

Summary: People on the Move

Exploring the Frontier

When Europeans came to America, they settled between the Atlantic coast and the Appalachian Mountains. These mountains were difficult to cross. The British government also did not allow colonists to cross the mountains. Land on the western side of the mountains belonged to the Indians. As land in the East filled with farms and towns, colonists wanted more land. By the late 1700s, many settlers crossed the Appalachians. Daniel Boone was a pioneer. In 1769, he explored an Indian trail that led through the Cumberland Gap over the Appalachians. Boone helped build a road through the Gap, called the Wilderness Road. He helped settlers across the mountains to the frontier. They found land that was rich and beautiful.

Life on the Frontier

Going across the mountains was hard. Settlers traveled in large wagons with food and supplies. The wagons often broke on the rocky paths. Others traveled on flatboats. They floated down the Mississippi and Ohio rivers or through canals. When pioneers got to the frontier, they saw that American Indians had already built villages and farms.

Life on the frontier was hard and lonely. Settlers left behind their families to move to a new land. Pioneers did many kinds of work on the frontier. Settlers cut down trees and used the wood to build houses. They grew grain and vegetables for their families. They also raised farm animals. Men hunted for meat. Women worked at home and watched the children.

American Indians believed that the land belonged to everyone. They did not believe it could be bought or sold. The Indians signed treaties with the government. The treaties said colonists could hunt on the land, but they could not live on it. The colonists wanted to stay. They fought with the Indians. One American Indian chief, Chief Logan, was friendly to the colonists. Then settlers killed his family in 1774. After that he fought against the colonists for many years.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

pioneer *noun*, one of the first people to enter or settle a region

frontier *noun*, the edge of a country or a settled region

flatboat *noun*, large, rectangular boat partly covered by a roof

canal *noun*, a waterway built for boat travel and shipping



After You Read

REVIEW In which river valleys did people look for farmland on the frontier?

Circle the names of the rivers the settlers traveled and settled near.

REVIEW What kinds of transportation did settlers use to move west? Draw a box around the sentences that tell how settlers traveled west.