

PIONEER BACKPACKS

Time: 40-45 Minutes

Materials: 2 backpacks, variety of camping/survival items (label with price tag/cost), pioneer artifacts (label with price tag/cost), writing supplies

** *Teachers may want to post the following directions for students to refer back to after completing each step.*

Explain the activity to the class:

- Students will be divided into 2 groups and given a backpack.
- Students are packing for a three-day trip. Everything packed must fit in a backpack.
- As a group, identify **four** necessities to take with you. Write these on your paper; include the cost of each item.
- After you determine what to take as a group, decide on four additional items you would take individually. Write these on your paper along with the price of the item.

Remember, you do not have much space in your backpack, so choose wisely what you pack.

Divide the class into two groups; assign one group as pioneers and the other as modern-day children. Hand out the empty backpacks to each group. Allow students to work as a group to determine what they would pack for their trip.

When students are finished with their individual list, come together as a whole group and discuss a few ideas and the reasoning behind each child's choice. Discuss the similarities and differences in needs between pioneer and modern-day children. Discuss why some items from the pioneer times are no longer used, what items are used today that were not needed in pioneer times, and which items are still used today but may have been modified to fit our current needs.

Math Connection:

Students can total their items they decided on as a group and individually. Compare who is paying more for their camping trip – pioneers or modern-day kids. Brainstorm why items with the same use would change in cost over time.

Assessment:

Students should be assessed on their participation in the group activity and class discussion. Math addition could also be checked for accuracy.

