because they wrote long journals about their trip. They included things like weather, what the people they saw looked like, what animals and plants they saw, and what happened during the day. Take a journey around your school. Write a journal entry about your journey, as though you are an explorer seeing it all for the first time.

Trail of Tears

You will learn about how the American Indians had to pack up everything and leave their lives behind. Pack up all of your things in your classroom. Your desk, your backpack, your lunch, your books, and all of your school supplies. Where would you go? Imagine there’s no room in the next teacher’s room. There’s no room in the cafeteria. There’s already people in the gym. The playground is blocked off. What would you do? How would you feel?

Square Dance

Early Arkansas settlers had to find ways to entertain themselves at night after all their chores were done. One way was with square dancing, which would become our state dance. Can you do the following moves?

- do-si-do
- promenade
- swing
- star


Crossword

Across

2. Something you own
6. A sense of pride and honor

Down

1. A member of Congress, people who have power to make laws
3. Arrange a certain way to make things easier.
4. A place that is not a state yet.
5. Travel from one place to another

Across

1. __
2. __
3. __
4. __
5. __
6. __

Down

1. __
2. __
3. __
4. __
5. __
6. __
## Arkansas’s Explorers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hernando de Soto</th>
<th>Marquette &amp; Joliet</th>
<th>Robert de La Salle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>From</strong></td>
<td>France</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Came to AR</strong></td>
<td>1673</td>
<td>1682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal</strong></td>
<td>Explore; expand trade with the American Indians, introduce Christianity to the Indians.</td>
<td>Claim all of the Mississippi River valley for France. He wanted to go farther than Marquette and Joliet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where he explored</strong></td>
<td>To find gold and silver</td>
<td>He was nice to the Quapaws he met. He told them he would protect them from the Osage Indians in exchange for letting him claim the land for the king of France.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relationship with American Indians</strong></td>
<td>They were very nice to the American Indians. They first met Quapaws, who welcomed them with a 3-day ceremony. They told Marquette and Joliet they may encounter people from Spain further South, so Marquette and Joliet returned north.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Picture</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Jacques Marquette)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>From</strong></td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Came to AR</strong></td>
<td>1541</td>
<td>1682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal</strong></td>
<td>To find gold and silver</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where he explored</strong></td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relationship with American Indians</strong></td>
<td>He was not nice to the American Indians. He stole food and supplies from them, killed many, and made many other slaves.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Picture</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Arkansas Post

Henri de Tonti has two nicknames. He was called “The Iron Hand” because he lost his hand in a war in France, so he wore a metal hook instead. He was also called “The Father of Arkansas” because he created the first town in Arkansas for Europeans.

Henri de Tonti began his journey into the Arkansas region by traveling with Robert de La Salle. The two parted ways when de La Salle left North America to find people in France to live in the new land. De Tonti stayed in order to create trading posts, and in 1686, de Tonti created the Arkansas Post, Arkansas’s first “town,” which became the capital. It started with six French men, who set up trade with the Quapaw Indians. It took it many years to grow. By 1768, 138 people lived there. In 1821, the territorial capital was moved to Little Rock, since it was less damp and swampy but still on a river.

Shelter

People lived in wood homes with roofs made of tree bark. There would be homes, a store, a place to store their weapons and a prison. A common type of house was called a dog-trot.

Food

Most people owned a little bit of land, where they would grow food and raise animals. They also did a lot of hunting and fishing.

People also traded with the American Indians. In exchange for furs and skins from the Quapaws, the Arkansans would give tools, pots, beads, cloth, animal traps and sometimes guns.

Fun

Get on your dancing shoes! Early Arkansans liked to play folk music and dance. Because there were more girls than guys, the men would take turns dancing with the women. People also played cards, sang, played instruments, ate and drank together.

What the Arkansas Post land would have looked like.
## Arkansas’s Explorers continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dunbar &amp; Hunter</th>
<th>Freeman &amp; Custis</th>
<th>Primary Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From</td>
<td>From</td>
<td>From Dr. Hunter’s journals:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Came to AR</td>
<td>Came to AR</td>
<td>“On November 15 the party crossed the line between the present states of Louisiana and Arkansas. The passing days differed little one from another, but occasionally they came on other white men: a house carpenter and cotton engine maker, who was leading a small hunting party; a German with his three sons and a hired man out hunting bear — the old man had been forty years in the Ouachita country and was full of gossip and information. They were interested in a cache of deerskins in a tree. They stopped to examine some &quot;Indian Hieroglyphics.&quot; (4)</td>
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<td>Where he exp-</td>
<td>Where he explored</td>
<td>No picture exists</td>
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<td>lored</td>
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<td>note</td>
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<tr>
<td>Picture</td>
<td>(William Dunbar)</td>
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<td>(Thomas Jefferson)</td>
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<td>United States</td>
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<td>(for Thomas</td>
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<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Jefferson)</td>
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<td>1804</td>
<td>1806</td>
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<td>Explore and map</td>
<td>Explore and map</td>
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<td>Ouachita River,</td>
<td>the Red River,</td>
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<tr>
<td>collect scientific</td>
<td>find where the</td>
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<td>data</td>
<td>Red River began,</td>
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<td>collect plant</td>
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<td>and animal</td>
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<td>samples</td>
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<td>Many Europeans</td>
<td>Spanish soldiers</td>
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<td>and Native</td>
<td>kept them from</td>
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<td>Americans already</td>
<td>going as far as</td>
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<td>lived along the</td>
<td>they wanted to.</td>
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<td>path Hunter and</td>
<td>Custis was the</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunbar explored.</td>
<td>first trained</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>They wrote many</td>
<td>naturalist to</td>
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<td>journals describing</td>
<td>explore the area,</td>
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<td>how these people</td>
<td>so he was able</td>
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<tr>
<td>lived. They also</td>
<td>to take many</td>
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<td>did a lot of</td>
<td>scientific</td>
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<td>scientific testing</td>
<td>samples.</td>
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<tr>
<td>on the hot springs, in the town now known as Hot Springs.</td>
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Louisiana Purchase

Arkansas has been ruled by three countries: France, Spain and the United States.

- In 1541, Hernando de Soto claimed it for Spain.
- In 1682, Robert de La Salle claimed it for France.
- In 1763, Spain took over the land after their victory in the French and Indian War.
- In 1800 France took the land back after they conquered Spain.
- And in 1803, the United States bought the land from France in the Louisiana Purchase.

**Question:** How much did the Louisiana Purchase cost?
**Answer:** 15 million. That would equal about $250 million today—a very cheap price!

**Q:** What modern-day states were included?
**A:** All of Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska; part of Colorado, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming.

**Q:** Why did France give it up?
**A:** France’s king was busy fighting countries in Europe. He didn’t have time to rule the people in North America. He also needed money to fight those wars, and thought the United States would be the most interested in buying it. The United States was—they had tried to buy parts of the land from Spain several times.

**Q:** What about all the American Indians who were living in this area? Didn’t they already own the land?
**A:** Unfortunately, the Europeans and early settlers of the United States did not respect the American Indian’s land ownership.

**Q:** What did the United States do right after they bought the land?
**A:** The President, Thomas Jefferson, sent many explorers out to map his new purchase. 4 explorers (William Dunbar, George Hunter, Thomas Freeman and Peter Custis) made their way through Arkansas. (Have you heard of Lewis and Clark? They also explored the Louisiana Purchase! They did not, however, go through Arkansas.)

View early maps of the US: http://arstudies.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/(BC.map.)
# Arkansas’s Explorers continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>1818</th>
<th>1819</th>
<th>From Henry Schoolcraft’s journal:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Came to AR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The junction of Findley’s Fork with James’ River, a high, rich point of land, is a [good] spot for a town, and the erection of a new county out of this part of unincorporated wilderness of Arkansaw, would soon give the settlers the advantages elsewhere enjoyed in civil communities. A profitable fur-trade would be one of the immediate advantages attending such a settlement. Both the Osage and Cherokee nation would soon be drawn to this spot, as the most eligible and convenient point for trading...A water-communication exists with the Mississippi. Steamboat may ascend the White River to the mouth of its Great North Fork. Keel-boats...may, during the greater part of the year, ascend to the mouth of James’ River; and boats of eight tons burthen may ascent that to the junction of Findley’s Fork. (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where he explored</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discovery of note</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Picture</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Europeans arriving in Arkansas brought some good things for the American Indians, like new weapons and tools. Europeans, however, also caused a lot of trouble. They brought diseases the American Indians weren’t used to, which killed off many of their people.

The white people also felt that the land belonged to them instead of the American Indians who were already living there. As more and more people began moving to Arkansas, the less room the American Indians had to live. Eventually, Arkansans forced all of the Indians to move away.

In 1824, the Quapaw gave up their land and went south to live among the Caddo. The two tribes didn’t always get along, and there were many floods that ruined their crops. Some of the Quapaw moved back to their old home in 1830, but in 1835, the government removed them to the state of Oklahoma. The Caddo signed a treaty in 1834 that relocated them to Texas.

American Indian removal happened all over the United States, not just in Arkansas. Cherokees began moving to Arkansas after being forced out of their homes in eastern United States. They began living in Osage territory, which caused many conflicts between the two tribes. Fort Smith was created as an army base to control the fighting tribes. Eventually, both tribes were sent to Oklahoma by 1828.

The government then began forcing all of the American Indians to Oklahoma, which meant they had to go through Arkansas on their journey. Between 1830 and 1850, 30,000 men, women and children journeyed the “Trail of Tears,” in which 4,000 died of disease or starvation. These people lost their land, dignity and parts of their heritage and culture. It is a painful time in Arkansas and United States history.
Territory to Statehood Yearbook

Arkansas became a U.S. possession in 1803 with the Louisiana Purchase. People continued to move to Arkansas because they were given land there for serving in the army or after losing their land to a bad earthquake, or simply because they wanted to start a new life in the newest area of the country. By 1819, 14,000 people lived in Arkansas. (That’s about as many people who live in Harrison or Siloam Springs today.) The federal government felt that was enough to make Arkansas a territory. By 1836, 52,240 people lived in Arkansas, enough for it to become the 25th state. Here are the people who influenced the territory and state along the way.

President James Monroe named James Miller from New Hampshire to be the governor of Arkansas territory. He didn’t really want the job. It took him several months to arrive to Arkansas, and his wife and children decided to stay in New Hampshire. He took longer and longer trips to go visit them, until he ultimately quit his job in 1824. Miller County is named after him.

Who was running the government while James Miller wasn’t around? Robert Crittenden was the territorial secretary, but he often acted like the governor since James Miller wasn’t around. He grew to have a lot of power in the state of Arkansas. His followers became a part of the Whig political party. Crittenden county is named after him.

George Izard did not want to come to Arkansas. In March 1825, President James Monroe named George Izard the second governor of Arkansas. Izard took his time, and didn’t come to the state until May of 1826. Once he got here, he spent a lot of his time organizing the state. He served as governor until he died in 1828. Izard County is named after him.
Henry Conway came to Arkansas in 1820 and held many offices in the territory. In 1887 he sought reelection for the U.S. House of Representatives. He won, but soon died and did not take office. Conway County is named after him.

James Conway came to Arkansas in 1820 and began his life as a politician in 1831. When Arkansas became a state, James Conway was elected as governor. The city of Conway is named after him.

Ambrose Sevier began his first political office in 1821, and he continued to hold political jobs until he resigned in 1848. He helped vote Arkansas Territory to be a state, and once it became a state, he was its first senator.

Albert Pike came to Arkansas in 1831 as a teacher. He edited the Whig party newspaper, became a lawyer, a politician and a writer. He supported Robert Crittenden and other Whig candidates.

William Woodruff started Arkansas’s first newspaper, called the Arkansas Gazette, in 1819. The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette is still being printed today. Woodruff supported the Democrats known as “The Family.” Woodruff County is named after him. (5, 8)

On the next page, take the information you have just read and create a timeline of Arkansas statehood. Include the year when possible.
Timeline of Arkansas Statehood
Robert Crittenden: Arkansas, who has always loved you? Who was here for you in your good times and bad times? Who has taken your wild ways and tamed them for the good of the territory? Who ran the territory when our first and second governor ran away? That’s right, me, Robert Crittenden. I’m the most important man in politics around here. You should trust my opinion that my friend, Robert C. Oden, is the best man to be the representative Arkansas in Congress. I should know! I’m Robert Crittenden!

Robert C. Oden: Right! What he said!

Henry W. Conway: Are we really going to let one man dominate Arkansas?

Ambrose Sevier: I don’t even like Robert Crittenden.

James Conway: We support the common people, unlike that know-it-all.

Ambrose Sevier: Let’s band together. We’re all related anyway. We can support Henry to be our congressman.

James Conway: If we work together, we can’t lose!

Henry W. Conway: Okay, I accept. I will run to be the next congressman of Arkansas!

Robert Crittenden: You losers don’t know anything about politics.

James Conway: You’re a loser. And so is Robert C. Oden.

Robert C. Oden: Am not!

James Conway: Are too!

Robert Crittenden: Am not!

Ambrose Sevier: Are too!

Henry W. Conway: The people of Arkansas will decide with their vote. Who will be the next congressman of Arkansas?

Arkansas chorus: Henry W. Conway!

Robert Crittenden: Who?

Arkansas chorus: Henry W. Conway! We want Henry W. Conway!

Robert C. Oden: Darn.

Robert Crittenden: Henry W. Conway, you have insulted me, and I won’t stand for it. I challenge you to a duel.

Henry Conway: Fine. You’ll just lose the duel just like you and your friend Robert C. Oden lost the election.

Robert Crittenden: Will not.

Henry Conway: Will too

Robert Crittenden: Will not

Henry Conway: Will too!
Arkansas chorus: That is a terrible way to decide something. Violence is never the answer.
Robert Crittenden and Henry W. Conway count 30 feet away from each other and duel. Robert Crittenden shoots Henry W. Conway.

Henry Conway: I’ve been hit!
Robert Crittenden: Who is the winner now?
Henry Conway: You were right! Violence is never the answer. (he dies)
Arkansas chorus: We tried to tell you.
Ambrose Sevier: Now who will be our congressman? We’ll have to have a special election.
Arkansas chorus: We want Ambrose Sevier!

Robert Crittenden: What? I won the duel!
Arkansas chorus: We want Ambrose Sevier!
Ambrose Sevier: Yay! I won the election!
Robert Crittenden: I will still find a way to get my people into political office.
James Conway: Well, as soon as Arkansas becomes a state, I’ll become the governor. Long live “The Family!”
Arkansas chorus: Long live the family!
Robert C. Oden: And Robert Crittenden was never able to regain his political influence. The Family dominated politics until the Civil War, over 30 years later. The End
Imagine you are setting out to explore Arkansas. Where would you go? What would you want to do? What would you bring with you? Imagine your adventure!
Write it out

Pretend you are William Woodruff, writing the first newspaper in Arkansas. What would you write about? Write and illustrate your story below.
More resources

- Cephas Faulk and his WayBack Powder by R. F. Daniel
- Adventure Tales of Arkansas by C. Fred Williams: [http://www.signalmedia.com/Arkansas/Arkansas/](http://www.signalmedia.com/Arkansas/Arkansas/)
- Adventure Tales of the United Stated Activity Guide: [http://www.signalmedia.net/VO1Student/VollSA.pdf](http://www.signalmedia.net/VO1Student/VollSA.pdf)
- Trail of Tears: [https://www.nps.gov/trte/index.htm](https://www.nps.gov/trte/index.htm)
- Natural Diversity of the Louisiana Purchase, a program from Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission: [http://www.naturalheritage.com/Education/education](http://www.naturalheritage.com/Education/education)

Sources


8) Illustrations by Sarah Wells

Suggested Activity: The Arkansas Traveler

The Arkansas Traveler. Historic Arkansas Museum has multiple resources about this painting, including a loan box with objects from the painting, a reader’s theater, and multiple lesson plans, found at [http://www.historicarkansas.org/Teachers-and-Families/chapters-in-arkansas-history](http://www.historicarkansas.org/Teachers-and-Families/chapters-in-arkansas-history).

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