



Social Studies Unit | Grades 8-12 | Lesson 6: The Wilderness Church

Lesson Description

This authentic country church is a vintage log chapel originally built in 1849 on Bear Creek near Branson, MO. The structure was dismantled log by log, lovingly rebuilt in its current location at Silver Dollar City, and dedicated on July 10, 1960. The giant sycamore tree that once stood on the site was hand carved into the church's pulpit by Lester Vining, and is still used today. Students will get the opportunity to see how religion played a role in pioneer life and how different our church buildings look today. Weddings and hymn singings are actually still performed regularly inside the Wilderness Church.

Concepts

Local Ozarks History
Venn Diagram

Pioneer Living
Primary & Secondary Sources

Objectives

Students will:

- Tour the actual Wilderness Church.
 - Learn about pioneer life based on items and structures within the church.
 - Analyze primary and secondary resources.
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Content Standards

Knowledge: SS2, SS5, SS6
Performance: 1.2; 1.9; 3.2; 3.5; 4.3
CLE's: 3.A, 3.T, 3.Y, 3.Z, 7.A

Social Studies CLE:

- **3.A:** Migrations of people from many different regions of the world, including motivations for immigration and challenges to immigrants.
 - **3.T:** Physical/human characteristics that make places unique.
 - **3.Y:** Changing character of American society and culture.
 - **3.Z:** Analysis of Missouri history as it relates to major developments of United States history including exploration/settlement and conflict in the mid 1800s.
 - **7.A:** Analysis of primary and secondary resources.
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Time Required

Approximately 45 minutes

Materials

- Student activity sheet from the Kids-U-Cation website
 - Silver Dollar City Park Map
 - Writing utensil
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Procedures

1. Print off the student activity sheet from the Kids-U-Cation website and hand out to students.
 2. Read background information worksheet prior to visiting Silver Dollar City.
 3. Pick up a park map upon entering Silver Dollar City to get to the Wilderness Church.
 4. Turn into teacher for a completion or accuracy grade.
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Closure

Review the key points of this lesson by discussing the following:

- Name some of the items/structures that you saw inside the church.
 - What were these items/structures used for during a typical church service?
 - If you were the same age you are now but living in the 1880s, describe what this church service might be like for you.
 - After touring the church, what modern luxuries are you thankful for (air conditioning, projector screens, electric for light/sound, etc.)?
 - What was the most interesting fact you learned?
 - Review or research any confusing or unanswered questions.
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Assessment/Independent Practice

Complete the Primary Source Material worksheet and Enrichment exercise.

Name: _____

Wilderness Church



Religion was a way of life for the pioneers in the Ozarks and continues to be a driving force in the region today. These early settlers had different religious backgrounds (Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc). Most communities had small “union” churches. This meant that the people who settled here combined all of their religious practices into one community church. Because of this, religion in the Ozarks can look different than religion in other places.

Directions: Find the answers to the following questions:

1. What Bible verse is written above the window?
2. Why do you think this verse is appropriate for a church in the Ozarks?
3. What was a “circuit” preacher?
4. What was the importance of baptism to the pioneer?
5. Where did baptisms take place?
6. What would the bell be used for?
7. Would you have liked to attend this church? Why or why not?

Primary Source Materials:

Directions: Analyze the following primary source documents according to your teacher's directions:

- (1) Look at the picture of the baptism of some of the extended family members of the Casey and McHaffie families. Analyze the picture using the photo analysis worksheet.

- (2) Look at the "Minutes of Session" from the Old Stone Chapel that was near the original Casey/McHaffie Homestead in Forsyth. What do you find interesting about this document?

Enrichment

Create a Venn Diagram comparing the Wilderness Church to our churches today.



Baptism – Use Photo Analysis Worksheet

CHRONOLOGICAL ROLL

This Chronological Roll of Communicants is to be continued without erasures or repetitions from year to year through the successive pastorates and vacancies. All names are to be entered in full at the date of reception, numbered consecutively and entered with their respective numbers in the Alphabetical Index. If a new pastor desires a roll of actual members, it should be kept in another book.

NO.	NAME IN FULL	RECEIVED		IF BAPTIZED ON RECEPTION INDICATE IT HERE
		BY CERTIFICATE DATE	ON CONFESSION OR REAFFIRMATION DATE	
	Forsyth, Missouri September 5, 1892			
	We the undersigned agree and bind ourselves to pay the respective amounts set opposite our names, for the purpose of building a church house in the town of Forsyth, in Taney County, Missouri. Which said church house is to be built of stone and to be a union church. The amounts hereto subscribed to be due and payable on demand whenever the committee demands same.			
	CASH PLEDGES			
	E.E. Stires \$25.00	J.O. Carrol		5.00
	S.W. Boswell 50.00	W.B. Burks		10.00
	A.L. Parrish 25.00	John Boles		5.00
	E.A. Hilsbeck 25.00	Marsh Arnold, Benton		5.00
	J.C. Parrish 50.00	I.H. Arnold		10.00
	W.M. Wade 50.00	Sentinel Office		5.00
	J.G. Siler 25.00	John May		5.00
	J.H. Parrish 50.00	Jilus LaFuce		1.00
	L.H. Cook 10.00	A.J. Crage		1.00
	Clayton McCord 15.00	Dave Smithson		5.00
	J.M. Haworth 50.00	L.B. King		5.00
	John L. Cook 25.00	R.L. Hall		5.00
	C.H. Groom, two lots and 10.00	B.F. McKinney		5.00
	J.L. Davis 15.00	T.J. Berry		5.00
	D.F. McConkey 10.00	J.L. Bowerman		5.00
	M.B. Clark, West Plains 5.00	F.M. Littrell		5.00
	T.J. Vanzandt 10.00	Ssm Moore		5.00
	S.J. Williams 10.00	R.S. Waddell		5.00
	Jesse A. Tolerton 10.00	W. Clare Wert		5.00
	J.J. Hires 10.00	John S. Stout		5.00
	NAMES OF PERSONS SUBSCRIBING WORK			
	G.C. Hickey 40.00	J.L. Bowerman		5.00
	Chas. W. Kinyon 15.00	A.F. Morris		5.00
	James M. Kinyon 5.00	W.J. Hull		5.00
	J.F. Franklin 5.00	William Neeley		10.00
	C.C. Brown 5.00	M.N. Bowerman		5.00
	W.M. Wood 10.00	John Smithson		5.00
	J.F. Gladson 5.00	E.T. Anderson		5.00
	J.S. Burks 10.00	C.C. Blood		10.00
	R.G. Boswell 10.00	Charles Graham		1.00
	William Schonborg 5.00	(Jersey Coffee Man)		
	R.C. Barker 5.00	J.B. & J.M. Peck,		
	J.W. Middleton 10.00	Mt. Vernon, Mo.		1.00
	J.P. Morrow (16 days) 20.00	W.S. Thompson		10.00
	J.H. Breedon 5.00	Geo. Gibson		6.00
	R.I. Parrish 10.00	G.H. Phillips		5.00
	W.A. Keithley 10.00	J.T. Dickenson		5.00

Photo Analysis Worksheet

Step 1. Observation

A. Study the photograph for 2 minutes. Form an overall impression of the photograph and then examine individual items. Next, divide the photo into quadrants and study each section to see what new details become visible.

B. Use the chart below to list people, objects, and activities in the photograph.

People	Objects	Activities

Step 2. Inference

Based on what you have observed above, list three things you might infer from this photograph.

Step 3. Questions

A. What questions does this photograph raise in your mind?

B. Where could you find answers to them?