



Homestead National Historical Park

Junior Ranger Program

Never Be Late.



Explore, Learn, Protect: Be A Junior Ranger

Homestead National Historical Park was established to commemorate the Homestead Act of 1862. This law offered citizens, and people who promised to become citizens, up to 160 acres of “free land.” All they had to do was be 21 or the head of a household, farm the land, make improvements on it, build a home, and live there for five years. The Homestead Act had major impacts on the United States, including changes in immigration and migration, Native Americans, industry, and agriculture. This National Park Service site, located on one of the first homesteads claimed under the Act, the Daniel Freeman claim, memorializes the lives and accomplishments of all pioneers and changes to the land and people brought by the Homestead Act of 1862.



Daniel Freeman

You can find out more about **Homestead National Historical Park** by becoming a *Junior Ranger*. Junior Rangers are special people who are dedicated to their National Parks. Their mission is to explore, learn, and protect, and have fun while doing it! To become a Junior Ranger:

1. Identify your age:

_____ **5-8 years old: Complete any 4 pages** _____ **9 years or older: Complete any 7 pages**

2. Fill in your name: _____

3. As a Junior Ranger, take care of the park by following these guidelines:

- A. *Explore the displays, but please do not touch.*
- B. *Discover the tallgrass prairie, but please don't pick plants or collect things.*
- C. *Help keep **Homestead National Historical Park** clean. Put litter in its place.*
- D. *Avoid ticks, poison ivy, and stinging nettles by staying on the trails.*
- E. *Tell your family and friends about **Homestead National Historical Park**.*

4. Turn in your booklet at the **Homestead Heritage** or **Education Centers** to have a Park Ranger review it.

5. Take your **Junior Ranger Pledge** and receive your **Junior Ranger Badge**!


Homestead National Historical Park is administered by the National Park Service. For more information, visit our website:
www.nps.gov/home

Or, contact:
Superintendent
8523 W. State Hwy. 4
Beatrice, NE 68310
(402)223-3514



Follow Us:

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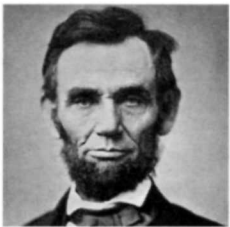
 **YouTube: Homestead National Historical Park**

Experience Your America
Revised 2021



Homestead Scavenger Hunt - Bingo!

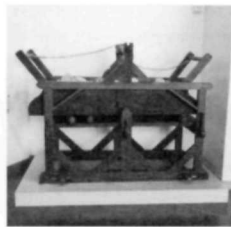
There are many fun places to explore while at **Homestead National Historical Park** such as the Homestead Heritage and Education Centers, the historic Palmer-Epard Cabin, Freeman School and the trails on the tallgrass prairie. As you visit and explore, look for the items and photos below and put an "X" over each item you find. When you find 5 items in a row - up/down/across/diagonal - you score *Homestead Bingo!* Have fun exploring!



Abraham Lincoln



Flip Book



Cold Roller Mangle



Doll



Covered Wagon



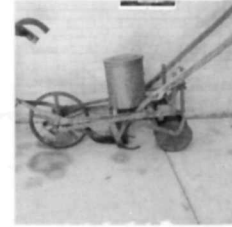
Stuffed Toy Elephant



School Bell



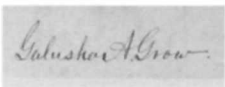
Locusts



Seed drill



Goat Power



The signature of Galusha Grow



Birdcage



Free Spot



Cub Creek



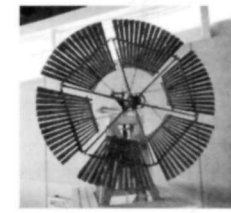
Hand Water Pump



Freeman Graves



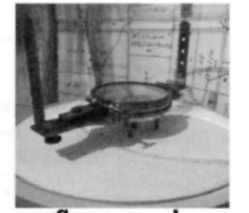
Butter Churn



Windmill



Daniel Freeman



Surveyor's Instrument



Homestead Trunk



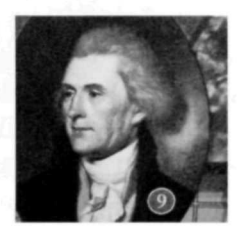
Ice Cream Maker



Steel Plow



Ken Deardorff



Thomas Jefferson





Traveling in the Footsteps of Homesteaders

Where did homesteaders come from? Some came from areas within the United States while others immigrated here from countries around the world. Locate your home state on the map. Trace the route you've traveled to get to **Homestead National Historical Park**. Can you imagine taking this trip by wagon or train to get to your new home?



In the early days, people rode trains, walked, or rode on wagons pulled by animals to get to their new homestead. If you had to make your way from New York City to Nebraska in the 1870s, as many immigrants did, you would have to travel **1,295 miles**. Between walking and riding, if you traveled 4 miles per hour, 10 hours a day, how many hours and days would it take you to travel that distance?

_____ Hours

_____ Days

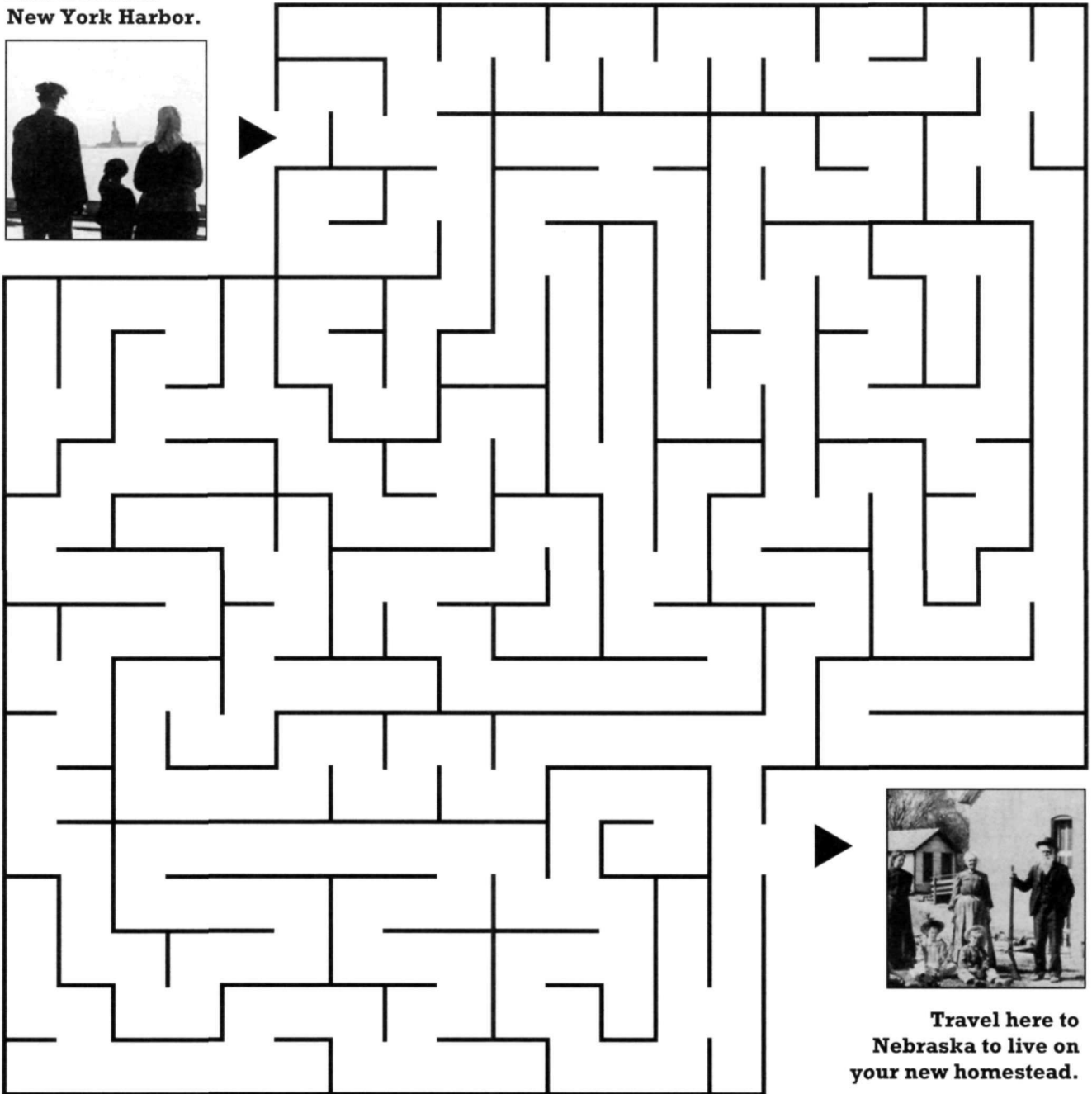




Start the Journey to Your Homestead

Immigrants coming to the United States to homestead often had to travel through *Ellis Island* in *New York Harbor* as part of the process to gain entry into America. Examine the puzzle below. Can you trace the journey the new immigrants would follow to arrive at their new homestead here in Nebraska?

Start your journey at
Ellis Island in
New York Harbor.



Travel here to
Nebraska to live on
your new homestead.





One of The First Homesteads of the Homestead Act

Homestead National Historical Park is on the site of one of the nation's first homesteads, the *Daniel Freeman Homestead Claim*. Like many homesteaders, the Freemans started out in a crude log cabin, but Daniel was eventually able to build a nice brick home. Today you can visit the sites of both the first cabin and the brick house by walking the trails through the prairie. Look close at the photograph below and have fun completing this activity.



①

②

③

④

⑤

⑥

Draw a line from each of these numbers to the image they represent in the picture above.

- ① - Daniel Freeman, standing with his rifle.
- ② - Agnes Freeman, Daniel's wife, standing between Daniel and their youngest daughter, also named Agnes.
- ③ - The Freeman's brick house.
- ④ - Granddaughter Lila Freeman, wearing a hat.
- ⑤ - Grandson Daniel Freeman, wearing a hat.
- ⑥ - Chimney on the brick house.





Farming on the Homestead

Many of the farms you see on your way to **Homestead National Historical Park** started out as homesteads. Think about how early homesteaders worked on their farms and the type of equipment they used to grow crops. Learn about farming equipment used long ago by visiting *farm implement displays* at the Homestead Education Center, Palmer-Epard Cabin, and the *National Homesteading Museum* at the Homestead Heritage Center. Then answer the questions below.



In what year was the McCormick Reaper invented?

Animal and people power were replaced with what?

What farm crop was “king” in the Midwest?

What hand tool was used for threshing grain?

What farming tool loosened soil around plants and removed weeds?

How many miles would a homesteader walk to plow 10 acres of farmland?





Crowded Cabin Word Search

One of the first tasks a homesteader had to do when they arrived on their claim was to build a home. Can you find the words in the puzzle below, of the things a homesteader might need in their cabin? (tip: Checkout the Palmer-Epard Cabin at the Heritage Center).



- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| BED | BROOM | CHAMBER POT | CUPBOARD | WASHBOARD |
| CHAIR | STAIRS | PATENT | QUILT | WOOD STOVE |
| SCONCE | KETTLE | TABLE | TRUNK | |
| SEWING MACHINE | | KEROSENE LAMP | | |

Visit the Palmer-Epard Cabin and see if you can spot all of these answers.





Where the Buffalo Roam

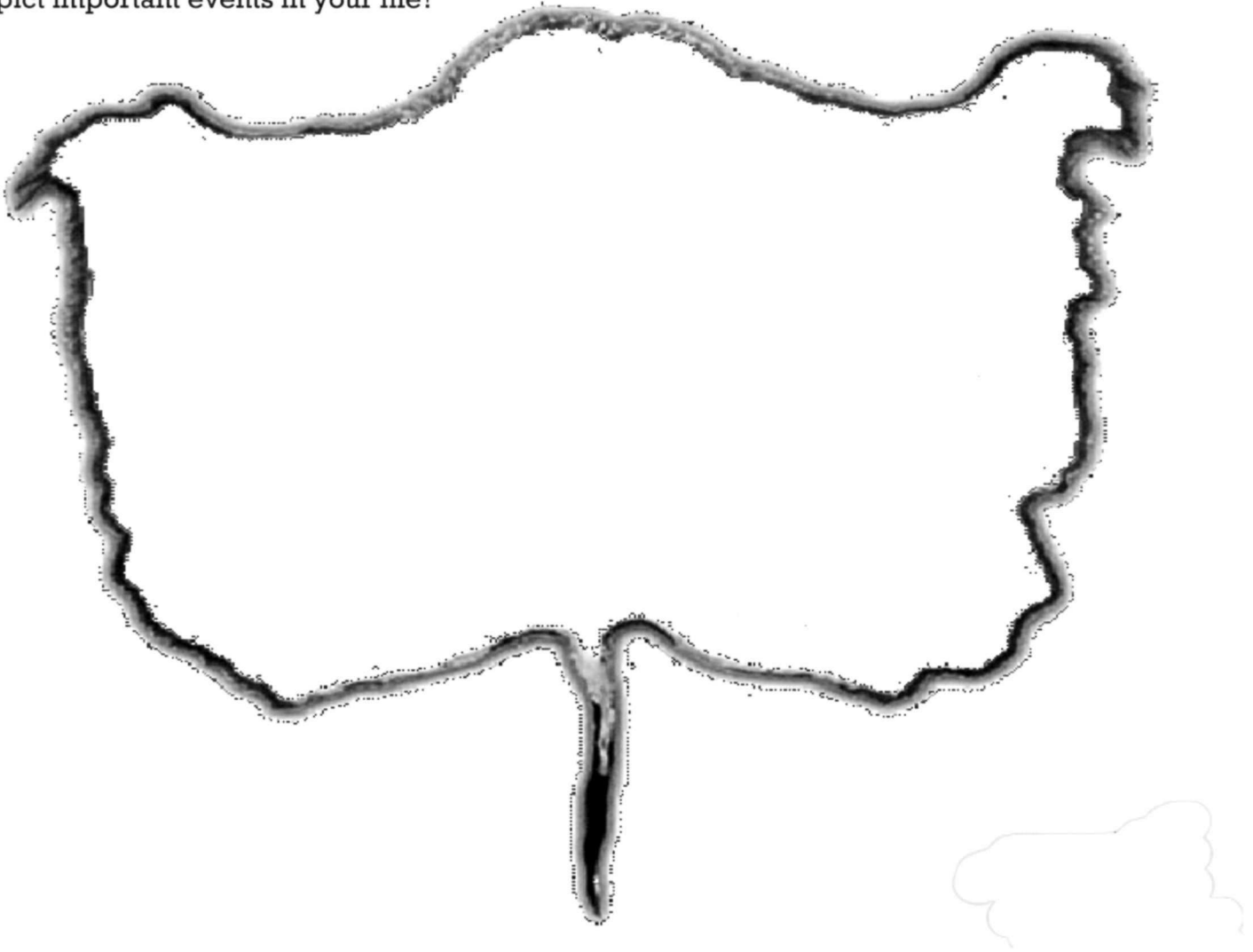
American Bison, also called Buffalo, are our nation's National Mammal and the largest land animal in North America. They can run 35 miles per hour and keep that pace for half an hour!

Plains Indian tribes used *buffalo hide paintings* to record their history. Before they had alphabets, they used pictures to record events. Tribal leaders chose an important event to represent each year. Starting with one picture in the center of the hide, pictures for subsequent years were added in ever widening circles, forming a spiral of pictures. Members of the tribe often identified the year they were born by referring to the event depicted on these "winter count" hides.

Draw your own "winter count." What images will you use to depict important events in your life?



Prior to the 1880's these large hairy animals roamed the open prairie in large herds.





Hidden Critters

The tallgrass prairie at **Homestead National Historical Park** is home to many animals. The variety of animals and plants found on the prairie is called *biodiversity*. To learn about the biodiversity of the Homestead Prairie, unscramble the letters below to discover the variety of animals that live here. Then match the number of each animal with its description.

1. VAEBER

A. I defend myself by spraying an unpleasant odor and I have a white stripe down my back.

2. ALITEHTDEWIRDEE

B. I am a big bird, but you don't often see me flying. Ben Franklin wanted me to be the national bird, but the eagle was chosen instead.

3. KNSKU

C. My name may have originated from my short tail which is only 6 or 7 inches long. I can weigh up to 20 pounds and I am a carnivore, eating rabbits, squirrels and mice.

4. NCCAROO

D. You can find me across the country, usually in green and gray. I can be found day or night protecting and preserving special places.

5. RENGAR

E. I am the largest rodent in North America. I use my front teeth to help me cut trees to build a lodge or dam.

6. YURKTE

F. I am a large mammal; I have a white tail and I have spots when I am little.

7. BCTABO

G. I am nocturnal, meaning I hunt for my food at night. I scavenge for food such as berries, insects and seeds. I always wear a mask.

8. TECYOO

H. Native Americans call me the trickster. I yip and yelp and howl. I am adaptable to many environments and I'm a member of the canine family.

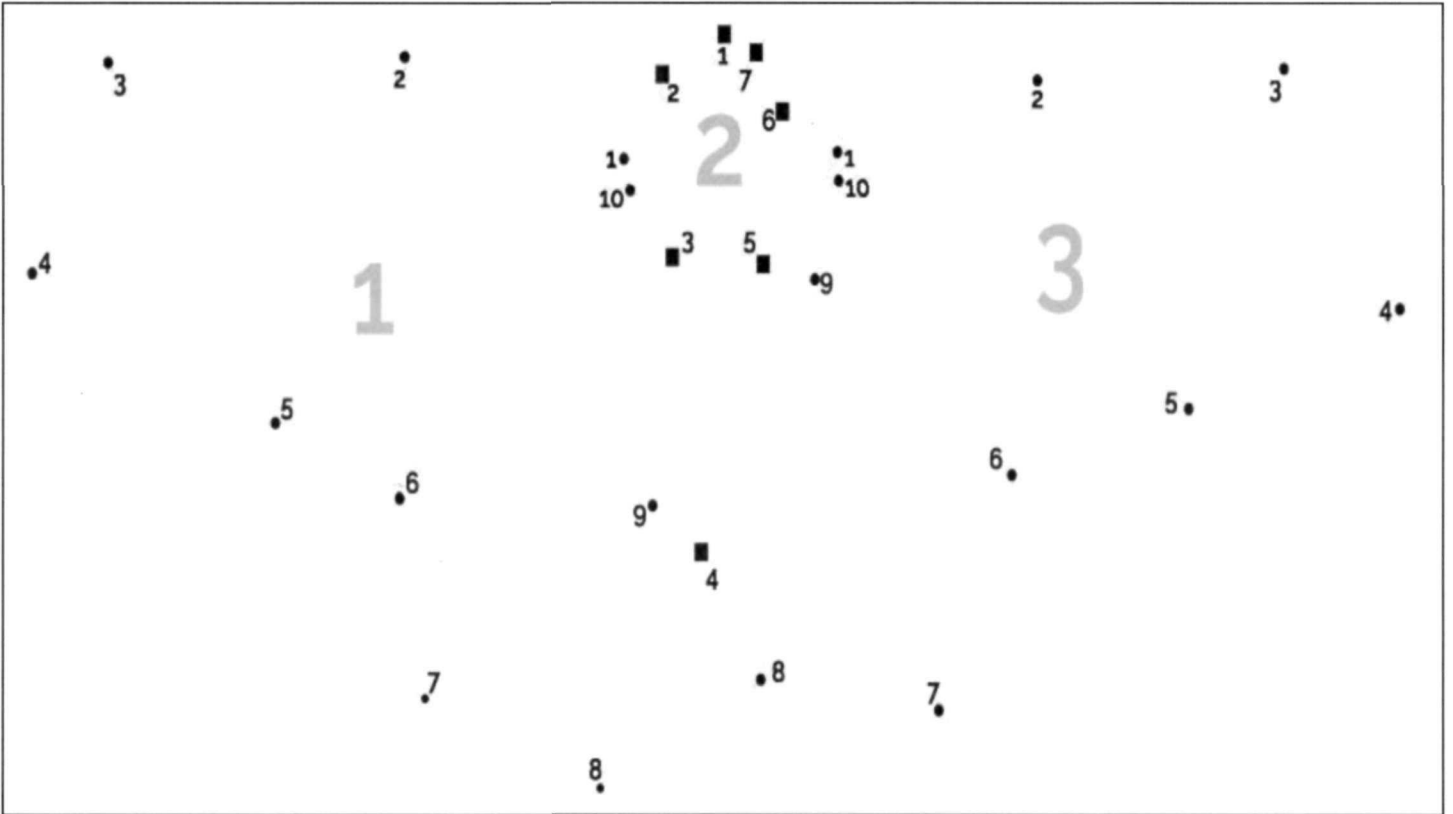
Did you know that today, in America, there remains only 1% of the original 140,000,000 acres of tallgrass prairie. **Homestead National Historical Park** is home to 100 acres of *restored* tallgrass prairie - the second oldest restored tallgrass prairie in the country.





Visitors to Homestead National Historical Park

We receive all kinds of visitors at **Homestead National Historical Park**. Trace the image below to see one of our most interesting visitors – a giant ***Cecropia Moth*** (*Ce-cro-pia*). It is the largest native species of moth in North America. The image you create by connecting the dots will represent the actual size of the moth.



Connect the Dots in *Three Parts*

There are three parts to the tracing:

Part 1 is the left wing, it has *round* dots.

Part 2 is the body, it has *square* dots.

Part 3 is the right wing, and it has *round* dots, too.

After you have traced the outline, ask a *Park Ranger* to show you a picture of the actual ***Cecropia Moth*** that visited **Homestead National Historical Park**.





Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Early homesteaders had to make due with limited means. In some ways, they were true recyclers. Look at the following items and name two ways homesteaders may have reused these items in their daily lives.



Wooden Barrel

1. _____
2. _____



Glass Jar

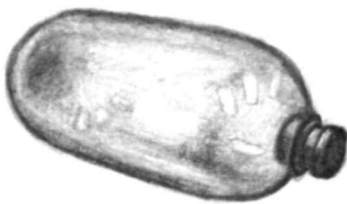
1. _____
2. _____



Overalls

1. _____
2. _____

Now, look at these everyday items. How might you reuse these items in your daily life?



Plastic Liter Bottle

1. _____
2. _____



Plastic Butter Tub

1. _____
2. _____



Paper Towel Roll

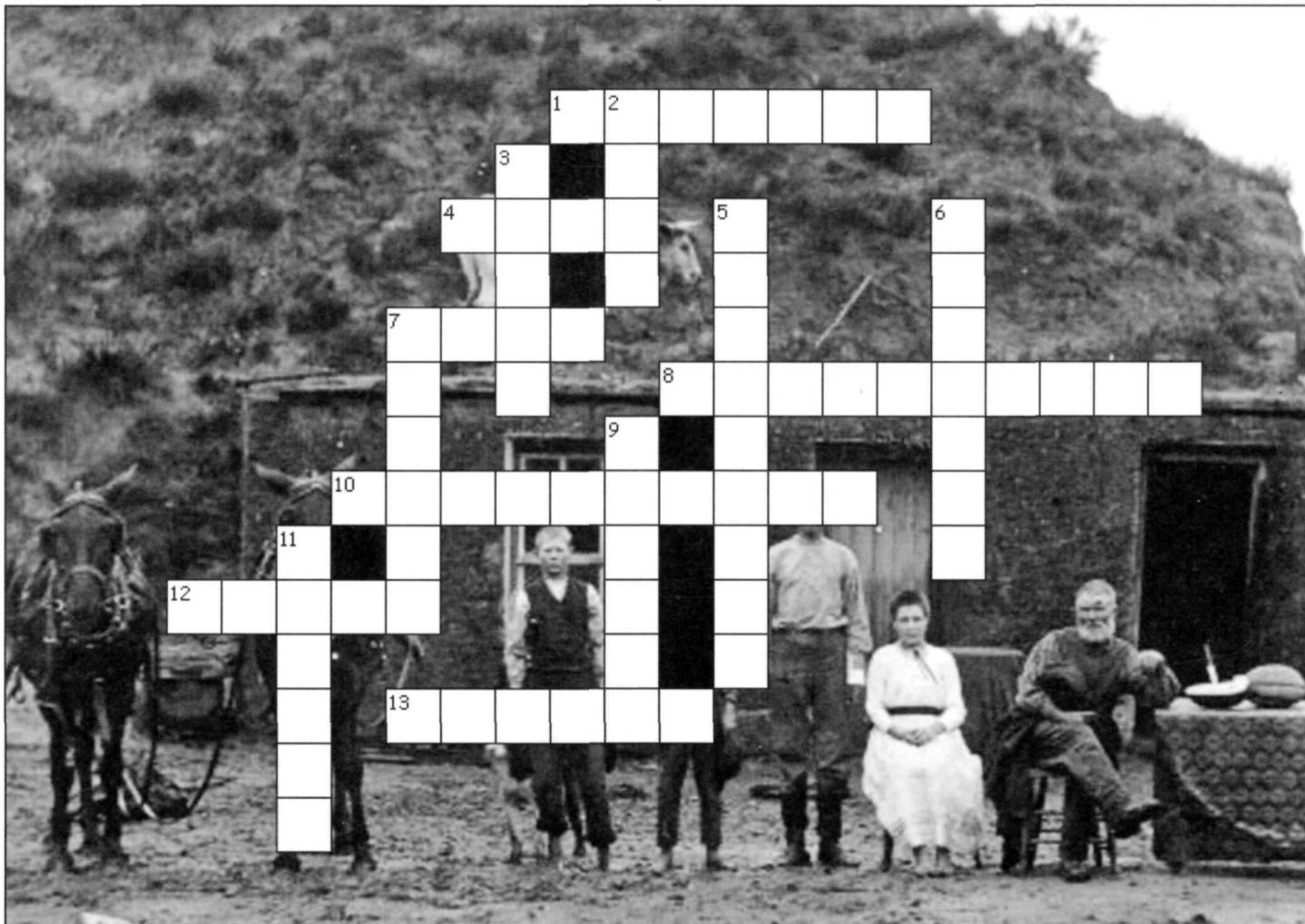
1. _____
2. _____





Homestead Crossword

We hope you have had fun learning about the Homestead Act of 1862 and homesteading! Test your knowledge by completing the crossword puzzle below (*a hint, you can find many of the answers to this crossword puzzle in the Homestead Heritage Center*).



Across

1. These were swarming insects that invaded homesteads.
4. The number of years a homesteader was required to stay on their homestead.
7. This was used to break the tough sod of the prairie.
8. These were used before television and radio to promote products. (two words)
10. This eased back-breaking work for homesteaders.
12. This was grown to make flour for bread.
13. A churn was used to make this.

Down

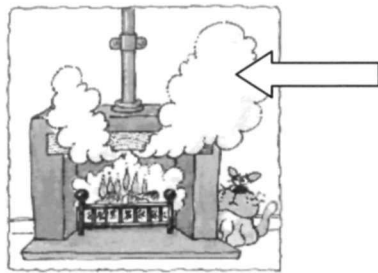
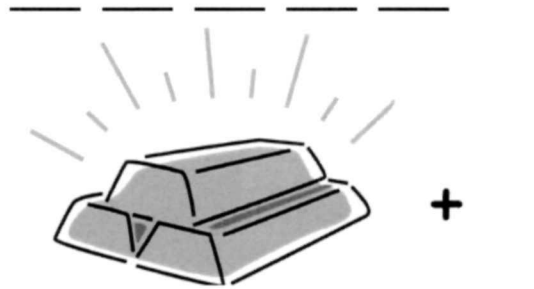
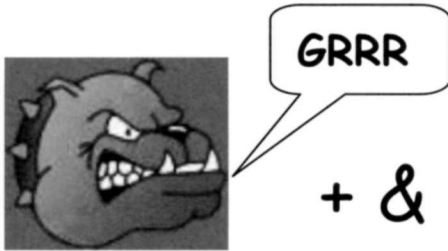
2. Animals that were used to pull a plow.
3. 2000 pound animal that used to roam the American prairie.
5. Last name of the final homesteader.
6. Last name of the president who signed the Homestead Act of 1862.
7. A homesteader received this after proving up.
9. A type of homestead house.
11. This was invented by Cyrus McCormick.



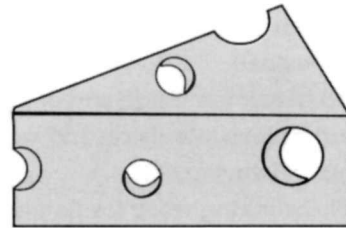


Where have YOU been?

Homestead National Historical Park is a unit of the *National Park Service* (NPS). The mission of the NPS is to preserve the history, plants, and animals of over 400 different sites around the country for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations! Each NPS site tells a different piece of the story of the United States. The “rebus writing” (pictures instead of words) below names several other NPS sites. Have you visited them?



r +



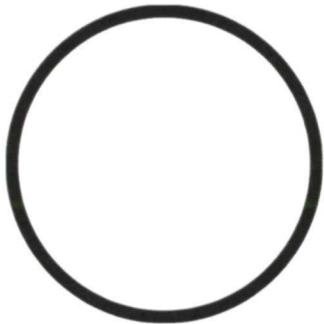
Hint: Say the r slowly, and the image fast!

Learn More! Check out your National Parks online at www.nps.gov

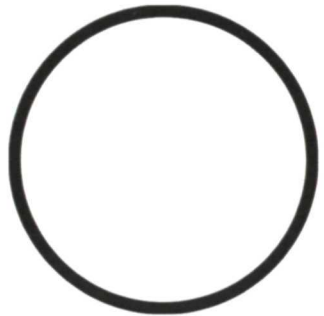




Junior Ranger Certificate



PARK PASSPORT STAMP



JUNIOR RANGER STAMP



This Certificate is awarded to

for successfully completing the
Homestead Junior Ranger program.

Junior Ranger Pledge:

As a Junior Ranger, I
promise to protect
and respect the
plants, animals, and
history at Homestead
National Historical
Park. I pledge to
teach others about
what I learn, and to
keep exploring
National Parks.

PARK RANGER

DATE



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Homestead National Historic Park
8523 West State Highway 4
Beatrice, NE 68310
402-223-3514
www.nps.gov/home

Park



Never Be Idle.

BE POLITE.

Herkimer School in Marshall County, Kansas, 1900-1910
Kansas State Historical Society

