

A decorative border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns surrounds the text. The border consists of an outer wide band with large floral motifs and an inner narrow band with a repeating geometric pattern.

Early Times
in
Wabash County

Pre-Trip

If we want light in a room, we flip a light switch. During a pioneer's time, they would have had to light a candle.

If we want to go visit a friend, we probably get to their house in a car. If a pioneer wanted to visit a friend or neighbor, they would have had to yoke up oxen or horses and take a wagon for the journey.

Think about the things you use everyday that pioneers wouldn't have had. How do they make your life easier?

Find these old-fashioned tools.



At the Museum

- How many of these items can you identify?
- Can you find what was used. . .
 - to make candles?
 - to yoke oxen?
 - to plant seeds?

Pre-Trip

If we want a new pair of shoes, we probably drive to the mall and pay for them.

When pioneers first settled in the area, there weren't department stores or grocery stores. They would grow, build, or hunt for the things they needed. For some things, though, they would trade often with other pioneers, and sometimes with Native Americans.

Trading means giving one thing in exchange for another.

What things do you trade? (Baseball cards? Toys?)

Find this trading barrel.



At the Museum

• Which of these items do you think the Native Americans had to trade? (Look for items that would have been made from nature)

• What do you think the pioneers brought to trade?

Pre-Trip

If we want to have something to eat, we can go to the grocery store or a restaurant and buy food that is ready to eat!

When mostly Native Americans lived in this area, grocery stores and restaurants didn't exist! They had to grow their own vegetables and trap or hunt animals. This trap is made of wood with a leather strap attached to the support pole.

Native Americans also used the skin and fur of the animal to make clothing and shelter.

Find this trap.



At the Museum

•Go ahead and try it!

•What animals do you think Native Americans could catch with a trap like this?

Pre-Trip

Lots of people in Wabash County have gardens or farms. We use tractors, and metal hoes and rakes to tend to our garden beds and fields.

Before Native Americans were introduced to metal and to engines (that make a tractor go), they had to use items that came from the world around them.

Indians would often grow tobacco, potatoes, corn, peppers, beans, gourds, and herb.

At the Museum

Find these all natural gardening tools.



- See if you can tell what was used to make these gardening tools.

Pre-Trip

When pioneers settled in the Wabash area, it was mostly covered in forest. They would travel by wagon to an area, clear the land of trees, and build a house for themselves and an area to grow the foods they needed to survive.

They didn't have tractors to plow the land to make it ready to plant. They would have to use a plow like this. (A pioneer plow would have been just plain metal, not painted yellow and green!)

Find this plow.



At the Museum

- Push the plow.
- Read the fast fact.
- Can you imagine pushing a plow like this all day?

Pre-Trip

Look at the clothes she is wearing. Do they look like the clothes we wear now?

This woman is Frances Slocum, a white woman who was raised by Native Americans.

What do you think her life would have been like?

Find this woman.



At the Museum

- Read the story of Frances Slocum. Be sure to ask to see the original garment.
- Look at the items at her feet.
- How were they used in daily life?

Pre-Trip

When pioneers made the journey to this area, they had only a few options to get here. They could travel by horse, by foot, by wagon, or by boat.

How many different ways do we have to get around now?

Find this photograph.



At the Museum

- Study the picture.
- Do you think this would have been a difficult journey?
- Look at the items in the glass case below the photo. These are items that would have traveled on the river for trade.

Pre-Trip

Our shoes probably have some rubber in them and were made in a factory.

These shoes were made by hand and out of all natural materials. Can you imagine sewing all of those beads on?

Find this moccasin.



At the Museum

- Look closely at the pair of moccasins and the stone tools in the case.
- Read about the Native Americans that lived in this area.
- What were the two main tribes that lived here?

Pre-Trip

Today, we get our clothes from the department store. We might have a relative that still makes clothing, but they probably still buy their cloth from the store.

When the Native Americans lived in Wabash County, they would use the skins and fur of animals they caught to make clothing. They would sometimes remove the fur from the skin and make leather, which they could then sew into clothing.

Do you think you could make your own clothes?

Find these furs.



At the Museum

- How many of these furs can you identify?
- Which fur is the softest?
- Which fur would be the warmest?
- Which fur is the biggest?
 - Which animal had the longest claws?