

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- www.thealamo.org/
The official web site of the Alamo, this site has useful and engaging information. It also has many educational resources and activities for students.
- www.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/people/c/crockett/coloring.shtml
Some Crockett activities suitable for the younger student.
- www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/CC/fcr24.html
This site provides some historical background on the real Davy Crockett.

Suggested Print Resources

- Britton, Tamara L. *Alamo*. Abdo Publishing Company, Edina, MN; 2004.
- Devillier, Christy. *Davy Crockett*. Abdo Publishing Company, Edina, MN; 2004.
- LeVert, Suzanne. *Congress*. Marshall Cavendish, Inc., Tarrytown, NY; 2002.
- Long, Catherine. *Westward Expansion*. Gale Group, Farmington Hills, MI; 2003.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Julia McMeans, M.Ed.

Curriculum Specialist, Schlessinger Media

COMPLETE LIST OF TITLES

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| • ANNIE OAKLEY | • MOSE HUMPHREYS |
| • CREATING A TALL TALE | • OLD STORMALONG |
| • DAVY CROCKETT | • PAUL BUNYAN |
| • JOHN HENRY | • PECOS BILL |
| • JOHNNY APPLESEED | • REGIONAL TALL TALES |

Teacher's Guides Included
and Available Online at:

800-843-3620



Teacher's Guide and Program Copyright 2006 by Schlessinger Media,
a division of Library Video Company

P.O. Box 580, Wynnewood, PA 19096 • 800-843-3620

Executive Producer: Andrew Schlessinger

Programs produced and directed by Top Dog Media

All rights reserved.

K6988
V6173



Davy Crockett

Grades K-4

Tall tales are stories in which the characters and their actions and adventures are extremely exaggerated, and the audience is aware of the exaggeration and therefore in on the joke. Most American tall tales grew out of specific parts of the country and are connected to particular lines of work: lumberjacks in the Midwest, cowboys in Texas, and frontiersmen and women in the South and along the Mississippi River. The tall tale is not static; it is a living thing. The tall tale is very much a part of American folklore tradition, constantly evolving as it is retold with the teller's own particular spin. American tall tales have been around for several hundred years. They began in the oral tradition, as a form of entertainment, and have continued to evolve ever since.



Program Summary

In this program, students will meet frontiersman Davy Crockett who was born on a mountain top in the backwoods of Tennessee. Life out on the frontier was difficult and Davy quickly learned that ruggedness and resourcefulness were required in order to survive. Wrestling alligators, hunting bears and outsmarting all kinds of critters and varmints became Davy's stock in trade, and it was during one of his journeys into the woods that he met — and was rescued by — his future wife, Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind, a woman just as feisty and fearless as Crockett himself. Davy had to save the world on more than one occasion; once when he dislodged the sun from between two giant icebergs way up at the North Pole, and another time when President Jackson himself called upon then-Congressman Crockett to keep Halley's Comet from crashing into the Earth.

Background to Davy Crockett

Unlike many tall tale characters, Davy Crockett was a real person whose life and adventures became the stuff of legend. He was born on August 17, 1786 in a cabin in Tennessee. He had many siblings. After several moves, the Crocketts finally settled in Jefferson County. Davy's father built and operated a log tavern, and the young Davy spent many hours there listening to colorful stories about the frontier and the hazardous journeys of westward travelers.

Life for Davy and his family was difficult. They had to clear land, hunt and trap, and build their own homes. Davy became an expert marksman and won many local competitions. He had various jobs, driving cattle and working on farms. He attended school until he was 12. Davy Crockett was a colonel in the Tennessee Militia and fought many battles. He became a member of the Tennessee legislature, and was elected to the United States Congress three times. In 1836, he fought the Mexican Army and died at the Alamo.

There are many memorials to Crockett. One of the most famous reads, "Davy Crockett, Pioneer, Patriot, Soldier, Trapper, Explorer, State Legislator, Congressman, and Martyred at The Alamo. 1786-1836." During his lifetime, Davy often exaggerated the harsh lives of the frontier men and women for entertainment purposes. Some of the stories that he told became the basis of the tall tales associated with him.

Pre-viewing Discussion

- Provide students with a brief overview of westward expansion and the hardships pioneers faced while settling the frontier.
- Using a large wall map, show students the areas in which the story of Davy Crockett takes place.
- Explain to students that at the time of Davy Crockett, people living in rural locations had to fend for themselves. Have students discuss what it might be like to live without doctors, hospitals, supermarkets or reliable transportation.
- Remind students about the elements of fiction, such as characters, setting and plot (containing a problem and a solution), and explain the importance of exaggeration in tall tales.

Follow-up Discussion

- Although Davy Crockett was a real person, many tall tales were told about him. Brainstorm with students about contemporary figures who may, in the future, become tall tale characters.
- Davy Crockett was known from bragging about how clever and tough he was. Under what circumstances is it acceptable to brag about your abilities? Under what circumstances is it impolite?
- Davy Crockett was famous for wearing a coonskin hat. Can students think of some other famous people (from the past or present) who are known for wearing something particular?

Follow-up Activities

- Tall tales in general, and the Davy Crockett tales in particular, are full of colorful language and over-the-top adjectives. In small groups, have students invent some adjectives of their own by blending together two or more words (for example: *gibugic* or *bugiferious*).
- Have students pretend that Davy and Sally Ann had eight children. Ask them to write a Crockettesque tall tale that involves the whole Crockett clan. Student can create illustrations to accompany their new tales.
- Davy Crockett was born in the state of Tennessee. Have students research the state to find out about the state flag, song, tree, etc. and create a fact book about the Volunteer State. Useful resource: www.50states.com/tennesse.htm
- Using hangers, string, construction paper and other art materials, have students create mobiles that should contain at least six elements from the Davy Crockett tall tales. For example, students could draw and cut out bears, comets, log cabins, etc.
- Davy Crockett saves the world by preventing a comet from striking it. In small groups, have students research comets to find out what they are made of, how they move through space and the likelihood of one crashing into the Earth. Useful resource: www.thursdaysclassroom.com/19sep01/teach4.html
- Based upon what students learned about Davy Crockett from the program, have them create acrostics using either his first or last name. Display finished acrostics on a tribute wall to Davy Crockett.
- Davy Crockett was a United States Congressman. Have students research the United States Congress to discover what its duties are and what kinds of work members of Congress do. Students can find out who their Congressional representatives are and write to them. Useful resource: www.congressforkids.net/