



## Teaching Guide

### SEGMENT 5, WEBISODE 3

Please note: Each segment in this Webisode has its own Teaching Guide



#### Segment Overview



#### Let's Discuss

As settlers moved westward into the wilderness beyond the colonies, Daniel Boone and other frontiersmen and trailblazers opened the way across the Appalachian Mountains. Boone in particular became a figure of mythic stature and a model for later depictions of heroes in literature and drama who opened the west.

Settlers moved along the Wilderness Road into Kentucky, and in the south along the Santa Fe Trail to southwestern regions that still belonged to Mexico. The promise of a new life in a land of freedom also attracted thousands of Europeans to the unknown just as it had lured their countrymen centuries earlier. Land and its resources seemed limitless and available to anyone with the strength and courage to take possession of them.

#### Teacher Directions

1. Using a classroom map, atlas, or Joy Hakim's *Making Thirteen Colonies*, page 90 (2d ed. p. 94), as resources, show students a map of the English colonies.

2. Ask the students to consider the following situation.

By the 1770s, the thirteen original colonies had grown in population with many busy towns and cities. Many settlers found that the best farmland had already been taken. Settlers who wanted adventure, a place of their own, good farmland, and a more open society looked to the west. But something stood in the way of their migration. Study the map with your teammates. What stood in the way of westward expansion?

3. Discuss the Appalachian Mountains as a barrier to western expansion. Be sure the students realize that there were no roads over the mountains and through the wilderness.



### Teacher Directions

1. For background material, read the following account of the life of Daniel Boone and his accomplishments as a frontiersman and trailblazer. Relate this information to the students so that they can make a list of Boone's accomplishments. As an alternate approach, students may read Chapter 41, "Westward Ho," in Joy Hakim's *A History of US: Making Thirteen Colonies* or other books or Internet sources to find information about Daniel Boone.

John Filson, a Pennsylvania schoolteacher, published and republished *The Adventures of Col. Daniel Boon* purported to be in Boone's own words. The book appeared in America and in Europe and was translated into several languages. Filson made Boone a wilderness superman, a bold if gentle soul who had embraced nature, bested savages, and achieved nobility denied the city dweller. Thus Boone became a figure of myth in his own lifetime and a model for all heroes of literature and drama who later celebrated the winning of the West.

In reality, the amazing Boone needed no fabrication. Endowed with an active and judicious mind, Boone possessed a shrewd eye for opportunity. He was politician, surveyor, militia officer, land speculator, blacksmith, tavern keeper, farmer, and harvester of ginseng root that he shipped to China. But these undertakings were secondary to his life in the forest. With Old Tick-Licker, his favorite hunting rifle, he vanished into the wilderness, an environment with which he was marvelously and instantly in harmony. No matter what else he accomplished, Boone was forever the ultimate woodsman who proudly carved, "D. Boone cilled a bar on this tree." There was something of genius about his woodsmanship—his sensitivity to variations of light, shade, sound, and flow of air, and to the men and animals who moved so softly in the wilderness. The most notable of Boone's achievements all turned in one way or the other upon this facet of his nature.

The wilderness drew Boone even as a Quaker boy in a quiet corner of Pennsylvania where he spent his childhood. One of eleven children, all well educated for their day, Daniel was different, and his father wisely did not try to change him. When ten years old, Daniel went to live in the woods to watch his family's cattle and learn things not in books. He studied wild animals and peaceful Pennsylvania Indians and learned to hunt with a spear. At thirteen, he mastered blacksmithing to keep his rifle in repair, and at fifteen, found wider forests to roam when his family moved to North Carolina's western border. In that wild country, Daniel could shoot a dozen deer before noon and carry the hides for profit to the local market town. During the French and Indian War, young Boone signed on as a wagoner with the British expedition that hoped to take France's Fort Duquesne at the forks of the Ohio River and narrowly survived ambush by eight hundred French and Indians at Turtle Creek.

In the summer of 1755, Boone married Rebecca Bryan. Four years later, Daniel Boone, planter, bought over six hundred acres, built a cabin, put in

History Sleuth, Cont.

a crop of corn, and headed off west into the Appalachian Mountains to hunt and trap.

Not simply adventures, Boone's explorations financed his growing family with profits from animal pelts. In 1769, Boone assembled an expedition to cross the Cumberland Gap in search of the game-filled Kentucky grassland. Boone's party discovered eight thousand miles of woodland and rolling, grassy glades—a paradise for the hunter and land speculator alike. While hunting and amassing a small fortune in furs, Shawnees captured Boone and his brother-in-law John Stuart and stole the camp's supplies, horses, and furs. After escape and recapture, the pair finally returned to their looted base by foot. Except for Stuart and Boone who stubbornly stayed, the rest of the party headed home.

After the disappearance of Stuart, Boone, joined by his brother Squire, hunted steadily until they had enough hides to pay their debts. Squire headed for home, but Daniel, alone, with only his rifle, ammunition, and blanket, began a single-handed investigation of western Kentucky in which he learned the land as thoroughly as the Indian and honed his intuitive, primitive arts of survival in a hostile wilderness. In 1771, Boone finally returned home after two years, convinced that his fortune lay in bluegrass country. Adventure led him west again in 1773, this time with Rebecca, his eight sons and daughters, and five other families to make a permanent home in Kentucky.

Along the way to their new home, Indians ambushed, tortured, and killed Boone's eldest son James and Henry Russell. The shaken party disbanded to return home, but Boone set out again in 1775 with thirty armed and mounted ax men. In fourteen days they hacked a pack-horse trace west over the Cumberland Gap and the Warrior's Path, followed by the first contingent of settlers. During the Revolutionary War years, frontier warrior tribes, plied with rum and armed by the British, incessantly raided the new settlements of Boonesborough, Harrodsburg, and Logan's Station among others. Those who bitterly endured the terrors, danger, and hardship described the horrendous year of 1777 as the "Year of the Bloody Sevens."

In January 1778, Boone led a party north to the Blue Licks to boil away hundreds of gallons of brine to produce salt, a critical frontier commodity crucial to curing hides and meat. Although Shawnees captured Boone and the salt party, he saved them from death with an impassioned speech, and the men were either sold to the British or honored by membership in the tribe. The great chief Blackfish adopted Boone as his son. To allay suspicion after months of captivity, Boone secretly emptied bullets from all the loaded guns he could find and dared his new brothers to shoot him as he tried to run away. As the warriors began firing, Boone made a great show of catching the bullets in his leather apron. Grinning mightily, he made an even greater show of returning the bullets to his startled audience as he assured them, "Here! Boone ain't going away!"

With knowledge of Blackfish's plan to attack Boonesborough, Boone decided he had been a Shawnee long enough and escaped in mid-June

when the warriors went hunting. He did not stop until he reached Boonesborough, having covered one hundred sixty miles in just four days and nights. He arrived in time to organize the settlers, raise a stockade, and build two new blockhouses.

In September, Boone and a dozen others set out to harass over four hundred Indians heading to attack Boonesborough. Arriving back at the fort a day before the Indian assault, he sounded the alarm. With only thirty men and twenty boys inside the stockade, Boone set out to buy time. After a three-day council with Boone and eight others, the Indians produced a peace pipe and offered to shake hands. When the Indians tried to drag the lot of them over a river embankment, the Battle of Boonesborough began. Boone knocked Blackfish down, and his companions struggled as the riflemen in the fort opened fire. The men ran frantically for the stockade gate as Indians hidden in the brush fired on them.

With nightfall, Blackfish settled down to starve the fort into submission. Day after day, shots were exchanged. On the seventh night, the Indians heaved burning brands and flaming arrows at the stockade. But the venture was badly timed, an earlier drizzle had made the fort too damp to burn. At the same time, scores of Indians constructed a tunnel from the riverbank to the stockade wall. With food running short and hoarded water almost gone, the defenders built a counter tunnel. However Blackfish had powder to burn, and his warriors threatened to dig a hole and blow the fort away. Nevertheless, when the tunnel collapsed that night during a torrential rain, the disgruntled Indians vanished.

Resistance at Boonesborough was crucial to the Revolutionary War in the west because of its location at the fork of the Ohio River. Boone's adventures of 1778 crowned his achievements that made him the earliest of western heroes. He left Boonesborough and founded the new settlement of Boone's Station north of the Kentucky River.

In 1780, Boone set out with \$50,000 of his own and his friends' money to beat eastern speculators in buying unclaimed areas of Kentucky. However a thief vanished with the money as Boone slept in a tavern inn. Boone suffered the scandal with great distress, although worse was to come. His military career ended in tragedy when a militia company ignored Boone's warning of an Indian ambush. During the attack, his son Israel fell dying. Unable to carry him across the river during the fight, Boone found Israel's body five days later, recognizing his clothing. Boone never shook off his sense of guilt for having failed to halt the attack and could not speak of Israel's death without weeping.

Still the great woodsman, now almost fifty years old, became one of the most famous men in the world and, as thousands of settlers poured into Kentucky, a member of the legislature, horse trader, tavern keeper, and one of the richest of the state's speculators in land. His fame brought clients to him to locate, survey, and stake out a suitable claim as their proxy. Boone asked for half the land to be deeded to him for his services. By 1788, he owned at least 50,000 acres. Feeling as if he still moved

through an untrammelled wilderness, Boone naïvely put off establishing clear, legal title to lands he had surveyed. While he went hunting, others settled on his clients' lands, which were lost without deeds or warrants. Boone discovered to his horror that Kentuckians now regarded him as a fraud, and he was deluged with lawsuits. Not alone in his predicament (many early settlers were deprived of land as courts and lawyers established themselves in Kentucky), Boone tried to sell his land to pay his multiplying debts.

As of old, Boone disappeared into the forest to hunt. A backwoodsman was startled in the mid-1790s to come upon Boone, now turned sixty, with Rebecca and two of his daughters and their husbands living in open-sided lean-tos. They had one butcher knife, wooden forks made from cane, and were eating from wooden troughs. Boone was ecstatic. He had, he said, just shot "the master bear of the Western county" and was happy to say that he expected a good price for its skin.

2. Students name as many of Boone's accomplishments as they can as you list them on the chalkboard.
3. Introduce the role of myth and historical accuracy as it relates to Daniel Boone. Mention the role of John Filson and "The Adventures of Col. Daniel Boone" purported to be in Boone's own words. Explain that the account contained much error and made Boone a superhero backwoodsman and Indian fighter.
4. Introduce and define the concepts of myth and legend in history. As you explain myth and legend, write their definition on chart paper.  
  
myth or legend - story or information from the past that is sometimes regarded as historical but is not proven true
5. Discuss myth and legend with the class using the following questions.
  - How do legends and myths in history develop?
  - Why do myths and legends occur in history?
  - Why is it important to distinguish historical fact from myth?
6. Help students realize that myths and legends sometimes grow when we do not know the true facts or if our information is incomplete. Then we fill in the blanks with misinformation. Sometimes we add to or change a historical story to make a point like John Filson did in his "The Adventures of Col. Daniel Boone." Filson wanted to sell his book and interest settlers in moving to Kentucky. Movies, novels, tall tales, and other forms of popular entertainment also create myths and legends.



What do you  
Think?



Moving Toward  
Freedom

### Teacher Directions

1. Ask the students
  - What myths and legends do you think grew out of the adventures of Daniel Boone?
  - Do you think that myth and legend only occur in written accounts?
2. Students, working in their teams, illustrate events in Daniel Boone's life. Some teams may illustrate popular legends while others may illustrate real historic events. Students combine their illustrations into a mural, putting the myth and reality of Boone's life into a meaningful arrangement.

### Teacher Directions

1. Share the following information with students.

Alexis de Tocqueville, a Frenchman who came to America to study democracy, thought that the United States had advanced farther than any other nation in having a free democratic society. He recorded his observations in his book *Democracy in America*.

2. Write the following quotation by de Tocqueville on the chalkboard, chart paper, or a transparency.

*Everything is extraordinary in America, the social condition of the inhabitants as well as the laws; but the soil upon which these institutions are founded is more extraordinary than all the rest...That continent still presents, as it did in the primeval time, rivers that rise from never failing sources, green and moist solitudes, and limitless fields. Europeans are peaceably spreading over those fertile plains....*

3. Ask the students
  - How does de Tocqueville view America?
  - What does he cite as special about the country?
  - How does he describe the land?
  - Do you think the land was as limitless and unoccupied as de Tocqueville thought it was?
4. Alexis de Tocqueville also said that the land was unoccupied. Ask the students to think about what group of people he ignored in saying this. For whom was the westward movement not a movement toward freedom? Why?



## Connections

### Teacher Directions

Use the following activities with your students.

**Art/Library** — Students research the homes of the early frontiersmen, such as the log cabin and the lean-to, and create models or illustrations. Students connect the use of local environmental materials to the structures.

**Music** — Students listen to the song, “Oh, Shenandoah” and other music from the colonial and Revolutionary periods.

**Local History** — Students contact their local historical society or other associations to learn who were the first settlers in their local region. Students create a display for their school that shares the area’s local early history.

**Geography** — Students draw illustrated maps of the Wilderness Road through the Appalachian Mountains or the Santa Fe Trail to the southwest.

**Art** — Students use library resources or the Internet to research artists who depicted the land in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Some names to pursue include Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Cole, George Catlin, Frederick Remington, Arthur Jacob Miller, and William Ranney. How did they present the land? Would you be anxious to move into such land?

**Art/Library**— Students create a Wilderness Road board game.