

film ideas, Inc.
Presents

Additional Titles from **film ideas, Inc.**
AMERICAN TALL TALES & LEGENDS

5 PART SERIES

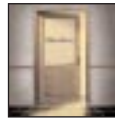
Paul Bunyan

Johnny Appleseed

Paul Revere

Pocahontas

John Henry



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A M E R I C A N
TALL TALES
&
LEGENDS
5 Part Series



JOHN HENRY

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

INTRODUCTION TO SERIES

The purpose of this video series is to acquaint young children to learn about these bigger than life legends when our narrator, Miss Michelle, shares her love of the stories and books she has found at the library. Each stimulating video program features a diverse audience of youngsters eager to learn more about these literary characters of the historical past.

As a complementary device with each video, an instructional guide suggests exercises to help aid teachers, parents and students. These interactive exercises will reinforce and further develop a child's level of comprehension about the importance of these literary characters.

The instructional guide provides:

Child-friendly exercises! ✓

Fun-to-do follow-up activities! ✓

Easy-to-learn reinforcement Q & A! ✓

**Permission granted to copy the exercises provided in this guide.
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www.filmideas.com

The video mentions several legends. Write the number in the circle on the left hand corner of the picture to correctly match the name of the legend.



1.) POCAHONTAS -
Indian Princess



2.) PAUL BUNYAN-
Lumberjack



3.) JOHNNY APPLE-
SEED- Farmer



4.) JOHN HENRY-
Mighty Laborer

Exercise #4:

Write a “T” or “F” on the line left of the sentence to indicate if the statement is TRUE or FALSE. If the statement is FALSE make it TRUE by choosing a word from the answer list to replace the incorrect word. SEE EXAMPLE

EXAMPLE: F • Apples grow on ~~fences~~^{trees}.

Answer List:

shaker • mighty laborer • West Virginia

- _____ • John Henry was a farmer.
- _____ • John Henry used a hammer.
- _____ • The steam drill was to replace laborers like John Henry.
- _____ • Titus was John Henry’s cook.
- _____ • John Henry was born in Ohio.

John Henry

Born a slave in West Virginia nearly 140 years ago lived a man who represented laborers whose lives were changed because of the evolution of machines. Although many literary accounts describe the life of John Henry differently, the tale of this mighty railroad builder is forever captured in the American spirit.

On the day John was born the wind whispered, whistled and sang. The frogs croaked, the owls hooted, the crickets chirped, and the mountaintops rang with the echo of his name. Bang, Bang, Bang John Henry was born with a hammer in his hand ready to build. And build he did, as John grew up he began working on the railroad driving steel rods into rock. To help him build was Titus the shaker. A shaker held the rod in place ready for the hammer man to strike. The railroads these men built snaked through rivers, across prairies, deserts and through mountains. People like John Henry dedicated themselves upon mastering their craft. Their skills were the building blocks of a nation rapidly expanding from the picturesque shores of the Atlantic to the sunseting beauty of the Pacific.

However, as expansion quickened and technology invented the work of John Henry was about to be replaced by a machine named “Steam Drill”. But John Henry was not about to be replaced without a fight. A contest was agreed upon and John Henry was determined to prove his worth. The day arrived and John Henry swung his 20 pound hammer with his mechanic like arms. When his hammer hit the rock sparks flew, a golden halo shined and a noise loomed the air. Meantime, the steam drill methodically crushed the rock impressing all who witnessed its robotic method. By the end of the contest John Henry won and turned all the skeptics and doubters into believers. Afterwards the exhausted John Henry fell to the ground and died. Folks who witnessed the contest were amazed not because John Henry died but because of the way he lived.

Program Objectives

After viewing the program, children should understand:

- what are legends and what traits “John Henry” represents.
- the relationship of people vs. machines.
- the stories and history of John Henry.
- how “John Henry” became a famous American legend.
- how “John Henry” and people like him were determined to build railroads and a newly born nation.

VOCABULARY:

Hammer Man: *The person whose job was to drive a steel rod into the rock. As the hole was hammered out it was used to hold dynamite. The dynamite exploded the rock and the ground was then prepared for the railroad tracks.*

Hammer: *The tool John Henry used to make holes in rock.*

John Henry: *A famous American legend. Born a slave in West Virginia nearly 140 years ago. He grew up to become a mighty laborer and builder of railroads. He represents laborers whose lives were changed because of the evolution of machines.*

Legend: *A story coming down from the past regarded as historical and widely believed but can not be proved to be true.*

Shaker: *The person who held the steel rod in place ready for the hammer man to strike.*

Steam Drill: *A machine invented to hammer the rods for building railroads. This machine was to replace railroad laborers like John Henry.*

Tall Tale: *Generally accepted as unbelievable details about a story or an imaginary event.*

Titus: *John Henry's shaker. (SEE SHAKER).*

West Virginia: *The birth place of John Henry.*

Reinforcement Q&A:

**Review the video
to answer the following questions:**

1) Where was the birth place of John Henry?

2) What tool did John Henry use to make holes in the rock?

3) What was the name of the machine that was going to replace John Henry?

3) Steam Drill

2) Hammer

1) West Virginia

Follow-Up Activities:

1) The legend of John Henry has been illustrated slightly different among various authors. Discuss some of the similarities and differences among these various authors. Also explain to the children the difference between fictional and non-fictional characters.

2) John Henry was an extraordinary laborer. If possible visit a railroad museum to experience the life of John Henry.

3) John Henry's job was eventually replaced by a machine. Discuss with the children how technology and machines have replaced people's jobs in the past. Ask the children if they know anybody whose job was replaced or changed by a machine (technology).

4) Discuss with the children what the legend of John Henry means to them. Explain the definition of a tall tale or legend. Assign the children to use their own imaginations to write a short story that demonstrates kernels of truth. Perhaps they can use the computer or colored crayons to illustrate their stories.

Exercise #1:

Have the students study the vocabulary list on page 2. Then write the number of the vocabulary word on the solid black line next to its definition.

Vocabulary List:

1) *John Henry*

3) *Steam Drill*

2) *Hammer Man*

4) *Titus*

_____ *John Henry's shaker.*

_____ *The machine invented to replace laborers like John Henry.*

_____ *An American legend and mighty builder of railroads.*

_____ *The person whose job is to drive steel rods to make holes in rock.*

Exercise #2:

Help the children study the map to learn more about John Henry.

① WEST VIRGINIA:

The birthplace of John Henry
about 140 years ago.

