Kentucky HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EDUCATOR PACKET

A KENTUCKY JOURNEY:

Object Observation & Analysis

www.history.ky.gov

Kentucky Historical Society

A KENTUCKY JOURNEY

THEME	Frontier Kentucky
OBJECTIVE	To learn about the items carried by a surveyor and to better understand the importance of surveying to Frontier life.
CORE CONTENT CONNECTIONS	SS-EP 5.1.1 & SS-04-5.1.1

OBJECT OBSERVATION & ANALYSIS

A SURVEYOR'S ESSENTIALS

CONTENT RECOMMENDED FOR FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS

KENTUCKY FRONTIER OVERVIEW

Early explorers and hunters exploited Kentucky's bountiful land and wildlife. Word of Kentucky's riches quickly reached the seaboard colonies. Family farmers, speculators, merchants, planters and their slaves soon flooded into the region. Within 25 years, 250,000 people lived in the new Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Dreams of economic gain lured the first Euroamericans over the Appalachians. Buffalo, deer and beaver attracted hunters and fur traders in the 1760s. In the years that followed, fertile land and the mild climate drew farmers, rich and poor, to Kentucky. Speculators joined the first settlers, eager to obtain land for resale. The wave of settlement began at Fort Harrod in 1774. By 1800, nearly 200 forts and stations had been established.

Towns grew quickly on the frontier. As commercial centers, they attracted merchants and craftspeople that sold and traded their goods with farmers, hunters and Indians. As social centers, they became the location of educational, religious and political endeavors. From round-and-tumble ports like Limestone (now Maysville) to "well appointed" towns like Lexington, these frontier communities symbolized the rapid transformation of the wilderness.

SURVEYING IN KENTUCKY

In the 1700s land was wealth, but obtaining a legal title was a complicated process. French and Indian War veterans earned land for their service. Some settlers bought claims from a land company. Others just moved in.

Haphazard surveying by inexperienced or unethical surveyors resulted in overlapping claims. The legal battles that followed attracted a new kind of frontiersman-the lawyer. Even with lawyers, many settlers, including Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton, lost all the land they claimed.

ARTIFACT LIST

1. Compass, (1937.18)
2. Surveying Chains, (1962.205)
3. Haversack, (HC-PE-C-1.5)
4. Rulers, (UN #902)

VOCABULARY

We encourage you to introduce the following vocabulary words independently or in conjunction with the pre-visit activities.

Artifact	*something made or modified by humans usually for a purpose*
Claim	*a right to something usually in another's possession*
Compass	*a device for determining direction by means of a magnetic needle swinging freely and pointing to the magnetic north*
Euroamerican	*a U.S. citizen or resident of European descent*
Frontier	*the land or territory that forms the furthest extent of a country's settled or inhabited regions*
Haversack	*a bag similar to a knapsack but worn over the shoulder*
Settler	*a person who settles a new region*
Survey	*to determine the exact form, boundaries, position, extent, etc., of a tract of land or section of the country) by linear and angular measurement and the application of the principles of geometry and trigonometry*
Surveying Chain	*a 66 foot chain that consists of individual poles hooked together and is used to measure areas of land*
Surveyor	*a person who inspects something officially for the purpose of determining condition, value, etc.*

ACTIVITY

Divide objects up amongst students and have them record observations and analysis by answering the questions on the attached worksheet.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.kyhistory.com

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A KENTUCKY JOURNEY

OBJECT OBSERVATION & ANALYSIS

A SURVEYOR'S ESSENTIALS (continued)

OBJECT OBSERVATION

1. **Study the object for two to three minutes. Note your overall impressions.**

2. **Using the chart below, list the materials you think the object is made of, colors and any designs or patterns you see:**

MATERIALS	COLOR	PATTERNS

3. **What do you think it feels like?**

ANALYSIS

Knowing what we do about surveyors and the observations you made for the artifacts, answer the following questions.

1. **What do you think this object is?**

2. **How do you think this object could have been used?**

3. **Who might have used it?**

4. **Where might it have been used?**

5. **Does it remind you of anything?**

INTERPRETATION

1. **What does this artifact tell us about people who made and used it?**

2. **Knowing what you do about the artifacts and surveyors, what do you think life was like in frontier Kentucky?**

Compass, (1937.18)

Surveying Chains, (1962.205)

Haversack, (HC-PE-C-1.5)

Rulers, (UN #902)