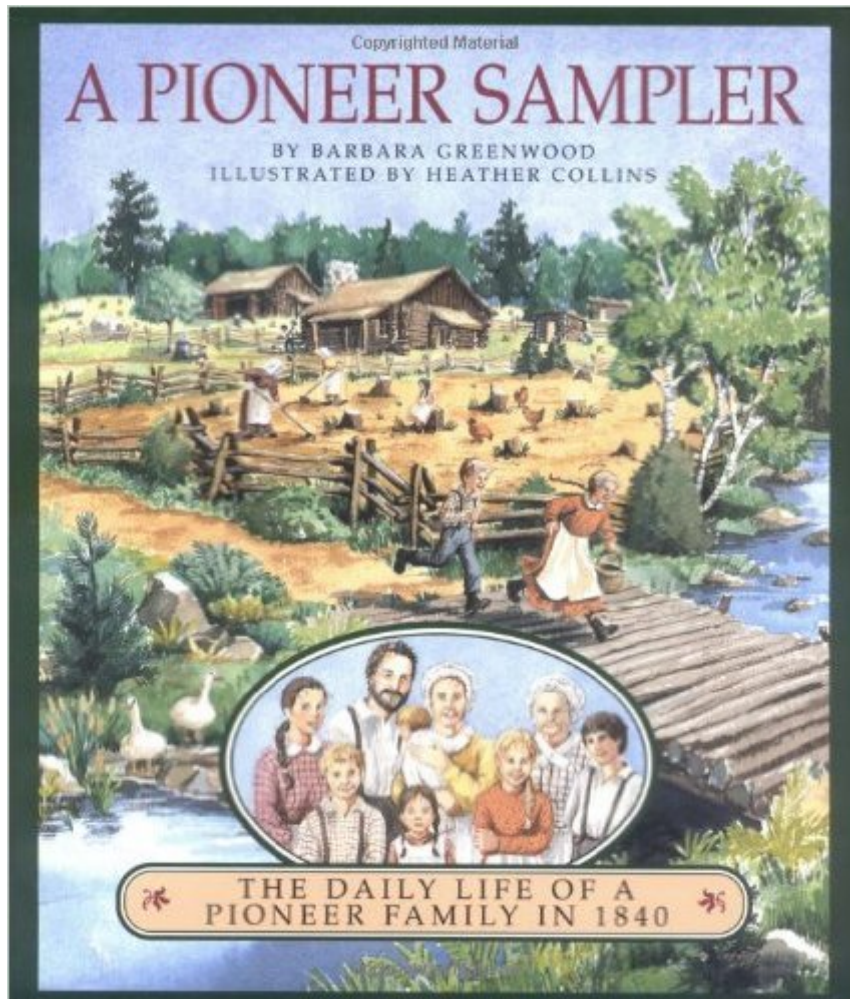


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A Pioneer Sampler: The Daily Life Of A Pioneer Family In 1840



Synopsis

In an unusual blend of fiction and nonfiction, *A Pioneer Sampler* chronicles one year in the lives of the Robinson family. Illustrated historical notes enlarge on the social history and describe activities related to the stories, from churning butter to predicting the weather. Young readers are invited to try their hand at these tasks to experience a bit of pioneer life.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 900L (What's this?)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (March 30, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395883938

ISBN-13: 978-0395883938

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 8.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (43 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #86,158 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

This book was recommended as a part of my homeschool curriculum for my second grader. Upon first receiving the book, I paged through, excited about the prospect of teaching this subject. However; as my eight year old daughter and I began reading the stories together, I was greatly disappointed in the representation of the family and how the siblings treated one another and their disrespectful attitude toward chores. I whole-heartedly agree with another reviewer who states that these interactions could have been completely eliminated from the book without losing any true value. For example:1. Brother George "growled and stomped off. Sarah and Willy had learned to be careful of George when he was in a prickly mood."2. "George always sneered at crybabies."3. Willy put in charge of the new boy at school: "Let the snotty little weasel look out for himself."4. Willy annoyed that he must bring in the stubborn cow: "Stupid, stupid, stupid critter."These situations (as

well as many others) are bothersome, especially when you are trying, as a parent, to teach your children how to respect others and be kind to them. It may have been better if the stories were written with some reconciliation or forgiveness, but they are not. If it had not been for the experiment sections of the text, my rating would have been lower. We enjoyed learning about the different ways pioneers had to make food and clothes and were able to implement some of the projects into our schooling. The stories about the Robertson family though were definitely not a representation of how I would want my family to behave, regardless of the difference in eras. I was honestly shocked at the number of reviews that said their children loved the stories.

This is a great book for teaching the concept "don't believe everything you read in books." An excellent way to sharpen critical thinking skills. 1) A lynx nearly attacks a child in fictional story...then the "factual" info that lynx were a feared predator because they stalked their victims by leaping from tree to tree, screaming. 2) Food back then was bland and tasteless. 3) Life was dull and drab, with little color in the house or clothing. 4) People wore wool summer and winter. 5) Two barrels of salt pork and a basket of potatoes to get a family of that size through the winter. 6) Pioneers didn't know how to keep bees but eventually figured out bee gums and skeps. Had they been teleported from Mars? 7) They depended on Native Americans for deerskin, since all they had was "European" cloth clothing. 8) HOW much land could be cleared in three years??? 9) Every pioneer family had a flock of sheep. Lots and lots of ignorant mistakes, misleading comments, and an apparent agenda to present life back then as miserable and the people as stupid and incompetent. Read the first three "Little House" books first to compare living conditions. Anybody who has real-life experience with old-time skills like the ones discussed in this book will find egregious errors. Isn't it possible that they would be able to figure out a way to clean the fireplace chimney without filling the house with soot and ash? Why can most modern horse people judge horse's height in hands by looking at it, while back then they apparently needed to physically measure it to see if it was "big enough to pull their plow"?

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