

Home Cookin'

Assignment Pages 27-31

25 pts. possible (+ bonus)

Overview

Each of these assignment pages uses basically the same procedure as the others in the “Home Cookin’” section, so this one assignment page will work for all of them. This assignment tends to be one of the most popular projects of the whole year. It may seem like it’s not very “academic” but an important part of learning about history is being able to put yourself as much as possible into the actual situation that people in history experienced, so you can understand how it might have felt first hand. Like most good learning experiences, this assignment is much more about the “process” than the “product.”

Even though you will be cooking with all the modern conveniences of the 21st century, notice how basic and simple the recipes are while you use them, and try to imagine yourself mixing the ingredients in a camping situation and cooking them over a campfire. Hopefully this will help you better imagine one small difficulty the pioneers would have suffered. More importantly, as you eat the foods you and your group members create, imagine spending several months with these foods as your daily diet. This will vastly further your *appreciation* of the hardships pioneers faced, and that’s the overall goal of this assignment.

Directions

Simply take one of the recipe pages home and use it to make any one pioneer food. Some of the pages have multiple recipes on them. You only need to pick one. Follow the directions as written on the recipe. You are encouraged to receive guidance and assistance from a parent or guardian (as long as you remember to thank him/her afterward) especially in the parts that involve using a stove or oven. How well the food turns out will NOT directly affect the project grade. Creating the food is only the first part of the assignment. You also have to bring it with you to school and convince each and every member of your group to taste it. You should also offer some to your teacher. Be sure to bring paper plates, napkins, utensils, etc. as needed. **NOTE: YOU MAY NOT BRING A METAL BUTTER KNIFE TO SCHOOL.** You may not add extra ingredients to the dish, since extra ingredients would not have been available on your wagon. You may want to coordinate your assignment with another person from YOUR OWN wagon train. For example, if you make gingerbread, and another pioneer makes butter, you can enjoy butter on your gingerbread. You can also make multiple recipes yourself, but you may get 25 points each for only two. Once every member of the group has tasted your “home cookin’” your trail boss will write in your 25 points on your tracking sheet.

BONUS OPTION

To *DOUBLE YOUR POINTS* in this project, arrange with your parents and friends and trail boss to supervise you in eating only your “home cookin’” food(s) for one full 24 hour period. You may also drink only water. The goal of this bonus is to help you better appreciate the hardship of having a limited diet. Depending on your cooking skill, however, this option could turn out to be a rather “extreme” experience. Therefore, your completion of the bonus part will require a parent signature (below) that both authorizes and validates that you have completed the bonus requirement. You may need to make multiple batches of the food in order to have enough to last you through the full day. There is a refrigerator available at school.

My child, _____, with my approval, has completed the bonus activity as listed above.

Parent / Guardian Signature _____ Date _____