
Life in a Log Cabin

Social Studies Standards

Kindergarten - Yellow
1st Grade - Orange
2nd Grade - Green
3rd Grade - Light Blue
4th Grade - Red
5th Grade - Purple
Arkansas History - Grey

E.1.K.1 Discuss needs and wants and how they are restricted by limited resources.

G.1.K.5 Discuss cultural characteristics among families and in the community such as art, celebrations, food, language, music, and traditions.

G.1.K.6 Identify the influence of weather and climate on people's daily lives.

H.1.K.3 Compare the life of a student today (present) to the life of a student in the past using visual representations (e.g., growing food, rules and laws, making clothing, transportation, communication).

H.1.K.7 Describe materials and methods that allow people to learn about the past (e.g., photos, artifacts, diaries, oral history, stories)

G.1.1.5 Discuss how cultural characteristics contribute to diversity in a community, place, or region.

G.1.1.6 Describe the influence of weather, climate, and physical characteristics on people's daily lives.

G.1.1.7 Explain ways people utilize natural resources such as timber, minerals, oil, coal, and natural gas in their community.

H.1.1.1 Explain similarities and differences of everyday life in different times using chronological terms.

H.1.1.3 Compare present day families, objects, and events with those in the past using visual representations, news stories, and artifacts (e.g., daily life tasks, food, clothing, transportation, communication, recreation).

H.1.1.7 Draw conclusions about life in the past using historical records and artifacts (e.g., photos, diaries, oral history).

G.1.2.6 Explain the influence of weather, climate, and physical characteristics on people's daily lives in a place or region.

H.1.2.3 Compare life in a community past and present using maps, photographs, news stories, artifacts, or interviews (e.g., transportation, communication, recreation, jobs, housing).

G.1.3.5 Investigate the cultural characteristics of various places and regions from around the world.

G.1.3.6 Investigate the influence of physical characteristics upon people's choices in Arkansas and the United States (i.e., where people live and work).

H.1.3.3 Compare life from a specific historical time period to life today noting changes over time (e.g., transportation, jobs, urban growth, population density, natural resources, communication).

H.1.4.3 Compare life from a specific historical time period to life today to explain changes over time (e.g., economic growth, urbanization, resources, population density, environmental issues).

G.3.5.4 Research the characteristics of various world regions and cultures

G.3.5.6 Compare advantages and disadvantages of one location over another for access to factors of production (e.g., human resources, natural resources, capital resources, entrepreneurship)

G.4.5.1 Examine ways people and cultures depend on, adapt to, and interact with the physical environment over time (e.g., technology, habitation, transportation, agriculture, communication).

Vocabulary

Cabin:

a small, simple house made of wood

Subsistence Farming:

farming in which only enough food to feed one's family is produced

Plantation:

a large plot of land where cash crops are often farmed. Often worked by slave labor.

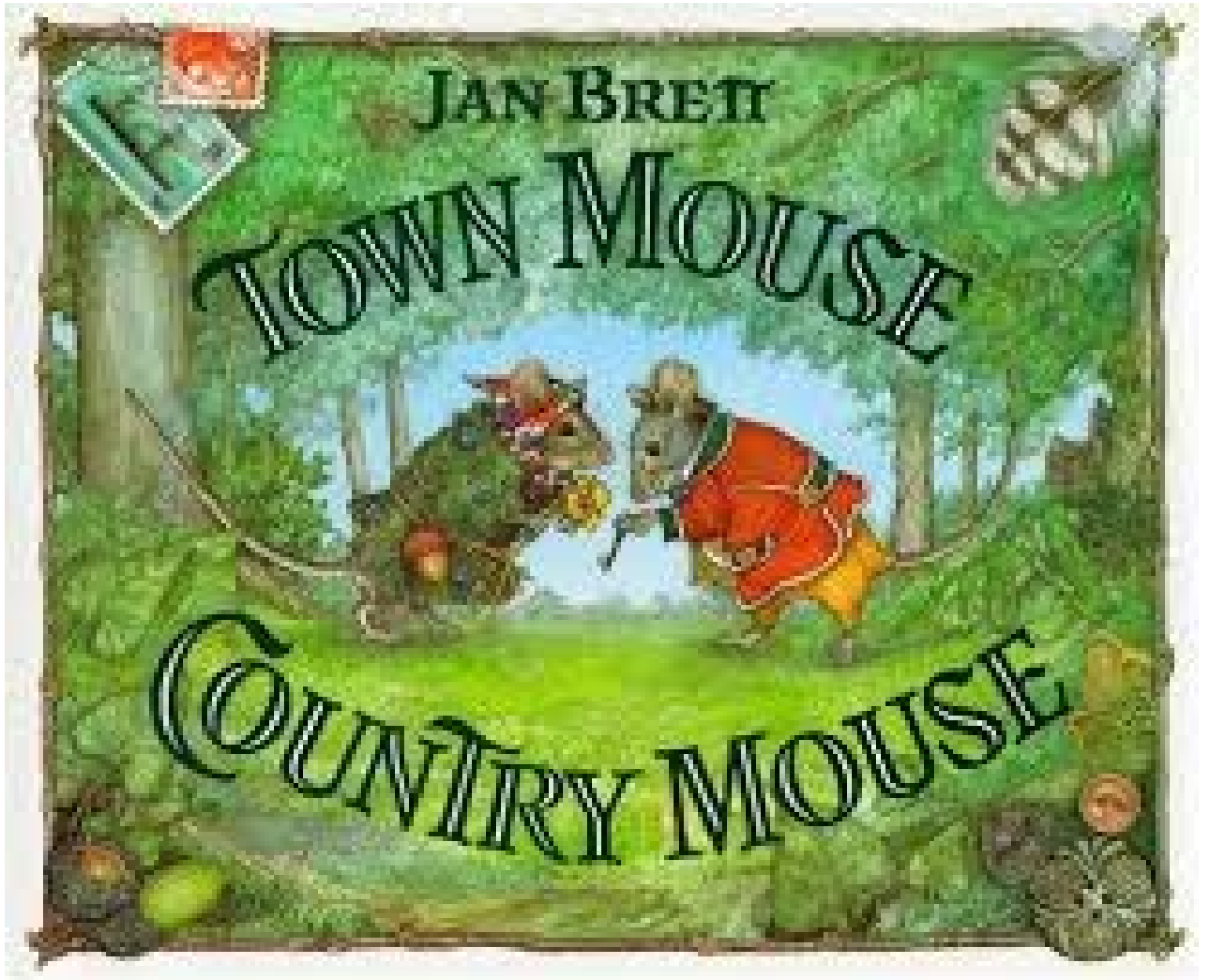
Garden:

an area of ground where plants (such as flowers or vegetables) are grown

Context

Town Mouse, Country Mouse

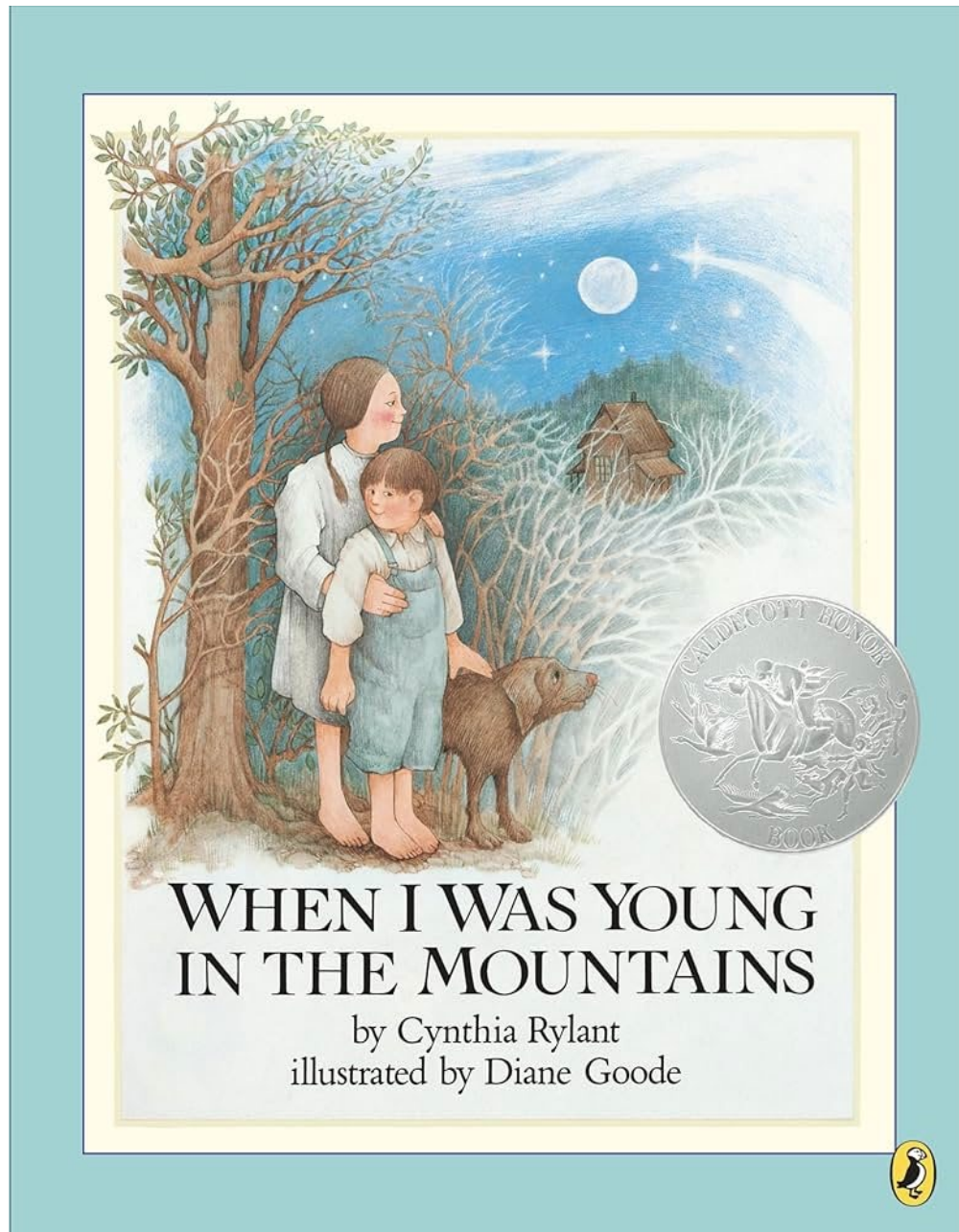
By Jan Brett



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_Ceo0YOqDk

When I was Young in the Mountains

By Cynthia Rylant



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLItcWSl8zc>

Primary Source Analysis

On the following pages are primary sources for teachers to review with their students. As you review the materials, promote student inquiry. Be sure to ask them about things that they notice or things that they wonder. You may also ask students about the author's purpose, how this source ties into what they have learned in class or from prior knowledge.

Analyze a Photograph



Meet the photo.

What do you see?

Is the photo?

☐ BLACK
AND
WHITE

☐ COLOR

Is there a caption?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If so, what does the caption tell you?



Observe its parts.

Circle what you see in the photo.



PEOPLE



OBJECTS



BOTH

What are the people doing in the photo?

What are the objects used for in the photo?

Write two words that describe the photo.

Try to make sense of it.

Who do you think took this photo?

Where do you think this photo was taken?

List something that helps you prove where it was taken.

Why do you think the photo was taken?

How does this photo compare to modern times?



Use it as historical evidence.

Where do you think you could find out more information about the people or objects in the photo?

Image ~ “Cottage on the Mississippi River in Arkansas, Below Helena”



Eastman, Seth. *Cottage on the Mississippi River in Arkansas, Below Helena*, 1848-1849, graphite on paper. The McNay Art Museum, accessed October 16, 2024.

<https://collection.mcnayart.org/objects/1271/cottage-on-the-mississippi-river-in-arkansas-below-helena-october-1848-from-sketchbook>.

Analyze a Written Document



Meet the document.

Are there any special markings on the document? Circle all that apply.



STAMP



POSTMARK



HANDWRITTEN



OFFICIAL
SEAL



SPECIAL
LETTERHEAD



OTHER

Is it handwritten or typed?



Write down any words that you don't know. Then look up the definitions.



Try to make sense of it.

What is the main idea of the document?

List two quotes (words from the document) that help support the main idea.

Observe its parts.

Who wrote this document?

What is the date of the document?

Who read or received this document?



Use it as historical evidence.

Where do you think you could find out more information about the persons who wrote or received this document?

Where do you think you could find out more information about this event?



Document ~ “Letter to Grandchildren”

“...an old double log cabin with a dead hog under it. My mother positively refused to go in it, so they lived in tents until the old log cabin could be thoroughly cleaned and made habitable. It had two large rooms and a wide open hall between the two rooms, and puncheon [*sic*] floor. A puncheon floor was not made of planks, but logs, hewn with broadaxes as smooth as possible. Saw mills [*sic*] were very scarce, and most of the houses were built of logs. We lived in that house at least a year, though I don't know exactly how long. My brother Walter was born in it. I forgot to say that each of the rooms had immense open fireplaces at one end. My father had a small house built in the yard, called the office. All plantations had an office in the yard in those days. The overseer slept there, and the plantation business was discussed there. The old cabin was on the bayou on 'The Plantation,' as it has always been called--the place I inherited from my father.”

Analyze an Artifact or Object



Meet the Artifact.

What do you think it is?

Observe its parts.

What do you think the object is made out of? Circle all that apply.



BONE



CERAMIC
POTTERY



FABRIC



GLASS



LEATHER



METAL



PAPER



PLASTIC



STONE



WOOD

How do you think the object feels?
Circle all that apply.



HEAVY



LIGHT



SMOOTH



ROUGH



HARD



SOFT

What is the color of the object?

What is the shape of the object?

What size is the object? Circle one.

SMALL

LIKE A

COIN

MEDIUM

LIKE A

BASKETBALL

LARGE

LIKE A

CAR

What are three words that describe the object?

Try to make sense of it.

What do you think the object was used for?

Who do you think would have used the object?

What does the object tell us about the time period when it was made and used?

Do we still use this object today? If so, how is it different?



Use it as historical evidence.

Where do you think you could find out more information about the object or the people who used it?



Artifact ~ Bootjack



Boot removal aid in the shape of a cricket. Popular form of the "cricket" style, pattern cast, also called a "hearth cricket", became a symbol of good luck. Heel of boot was placed between "antennas" and assisted with the boot removal.

Bootjack, 1850-1875, cast iron, 2h x 4.375w x 11d inches, Accession# 98.034.0064. Historic Arkansas Museum, Little Rock, AR.