

1. The Daily Homesteader (newspaper)

After reading the rest of the newspaper articles, students can discuss the following:

- What are some ways that pioneers would settle an argument over actually who won a disputed claim?
- What types of jobs did early pioneers have?
- What are some ways to “prove up” a homestead?

After finishing the drawings of their own homestead and its improvements, students can discuss or write:

- How will you prove up your homestead?
- What will you build first? Why?
- How will you get water?
- What crops will you plant?

2. The End of the Day & Family Treasures (Museum Exhibits)

- What does the homesteader family (in the exhibit) take with them to start their new life in the Cherokee Outlet?
- Imagine that you are moving with your family today to a new place to start a new life. You can only take a few personal possessions with you—only what will fit in a backpack. What would you take? Why will you take those items?

3. Final Questions

- What new information did you learn from reading the newspaper and participating in the Homesteading activities at the museum?
- How was Pioneer life different than you had imagined? How was it different than life today?
- What do you think would be the most difficult /challenging part of starting a new life in the Cherokee Outlet? Why?

4. Writing Ideas:

A. You are a homesteader who has recently staked your claim. Write a letter to a friend or a cousin who did not make the run and is not a homesteader. Tell this person some of the following--

- what you’ve learned about life as a homesteader
- how the pioneer life is different from what you imagined
- what is difficult about your new life
- what is fun to do in your new life

B. Based on what you’ve learned about Pioneer life, write a short story about a day in the life of a homesteader. Remember to use dialogue and bring the story to a conclusion.

C. Write a poem of four to six (4-6) lines about homestead life or Laura Crews.