

## The Frontier and Frontiersmen

The time period after the Revolutionary War against Great Britain was an exciting time in which pioneers, settlers, and frontiersmen strove to push the boundaries of America beyond the existing European colonies of the east coast. The acquisition of territories beyond the Appalachian Mountains (like the Louisiana Purchase in 1803) pushed the "frontier" of the orderly populated areas of the east further and further westward. The pioneers and settlers migrated west in search of freedom, greater land access, and to avoid the urbanization of the east.

Many famous people were involved in the adventurous time period of the Frontier. One of the earliest was Daniel Boone (1734 – 1820). Boone was born in eastern Pennsylvania and spent the majority of his childhood hunting and farming along with his father and brothers. He was the sixth of eleven children born to a Quaker family. Boone served in the British army during the French and Indian War. He became a hunter by profession. He would go on hunting expeditions for long periods of time and return home with hundreds of animal skins, which he would sell to fur traders. This was how he supported his wife, Rebecca, and family.

In 1767, Boone traveled to Kentucky with his brother on a hunting trip. He was drawn there by rumors of a fertile land with great hunting opportunities. In Kentucky, Boone's hunting party was captured by the Shawnee American Indian tribe and their furs were taken from them. The party was warned by the Indians to never return to those grounds, which were considered Shawnee territory. When the American Revolutionary War began, Boone served as a member of the militia. Boone fought in dozens of skirmishes and battles with the Indians in Kentucky and in Ohio. In 1778, he was captured by the Shawnee and actually adopted into their tribe. In 1788, he opened a trading post in Virginia but ran into financial problems. In 1799, Boone moved to Missouri and served as a local judge. He continued to hunt for the remainder of his years.

Davy Crockett (1786 – 1836) was the fifth of nine children born to his parents and was named after his grandfather who had been killed by American Indians in his home. He was born in Tennessee and, as a small child, wanted to spend his leisure time hunting. His father sent him to school, but Crockett skipped out on attending. He eventually ran away from home and spent his childhood roaming from town to town and learning the skills of a frontiersman. When he was fifteen, he returned to his home and found that his family had built a successful tavern.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Frontier and Frontiersmen (Cont'd)

In 1813, Crockett joined the Tennessee Mounted Volunteer Regiment and fought in several battles in Alabama for the next year. In 1827, he was elected to the House of Representatives and voted against President Jackson's "Indian Removal Act." Crockett was re-elected in 1833, but was defeated in 1834. Frustrated with the government, Crockett went to Texas in 1835, saying that he wanted to explore Texas. In February of 1836, Crockett arrived at the Alamo in Texas. Later that month, a Mexican army attacked the fort. It is believed that Crockett died fighting in the battles.

In 1862, President Lincoln signed the Homestead Act into law. This act encouraged settlers to become farmers outside of the territory that was already heavily populated and used on the east coast. These new lands stretched westward from the frontier. The law required applicants to complete three steps: file an application, file for a deed or title, and to improve the land they were requesting the deed for. Eventually, over one million homesteads were granted, and the Act became very problematic. Many cases of fraud ensued because there was almost no way to verify any of the claims.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Frontier and Frontiersmen Questions

Multiple Choice:

1. Pioneers and settlers migrated west in search of all of the following EXCEPT:
  - a. greater land access
  - b. freedom
  - c. buffalo
  - d. avoiding the urbanization of the east
  
2. Daniel Boone was born in:
  - a. New York
  - b. Virginia
  - c. Massachusetts
  - d. Pennsylvania
  
3. It is believed that Crockett died:
  - a. at the Alamo
  - b. at home
  - c. while hunting
  - d. in Washington
  
4. This man was elected to the House of Representatives in 1827:
  - a. Crockett
  - b. Boone
  - c. Lincoln
  - d. Jones
  
5. This act encouraged settlers to become farmers outside of the territory that was already heavily populated and used on the east coast:
  - a. The Settler's Act
  - b. The Homestead Act
  - c. The Louisiana Act
  - d. The Redirect Act

### **True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_ 6. In 1813, Crockett joined the Tennessee Mounted Volunteer Regiment.
- \_\_\_\_ 7. Boone and Crockett both hated hunting.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Frontier and Frontiersmen Answers

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