

1800s Indiana Life Tour

Available:	Tuesday – Friday Year Round	
Length:	90 minutes	Grades: 2 – 4
Setup:	30 mins	4 stations
Indiana Standards: Indiana Standards:	2.1.2; 2.1.7; 3.1.1;3.1.2; 3.1.4; 3.1.5; 3.1.6; 4.1.5; 4.1.12; 4.1.13; 4.1.15;	

Station 1: Intro – Lobby (10 minutes)

Welcome _____ Elementary! Do you need to use the restrooms? (If so, direct them to the bathrooms and wait as children filter out. Have them sit on floor while main person does group introduction). Raise your hand if you have been here before! **Can anyone tell me where you are today?** (solicit answers) *You are at the Wabash County Historical Museum!* **Can anyone tell me what you are going to learn about today?** *About Indiana pioneers in the 1800s.* **Can anyone think of why we might have named our state Indiana?** *Because there were many Indian tribes that lived here.* **Can anyone think of the names of some Indian Tribes that lived here?** *Miami, Potawatomi, Delaware, Shawnee, Apaches, etc. Indiana means “land of the Indians,” which means many of these Indian tribes were still around as pioneers moved into the Indiana Territory.* Eventually, there were enough pioneers living in the Indiana territory that they decided to become a state. **Does anyone know what year Indiana became a state?** *1816.* Today, we are going to talk about how the early settlers of Indiana lived in the 1800s and compare it to how we live today. We are going to break you into your classes. Class one, you are going to go with leader 1, class 2 you are going to go with leader 2, etc. Today we are going to explore what life was like as a pioneer in Indiana during the 1800s.

Station 2: Inventions of the 1800s (20 minutes): Location: downstairs of exhibit by Lighting of Wabash display

Life in Indiana back then was much different than it was today! Raise your hand if you have chores to do at home. **What kind of chores do you have to do?** (Solicit answers). Most of us all have to do some chores.

PART 1

Does anyone have to help with doing the laundry? How do we wash and dry our cloths? (Solicit answers)

Has anyone seen one of these? (hold up washboard). This is an old fashioned washboard; in 1816, this was considered the washing machine. **Does anyone know how to use it?** You fill up this pan with warm, soapy water. You place the wash board inside the water upright and hold it. And then you take your clothing and scrub it up against this board like so (do demonstration). **Does anyone want to give it a try?** (Have students form a line to “wash” the shirt).

Was that easy or hard? Imagine having to wash every piece of clothing like that. Most of you are wearing socks, shirts, and pants. Imagine having to wash everyone’s cloths! That would take a long time!

Raise your hand if you ever have to help cook. **What do you cook with?** (stove, microwave, etc). In 1816, they had stoves too, but guess what? You had to make a fire in order to start cooking your meal.

PART 1

Now that you have conquered washing the clothes, you are going to try to cook. **Does anyone know what this is?** (hold up old fashion toaster and solicit answers from kids). *This is actually a toaster!* **Any ideas on how we would actually toast a piece of bread?!** (solicit answers)

First we would take the piece of bread and place it in the toaster. **Where do you think the bread goes?**

Then what? Can I put it in the microwave? *No, because microwaves weren't invented yet, right?!* **How do you think we would toast it?** *We would put it over a fire! (Put toaster over "fire.")* Then when one side is done, we would flip the piece of toast over and toast the other side.

Those are some of things that were used in everyday life; now let's look at some things that were invented to improve every day life.

Hold up each item individually:

What is this? *A zipper, this was invented in 1893.* **What do you think they used before zippers?** *buttons, ties*

What is this? *A paper clip.* **What do you think they used before?** *String*

What is this? *Toilet paper was invented in 1857.* **What do you think they used before toilet paper?** *Romans were ahead of the rest of the population of the world. They would use sponges, wool, and rosewater. They were definitely the cleanest of the clean. Rural Americans tended to use corn cobs.*

What is this? *A Telephone, which was invented in 1876.* **What did they use before then?**

What is this? *A light bulb.* **What do you think they used before the light bulb was invented?** *Candle*

Does anyone know what Wabash was famous for in the 1800s? *On March 31st, 1880, Wabash became the first electrically lighted city in the world!* **That means that the invention of this light bulb made us famous!** Let's look at the exhibit behind us.

Station 3: Making toothpaste: (20 minutes): Location:

We already learned that chores back in 1816 were very different than they are today! Because towns were so much smaller than they are now, stores like Wal-Mart weren't around. Often times, families made their own things to survive. For example, instead of buying new cloths to go back to school, mom and grandma would make the cloths for the families. Instead of buying butter and milk, families would milk their cow and churn their butter. Instead of buying toothpaste or soap, they made it from scratch. And guess what! You get to try making your own toothpaste from scratch too, just like the pioneers did.

Every please find a chair around this table (U setup is best). I'm going to give you all a Dixie Cup. Do not put your fingers in the cup. (pass out cups and have adults help). First, smell the cup. What does it smell like. (The Dixie cup will already have the tooth powder in it and one drop of food coloring in it). Each adult is going to come around and add a few drops of glycerin into your cup. Once they give you the glycerin, I want you take the popcicle stick and stir up the ingredients in your cup. Now we are ready to add the flavoring! You can either choose from cinnamon or peppermint flavoring for your toothpaste.) Have adults monitor the amount of flavoring per/cup.

Now you have made your own toothpaste to use! Congrats!

- **MAKE YOUR OWN TOOTH POWDER:** Thoroughly mix 3 parts baking soda (the cleanser and sweetener) with one part salt (the abrasive). You'll find that the creation has a satisfying, different taste and leaves your mouth feeling very fresh and soothed. If you'd like, add a few drops of peppermint or wintergreen oil to the concoction for extra fresh feeling.

MAKE YOUR OWN TOOTHPASTE: To each half cup of homemade tooth powder, add 3 teaspoons of glycerin, 10-20 drops of flavoring (peppermint, wintergreen, anise, cinnamon or whatever) and 1 drop of food coloring. Careful with the food coloring, some food coloring will dye your gums if you use too much. Mix the ingredients thoroughly in a bowl and add just enough water to make the concoction "tooth-pastey".

Spoon your mixture into a small refillable plastic squeeze bottle or any container that dispenses easily and won't leak. The amount of glycerin you add will control the "pastiness" of the tooth cleaner and the type of flavoring will determine the taste. Again, watch out for what flavoring you use. Some flavors are stronger than others. What ever flavor you choose, add sparingly until you get the desired taste.

Both ingredients are inexpensive and available at any drugstore and many grocery stores.

Commercial toothpastes generally incorporate a slick, easy flowing combination of chalk, soap, glycerin and flavorings. Your homemade creation won't be as smooth ... but you'll find it less wasteful and less expensive..

- Make your own colors by mixing the dyes, or create a tie dye effect by using two or more colors instead of just one.

Station 4: Transportation: (20 minutes): Location: Upstairs of exhibit

Raise your hand and tell me how you got to school today. Has anyone gone on vacation? How did you get to where you were going? Some of you have ridden the bus; some of you rode with your mom or dad to get to school. Some of you rode in a big car, or RV when going on vacation and some of you even rode on a plane before. Do you think they could do that in the 1800's? No, probably not. Cars and planes weren't around at that time. What are some ways you think they got from one place to another? (solicit answers) Horses, wagons, boats, trains (eventually), canoes, bicycles, walking. Has anyone ridden a train before? In this room are many different forms of transportation. I am going to let you look around and explore all the different ways to travel. When I count to 3, you'll need to come back to me and tell me something you learned. Please do not run while you explore this part of the exhibit.

Give kids 10 minutes to walk around and then call them back to find out what they learned

What did you see while you walked around? (solicit answers) wagon, train, train station, moped, map, truck.

In the 1816s the main form of transportation for people your age was walking. Can you imagine, you and your brothers and sisters having to walk all the way to school! Many times, children had to walk a couple of miles in the morning before they could get to school and then walk all the way back.

If you had to pick things up from a store you had to get the horses out, and get the carriage ready, and then ride off to the store. Do you think that would be fun when it's winter and icy out? What about when it was hot and sticky out?

Station 5: 1800 games: (20 minutes) Location: Parking Lot

Who here likes to play games? What kind of games do you play? (solicit answers) Well we are going to play some games like they did in the 1800s. I need you all to pay close attention while I explain these games. The first game is

Marbles: 30 marbles, 2 shooters: Each child in group gets to shoot a marble to see how many they get out of the circle

Pick-up Sticks: Each student in group gets to try pick up a stick without moving any of the other sticks

(3)Cup & Ball: Have students work in pairs. Each student gets 5 tries to get the ball into the cup, and then they must pass it onto their partner.

Break group up into 3 groups and have them rotate. Designate an adult to help facilitate each group.