



A Day in a One-Room Schoolhouse  
Marathon County Historical Society Living History Learning Project

# History & Geography

## Activity Packet For Virtual Visits



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Mary Forer: Executive Director

# Note to Participants

*This packet contains information students can use to prepare for an off-site experience of a one-room school. These materials may be used by classroom teachers to approximate the experience without traveling to the Little Red Schoolhouse. They are available here for students who might be unable to attend in person for any reason. In addition, these materials may be used by anyone interested in remembering or exploring educational experiences from more than a century ago.*

*The usual lessons at the Little Red Schoolhouse in Marathon Park are taught by retired local school teachers and employees of the Marathon County Historical Society in Wausau, Wisconsin. A full set of lessons has been video-recorded and posted to our YouTube channel, which you can access along with PDFs of accompanying materials through the Little Red Schoolhouse page on our website. These materials are intended for personal or classroom educational purposes only.*

*To more closely enter the experience, participants are encouraged to dress in costume, pack their lunches in a pail, and gather writing materials that might approximate what would be used at the one-room school.*

- ♦ *If you have any questions, please call the Marathon County Historical Society office at 715-842-5750 and leave a message for Anna or Sandy, or email Sandy at [sblock@marathoncountyhistory.org](mailto:sblock@marathoncountyhistory.org).*

## On-Site Schoolhouse Daily Schedule

9:00 am	<b>Arrival Time.</b> If you attended the Schoolhouse in person, the teacher would ring the bell to signal children to line up in two lines, boys and girls, in front of the door. Everyone would recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Students would then file into school, girls first. They would take their places in rows of desks, girls on one side, boys on the other side.
9:30 am	<b>Reading and Recitation</b> using McGuffey's Eclectic Readers.
10:00 am	<b>Arithmetic</b> problems using lap slates.
10:30 am	<b>Recess</b> with turn-of-the-century games and bathroom break.
11:00 am	<b>Penmanship</b> exercises using dip pens and ink.
11:45 am	<b>Lunch</b> with free play and bathroom break.
12:30 am	<b>Geography and Current Events</b> using a turn-of-the-century map.
1:00 pm	<b>Old-fashioned Spelling Bee.</b>
1:45 pm	<b>Chores</b> including re-stocking of wood stove and general clean-up of the classroom and schoolhouse grounds.
2:00 pm	<b>School Dismissed.</b>

# Geography and History

This is a great time to talk about life in 1904 and current events of the time, in addition to reading a vintage map (if you have access to one). A few significant events are listed below. Invite students to research other events to share with the class.

## Current Events of 1904

- ◆ The World's fair is held in St. Louis, Missouri.
- ◆ The Olympic Games are held in the United States for the first time.
- ◆ Theodore Roosevelt is elected to his second term as president.
- ◆ Helen Keller graduates from Radcliffe College.
- ◆ Work Begins on the Panama Canal.
- ◆ New York City's subway system opens.
- ◆ Clara Barton resigns as head of the Red Cross.
- ◆ Stainless steel is invented by the French scientist Leon Guillet.
- ◆ Trans-Siberia Railway is completed after 13 years of construction.
- ◆ National law is passed that prohibits Indians from purchasing alcohol or entering saloons.
- ◆ The first United States battleship, the "Iowa," is commissioned.

What other information can you find that helps you understand what Wisconsin was like in the late 1800s and early 1900s? Think about dress, recreation, food, education, transportation, and current events. Choose one topic for further research and share with someone else or with your class.

# Geography

**These questions relate to the geography of Wisconsin. Students may use a map to find answers. A vintage map would be ideal!**

Name the five Great Lakes

(Answers: Superior, Michigan, Erie, Ontario, Huron)

Name the states that border Wisconsin.

(Answers: Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois)

Name a river in Wisconsin.

(Answers—not a complete list: Mississippi River, Wisconsin River, Wolf River, Black River, St. Croix River, Menominee River, Chippewa River, Fox River, Eau Claire River)

Name the largest lake in Wisconsin.

(Answer: Lake Winnebago)

Name the state capital of Wisconsin.

(Answer: Madison)

**Broaden the lesson with this discussion about statehood.**

Ask students how many states are in the Union (United States). Most likely, the first answer will be 50 states. Remind the students that it is 1904, and then let them guess. The answer is 45 states. Then ask which of the 2020 states were not states in 1904. (Answers: Alaska, became a state in 1959; Hawaii, 1959; Arizona, 1912; New Mexico, 1912; and Oklahoma, 1907)

Finally, ask when Wisconsin became a state. (Answer: 1848)

What will we celebrate in 1948? (Answer: Wisconsin's Centennial)

# History

For a history lesson, ask students who the current president is. Most likely, the first answer will be Donald Trump (or the 2021 president). Remind students that it is 1904 and have them guess.

(Answer: Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt)

Explain that Theodore Roosevelt was not elected to be president for his first term in office. Ask how that could have happened.

(Answer: Roosevelt was vice president. When President McKinley was assassinated, Roosevelt became president.)

Ask what popular toy was named for Roosevelt.

(Answer: Teddy bear)

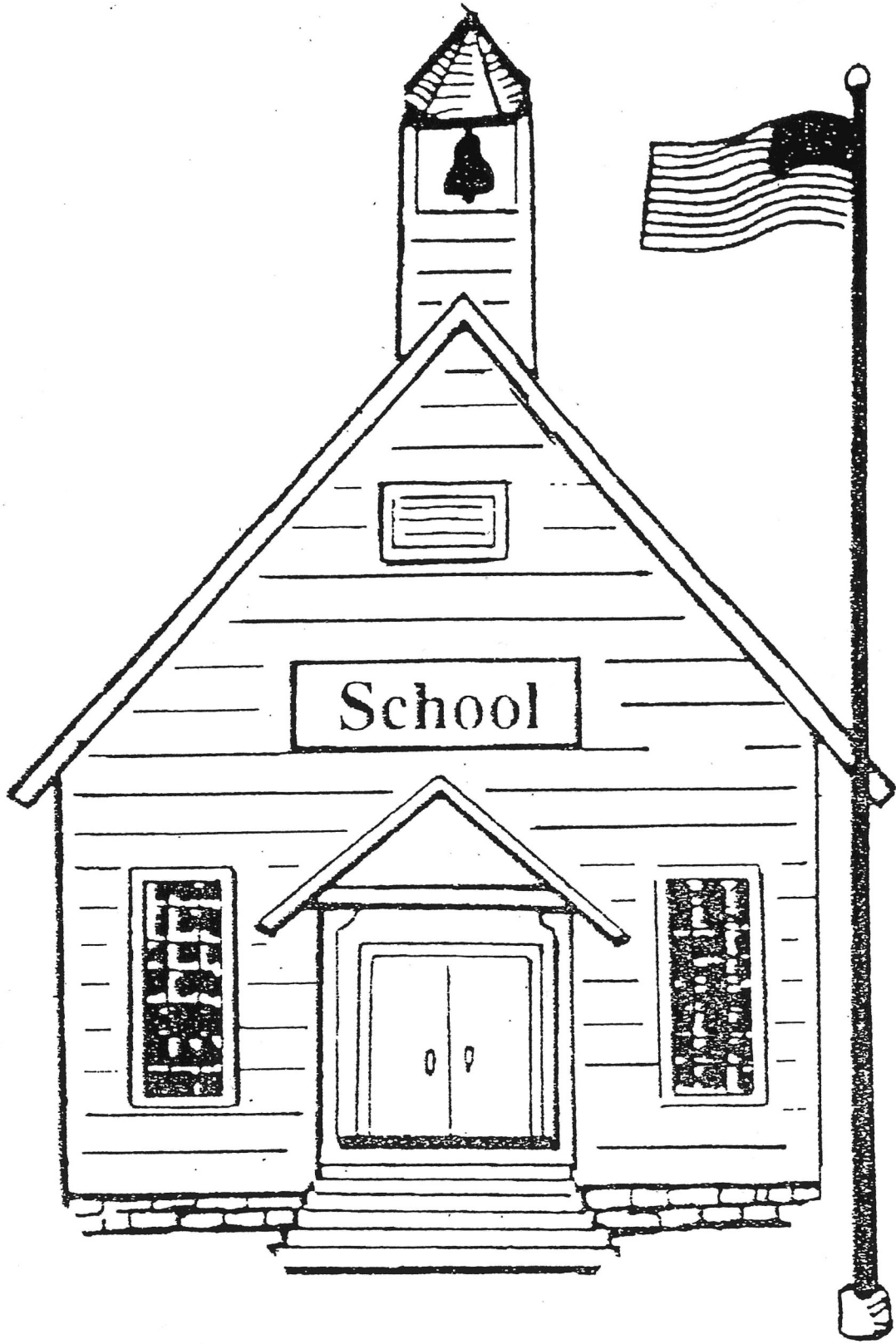
Tell the students that Teddy Roosevelt was a famous war hero. In which war did he fight?

(Answer: Spanish-American War)

*Feel free to expand the lesson with additional information about the Spanish-American War, or more explanation of presidential succession or the election process.*



Twenty-Sixth President of the United States  
**Theodore Roosevelt, 1901-1909**  
Led the Rough Riders during Spanish American War.  
Advocated greater governmental controls. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.



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