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Dear Parents and Students,

Many years ago, God created the land that became America. God has used ice and wind, floods and droughts, volcanoes and ocean waves to shape this place we call home. You are about to visit many of God's amazing creations through the pages of this book. People have built homes, cities, mounds, monuments, railroads, factories, parks, and bridges on what God has made.

You are about to visit many of those sites through the stories on these pages. You are about to read about many people who have helped to make our country great.

You are about to be inspired to follow their examples and make our country even better—for today and for the future.

Enjoy your journey through *Our 50 States*.

Mary Evelyn Notgrass McCurdy
Gainesboro, Tennessee
July 2020

Parental Supervision

Please review the Family Activities and Hands-On Ideas and discuss with your child what he or she may do alone and what activities need your supervision. The activities include the use of scissors, knives, the oven, the microwave, and the stove. Some children may be allergic to recipe ingredients or craft supplies. Notgrass History cannot accept responsibility for the safety of your child in completing these activities. Thank you for being a conscientious parent who takes responsibility for your child's safety.

Author's Thanks

Thank you, Nate McCurdy, for washing lots of dishes and reading lots of books to our kids and changing lots of diapers and doing lots of other things so that we could develop this curriculum. Thanks for cheering me on. Thank you for creating the beautiful maps for the curriculum. And thank you for asking me to marry you.

Thanks, sweet kids, for your patience as I worked on this project. Clara, you're a great proofreader! Thank you all for helping test out the Family Activity ideas. Wesley, you're so artistic. Peter and Thomas, I'll race you to the sandbox.

Thank you to my parents, Ray and Charlene Notgrass, for homeschooling me and for taking me to 48 states before I became an adult. Thank you for helping me to love Jesus, to love history, to love travel, and to love America. Thanks, Ma, for all your great ideas through the development process. Thank you both for editing the lessons and for your encouragement.

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Thank you, Olive Wagar, for helping select the literature titles and helping with research and proofreading. Thank you, Dena Russell, for helping with research, for proofreading, and for your overall development ideas.

Thank you, Titus Anderson, for lending your great musical talent to the audio recordings. Thank you, John Notgrass, for helping with so many technical details. Thank you, Phil Ellenburg, for checking the maps and proofing the lessons. Thank you, Josh Voorhees, for answering everyone's questions about these books. Go, team!

Thank you, Cindy Rhodes, Ron Daise, David and Jamie Cromley, Dean Buchanan Gregorec, Jeffrey Blackburn, Bob Dixon, and Mark Sperry for sharing your stories with me and allowing me to include them in this book.

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for deciding where and when I should live and for putting me right here, right now with these people as a part of my life.

—*Mary Evelyn*

How to Use Our 50 States

Our 50 States is a one-year American geography course designed for students in grades one through four. The curriculum has 26 units with four lessons each. Each unit covers two states (plus Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Territories). We recommend completing one unit most weeks.

The lessons are grouped by region. The curriculum begins in New England and the lessons take students across the country through the Mid-Atlantic, South, Midwest, Rocky Mountain, Southwest, and Pacific regions. It is fine to switch the order of the regions around if you are planning a trip to a certain region or have some other special reason to study certain states at a certain time. The lessons stand alone and do not necessarily have to be completed in a particular order.

Our 50 States is much more than geography. You can also use this curriculum as all or part of your history, literature, creative writing, music, art, and handwriting practice. You may find that eliminating busywork in an entirely separate subject and allowing that subject to be incorporated into this study makes for a less stressful, more engaging, more memorable school year. All of the instructions for what to do each day are included in the blue Activities box at the end of each lesson.

How Does This Curriculum Work?

Parents can read the lessons aloud or students can read the lessons alone. We encourage you to enjoy looking closely at the pictures and talk about them.

This curriculum has two lessons about each state. The first lesson introduces the students to special features in that state, such as key crops, amazing natural wonders, and fascinating historic sites. The second lesson features a song that reflects the history or culture of the state. After you listen to the song, you will enjoy reading a story about a person or place connected to the state you are studying.

The first lesson for each state includes a map of that state with certain cities, sites, and geographic features labeled. These are not necessarily the largest cities or all of the most famous places. They are the sites that the two lessons discuss about that state. As you read the lessons, you will see certain words **in green**. When you come to a **green word**, look at the map at the beginning of the lesson and find that location on the map.

At the end of each lesson is a blue box with activity ideas. Don't think of these as a checklist that you must complete. Look at these as ideas to enhance your study. Let your student's grade, age, abilities, needs, and interests be your guide as you select activities. The activities should challenge your student, but he or she should also feel competent and successful.

Each state has activities to complete in the *Atlas Workbook*, questions to answer in the *Lesson Review*, a simple Hands-On Idea, and a creative writing prompt. The Activities box also includes instructions on when to read each chapter in the literature titles (see more about literature on pages vi-vii). Each unit also includes one Family Activity. These activities include recipes, crafts, and other projects.

Song Selections

The songs included in *Our 50 States* reflect a variety of styles and historic time periods. With the exception of "Deh Wod Been Deh," "It Happened In Sun Valley," "Smokey the Bear," and some original tunes written by Titus Anderson, the songs included in *Our 50 States* are in the public domain. When you come to a song, visit notgrass.com/50songs to listen to a recording of the song while you read along with the lyrics in the book. We were unable to find the historic music for a few of the selections, so Titus Anderson composed tunes for those pieces. A few of the selections were originally published as poems, so Titus composed tunes for those as well.

Family Activities

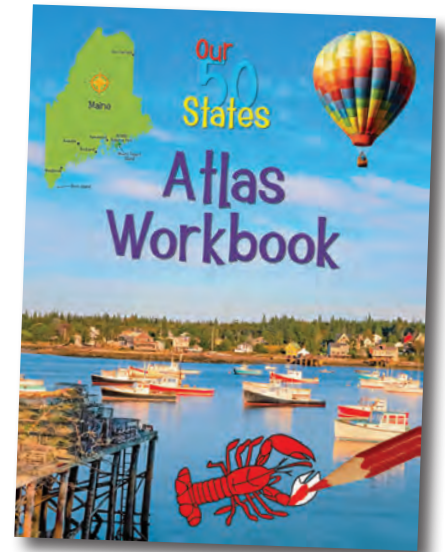
Each unit includes a Family Activity idea that is connected with one of the lessons in that unit. The instructions are on the last page or pages of each unit. We recommend reading the instructions and gathering the supplies early each week. You can complete the activity on the day it is assigned or on another day that is convenient. Many of these activities are designed with the whole family in mind.

Like all components of *Our 50 States*, the Family Activities are optional. We offer them as extra learning experiences, but do not feel obligated to do them if they do not suit your family's needs or schedule.

Atlas Workbook

After students have read the first lesson for each state, they will complete an illustration in the *Atlas Workbook* that pictures a geographic term mentioned in the lesson. Each of these illustrations is already started for the students to help them build confidence in their drawing skills. After students complete the basic outlines of the illustration, they are free to add their own details and color the illustration.

After they have read the second lesson for a state, students will complete a map activities page for that state in the *Atlas Workbook*. Activities such as coloring illustrations on the map, tracing along rivers, and drawing mountain symbols within a mountain range will help reinforce the geographical, cultural, and historical information the student has learned about that state. Each student studying *Our 50 States* should have his or her own personal *Atlas Workbook*. We suggest using pencils and high-quality colored pencils to complete the activities in the *Atlas Workbook*.



Lesson Review

The *Lesson Review* has five questions about each state and one or two tests for each region (approximately one test every three weeks). The *Lesson Review* is designed primarily for the older students studying this course. It is designed so that students can write their answers directly in the book. It is perfectly fine to use these as discussion questions (especially for younger students), or not to use them at all. It is up to you as the parent to know the best way for your child to retain and enjoy the material. To prepare for the tests, students can look over the review questions for the last three units and also look at the regional map on the inside front cover of *Our 50 States*.



Creative Writing Notebook

If you plan on your child completing the creative writing ideas, we suggest you provide a notebook specifically for that purpose. There are 52 writing prompts in the curriculum, one for each state, plus Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Territories. Each prompt ties into a topic discussed in the story for the state you are studying.

If your child is not ready for creative writing, you can simply discuss the ideas presented in the prompts. You could also have your child draw a picture that illustrates his or her thoughts. A few of the prompts have an alternate activity idea that does not involve writing.

Answer Key and Literature Guide

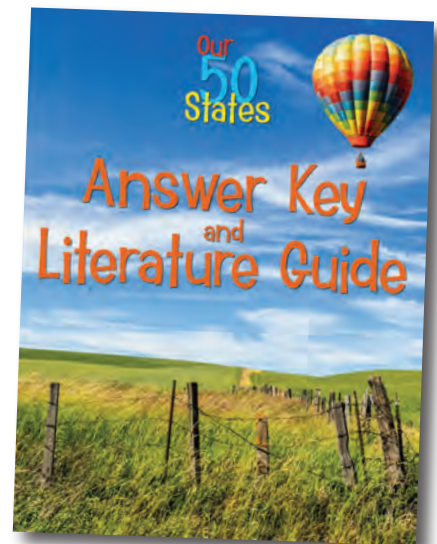
This booklet for parents contains answers for the review questions and tests in the *Lesson Review*. It also includes a guide for the literature titles.

Literature

Seven suggested literature titles complement the lessons in *Our 50 States*. Each book corresponds to one of the regions in the curriculum. All of the titles are in print and available from Notgrass History and many other sources (with the exception of *Philip of Texas*, which we republished and is not widely available elsewhere).

You can read these titles aloud with your student, which is a fun and memorable way to spend time together. You can have your child read the books independently. You might decide to do a combination, depending on your family's schedule.

Each chapter in each literature title is assigned in the blue Activities box at the end of each lesson. These assignments are merely a suggested guide to help you finish the title while you are studying the corresponding region. You might prefer to read that region's book over a single weekend or on a road trip. The exact time you read each title does not matter, except that we do recommend you read it while you are studying the corresponding region. There are a few lessons without literature assignments when a region has more lessons than there are chapters in the corresponding book.



Each book offers an enjoyable way to learn more about a region, but if reading the literature adds too much pressure to your homeschool schedule, feel free to skip some or all of them.

Rabbit Hill by Robert Lawson (New England, Units 1-3)

The Cabin Faced West by Jean Fritz (Mid-Atlantic, Units 4-6)

Soft Rain by Cornelia Cornelissen (South, Units 7-12)

The Story of George Washington Carver by Eva Moore (Midwest, Units 13-18)

The Trumpet of the Swan by E. B. White (Rocky Mountain, Units 19-21)

Philip of Texas by James Otis (Southwest, Units 22-23)

The Adventures of Paddy the Beaver by Thornton W. Burgess (Pacific, Units 24-26)



We at Notgrass History chose these books carefully with great consideration of content. Some of them do have themes or dialogue that we want you to be aware of before you hand it to your child to read. You can find comments about this content in the *Answer Key and Literature Guide*.

For suggestions about additional or replacement literature titles (including some picture books), visit notgrass.com/50links.

How Much Time Will Each Lesson Take?

If you are reading the lessons aloud, each one should take under 15 minutes to read. Answering the questions in the *Lesson Review* should not take more than five or ten minutes. The time it takes for a student to complete the geographic term illustrations in the *Atlas Workbook* will vary greatly depending on the child's attention to detail. The time it takes for a student to complete the map activities in the *Atlas Workbook* will also vary, but 15 minutes should be enough time for most students. Beyond that, the amount of time you invest will depend on the additional activities you choose.

Reading the literature will add some time, but if you follow the reading plan in the blue Activities boxes, you will only read one or two chapters from a literature title each day. If you do all of the suggested activities, we suggest planning on an hour to an hour and a half per lesson on average (not including the Family Activities, which will require additional time). You can use *Our 50 States* four days per week, or spread the lessons and activities over all five days of your school week. The curriculum has a total of 104 lessons divided into 26 units.

What Supplies Will My Student Need?

Students will need a pencil and colored pencils. You will need a smartphone, tablet, or computer to listen to the audio versions of each of the songs. The simple Hands-On Ideas use common items such as play dough, building bricks or blocks, and rocks you might find in your yard. Most Family Activities require additional supplies. You can access a complete supply list at notgrass.com/50links. The individual Family Activity instruction pages at the end of the units also list supplies needed.

How Many Activities Should My Student Complete?

You know best what your student is capable of accomplishing. Some students will benefit most from completing all of the activity ideas. Others will do better completing only some of them. The variety of activities is intended to make it easy for your student to have a positive, rich, and engaging learning experience. You should not feel pressure to complete every assignment.

Helping Struggling Students

For students who struggle with reading or writing, feel free to make adjustments to help them be successful and not become frustrated. You or an older sibling can read the lessons and literature aloud. Struggling students might also benefit from reading aloud to you. You can alter, shorten, or orally complete writing activities and review questions. You can also eliminate them if you feel your student is not ready.

Using Our 50 States with Multiple Ages

Our 50 States is especially designed for first through fourth graders, but other ages can certainly benefit. Younger siblings can listen in on the lessons and literature, look at the pictures, and take part in the Hands-On Ideas and Family Activities. If you have a student who has already completed fourth grade, but you want to keep all your children learning together, you might consider giving your older student some additional assignments, such as copying the Bible verses at the end of the lessons, writing book reports about the literature titles, or researching and writing a report about some of the places or topics presented in the lessons. You can assign each child different activities, depending on his or her age and skill level.

Sample Walk-Through of Unit 1

Here is one way a family might use *Our 50 States* over one homeschool week. Ethan and Hannah Jones have three children. Walter is in 4th grade, Emma is in 2nd grade, and Sam is four years old.

Monday: Hannah and her three children gather on the couch. Hannah opens to Unit 1 and reads aloud “Lesson 1: Maine.” Walter and Emma take turns finding the locations written in green on the map at the beginning of the lesson. After they have read the lesson, Walter opens the *Lesson Review* to the questions about Maine. He reads them aloud and they all talk about the answers. Walter writes the answers in the book. Before they go to the table, they scatter around the living room and all pretend to be statues in various positions (which is the Hands-On Idea for the day since the lesson talks about the statue on top of the Maine State House).

At the table, Walter and Emma each open their own *Atlas Workbook*. They both complete the illustration for the geographic term *coast*.

At bedtime Ethan reads aloud the first chapter of *Rabbit Hill* to the family.

Tuesday: In the morning, Walter and Emma help Hannah make blueberry muffins for breakfast, which is the Family Activity for the week. Ethan and Sam do their part of the Family Activity by helping to eat the muffins!

When it is time for school, Hannah and the children gather on the couch again. Hannah pulls up the audio recording of “A Trip to the Grand Banks” on her phone and they all listen to it together as they read along with the lyrics in “Lesson 2: A Song

and Story of Maine.” Hannah reads aloud the true story about Mary and her summer on Boon Island where her grandfather was a lighthouse keeper. After the lesson, they read the creative writing prompt and have a discussion about what it is like to visit their grandparents every summer.

At the table, Walter and Emma complete the map activities for Maine in their *Atlas Workbooks*. They each pull out their creative writing notebooks and Walter writes three paragraphs about visiting his grandparents. Emma writes three sentences and draws a picture of the tree with a tire swing at their grandparents’ house.

Wednesday: The kids all have checkups at the doctor in the morning, so there isn’t much time for school. They weren’t able to read any of *Rabbit Hill* on Tuesday, so Ethan reads two chapters aloud to the children before they go to bed.

Thursday: Hannah and the children gather and she reads aloud “Lesson 3: New Hampshire.” They complete the questions in the *Lesson Review* the same way they did on Monday. While the children are working on their geographic term illustrations in their *Atlas Workbooks*, Hannah gathers some quarters from her purse and the coin jar on the counter. After the children are finished with their illustrations, they study the quarters to see how many different state quarters they can find (which is the Hands-On Idea for the day since the lesson talks about the New Hampshire state quarter).

Friday: Hannah and her children enjoy listening to “New Hampshire Hills” and learning about how workers built a road to the top of Mount Washington in New Hampshire. They also learn that tent companies test their tent designs on the mountain to see if the tents can stand up to the high winds there. Walter and Emma complete the map activities for New Hampshire in their *Atlas Workbooks*. They listen to “New Hampshire Hills” again while they work. In his creative writing notebook, Walter writes the script for a commercial describing his design for a new tent. Emma draws a picture of a new tent design in her notebook. Hannah draws a picture of a tent on a piece of paper for Sam to color.

After supper the Jones family uses sheets, blankets, and dining room chairs to make a tent in the living room. They all get inside and Ethan reads aloud chapter 4 of *Rabbit Hill*.

Respect for All

We at Notgrass History make every effort to write about all people in an honoring and respectful way. We realize that people have different views and preferences when it comes to describing groups such as Native Americans and African Americans. We believe that God has created all people in His own image and that they all have equal value in His sight. We have prayerfully sought to use terminology that honors and respects everyone.

Encouragement for the Journey

Remember that God designed your family and the daily responsibilities you carry. A homeschooling mother who has one child can complete more activities than a homeschooling mother who has seven children and an elderly grandparent living in her home. God will use the efforts of both of these mothers. God does not expect you to do more than you can do. Be kind to yourself. He knows exactly what you and your children need this year. We encourage you to pray about your family's experience using *Our 50 States*. Let it be a tool to help you have a wonderful learning experience with your children.

Remember that out of all the parents in the world to whom He could have given your children, He chose you. He is the one who put your family together. He knows what He is doing. Trust in His choice. God created you. He created your children. Relax and remember that this is the day that the Lord has made. Rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24)!

We at Notgrass History are here to help you. If you have questions or simply need some encouragement, send us an email (help@notgrass.com) or give us a call (1-800-211-8793).





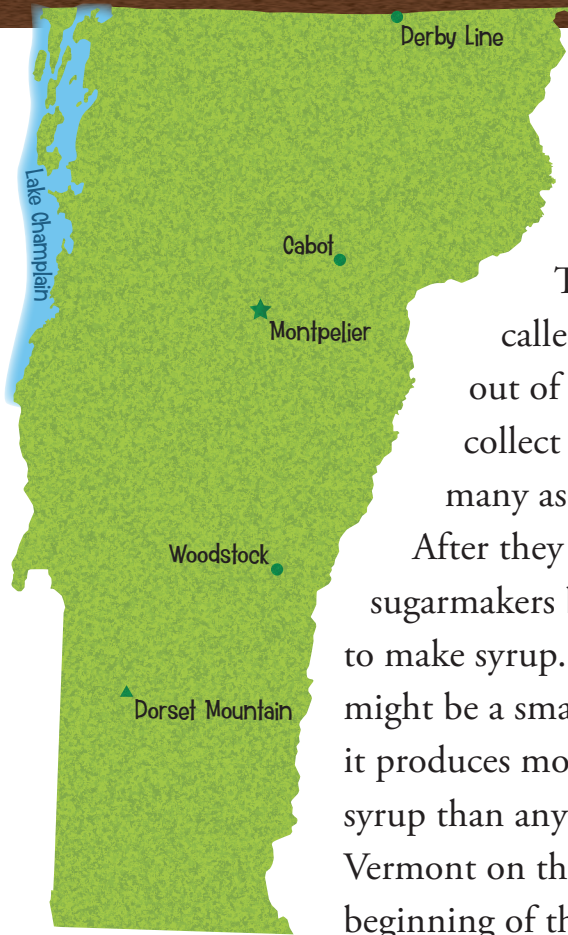
Stowe, Vermont

Unit 2

New England:

Vermont and Massachusetts

Lesson 5: Vermont



Imagine a pile of pancakes with maple syrup running down the sides. Yum! Maple syrup comes from maple trees. Vermont is full of maple trees.

To make the syrup, sugarmakers drill little holes called taps into the trunks of maple trees. The sap drips out of the taps and collects in buckets. Some sugarmakers collect from as many as 60,000 taps!

After they collect it, sugarmakers boil the sap to make syrup. Vermont might be a small state, but it produces more maple syrup than any other. Find Vermont on the map at the beginning of this book.



Tapping a maple in Vermont

Cabot Creamery

In 1919 dairy farmers in **Cabot**, Vermont, needed a way to use their extra milk. Ninety-four farmers joined together and started a business. They used the extra milk from their cows to make butter. They sold the butter throughout New England. In 1930 the company began making cheese as well.



Cabot cheese

Today around eight hundred dairy farm families from all over the northeast work together to supply the milk for Cabot Creamery. In addition to cheese, the creamery in Cabot makes Greek-style yogurt, cottage cheese, and sour cream. Cabot won the World's Best Cheddar award at the 2006 World Champion Cheese Contest.

Near Cabot, Vermont



Capital: Montpelier

Montpelier is our country's smallest state capital. Less than 8,000 people live in the city. (Compare that to Indiana's capital city with over 800,000 people and Arizona's capital with over 1,600,000!)

In 1805 the government of Vermont decided that Montpelier would be the state capital if the citizens of Montpelier could build the state house. The people wanted to help, but not everyone had money to donate. Some donated building materials instead. Some donated vegetables, grain, butter, and cheese. These items could be sold to buy wood, glass, and nails. People donated their time and carpentry skills. Residents agreed for the town to raise taxes to cover the rest of the cost of the building.

Montpelier finished the first state house in 1808. In 1836 the government moved into a new, larger state house. A fire broke out in that state house on a January night in 1857. The people of Montpelier rushed to throw chunks of frozen snow into the burning building. Sadly, they could not put out the fire and it destroyed the building.

While they waited for a new state house, Vermont's government met in a county courthouse and a local church building. Workers completed a third state house two years later. The government of Vermont has used their third state house ever since. Today's senators sit in the same chairs at the same desks the senators used in 1857.

Vermont State House





Inside the Danby Quarry

Danby Quarry

Vermont is home to the largest underground marble quarry in the world. Workers have been cutting marble out of the Danby Quarry under **Dorset Mountain** since 1903. Workers also operate an underground factory at the quarry. There they prepare slabs of marble for people to use in building projects around the world.

Vermont Fossils

Lake Champlain lies between Vermont and New York. The lake has abundant fish, attracting fishermen from far and wide. The area around the lake fascinates geologists (scientists who study the earth). They come to the lake to study the fossilized coral reef there. Coral reefs form in the ocean, so apparently Vermont was once under the ocean.

In 1848 railroad workers were laying a track south of Lake Champlain. As they worked along, they dug up part of a fossilized mammoth. The next year, while working on the same railroad, workers discovered the fossilized bones of a beluga whale. It is obvious that long ago, Vermont was a very different place from what it is now!



Lake Champlain

Haskell Free Library and Opera House

Martha Stewart Haskell was Canadian. She married a man from Vermont. In 1901, after her husband's death, Mrs. Haskell decided to build a center for learning and culture in his honor. She and her son built the Haskell Free Public Library and Opera House. They had the building constructed on the border between Vermont and Quebec, Canada. The front door of the building is in **Derby Line**, Vermont, and the library books are in Rock Island, Quebec! The opera stage is in Canada, but most of the audience sits in the U.S.

Usually when someone in Canada wants to enter the United States, they have to go through an official port of entry. If a Canadian wants to visit the Haskell building, however, they are allowed to simply cross over the border on the sidewalk to get to the front door. The building continues to be a center for learning and culture, just as its founder hoped.

The mind of the prudent
acquires knowledge,
And the ear of the wise
seeks knowledge.
Proverbs 18:15



Haskell Free Library and Opera House

Activities

- Illustrate the geographic term for Vermont in the Atlas Workbook (page 8).
- If you are using the Lesson Review, answer the questions for Vermont (page 2).
- Read chapter 5 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Hands-On Idea: Use building bricks or blocks to design a building for the good of your community. Decide what will be the purpose of your building.
- Family Activity: Paint Autumn in New England pictures (instructions on page 36).

Lesson 6: A Song and Story of Vermont

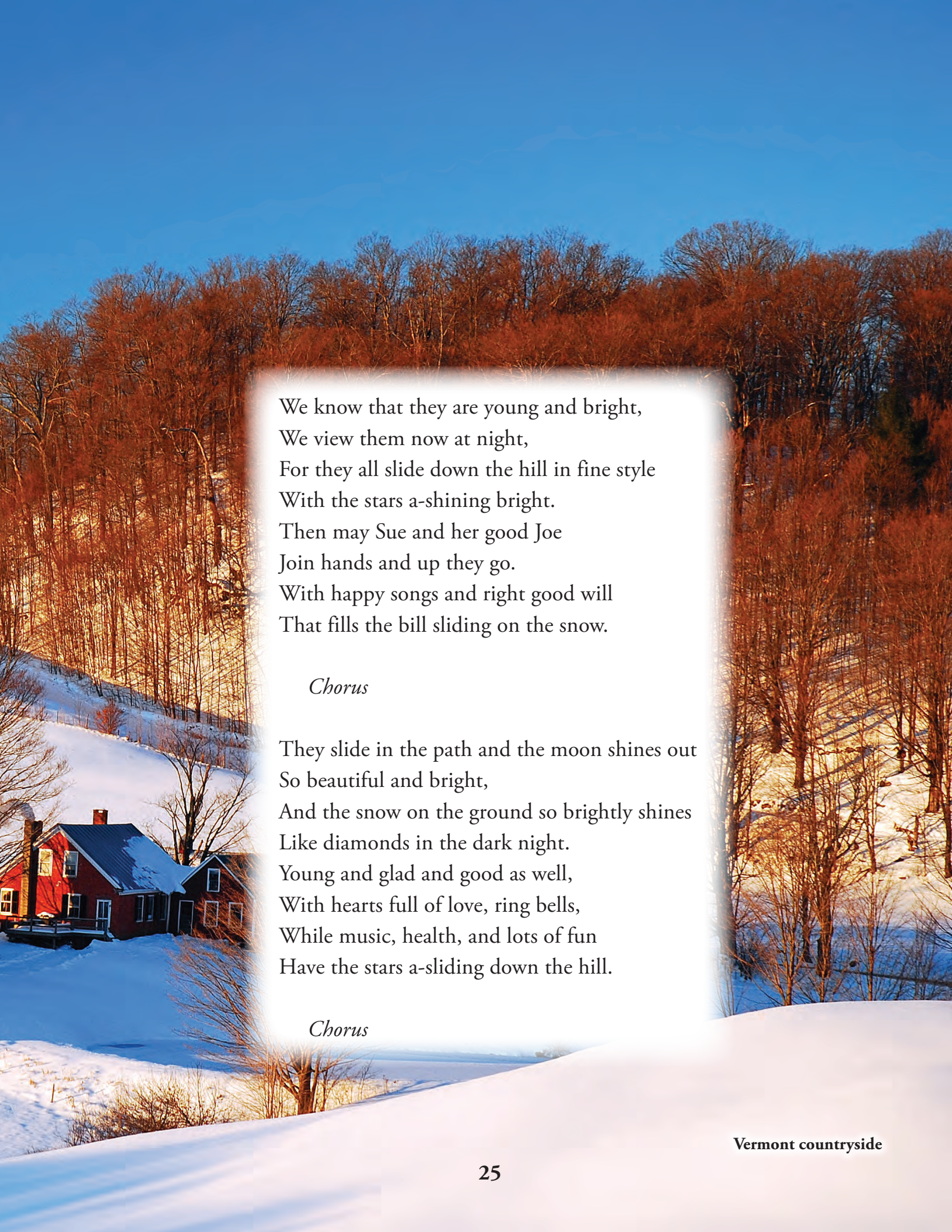
Sliding Down the Hill

This sledding song by M. A. Everest was published in Vermont in 1896. (Track 1)

The stars are coming out tonight
And you ought all to know
How the young ones all play on the hill
A-sliding o'er the snow.
Come and go with me tonight
Let the stars shine as they will,
For pleasure now we must not fail
To join our friends on the sliding hill.

Chorus:

Then they go over the snow sitting on a sled,
Down the hill, bumpety-bump, leader on ahead.
Many voices shout, pull up the sled, and turn about.
Ring the bells, blow the horn, sliding down the hill.
Ring the bells, blow the horn, sliding down the hill.



We know that they are young and bright,
We view them now at night,
For they all slide down the hill in fine style
With the stars a-shining bright.
Then may Sue and her good Joe
Join hands and up they go.
With happy songs and right good will
That fills the bill sliding on the snow.

Chorus

They slide in the path and the moon shines out
So beautiful and bright,
And the snow on the ground so brightly shines
Like diamonds in the dark night.
Young and glad and good as well,
With hearts full of love, ring bells,
While music, health, and lots of fun
Have the stars a-sliding down the hill.

Chorus

Hitting the Slopes

It's time to bundle up in your warmest clothes. Put on your gloves, and make sure you grab a hat. Step into a pair of skis. Grab two poles and you're off! Feel the fresh mountain air as you glide down over the hard-packed snow. Bend your knees, shift your weight, and watch the trees whizz by!

By the 1930s, Americans were discovering the thrill of flying down mountainsides and across hills on skis. Skiing was becoming a pleasure sport, instead of just a useful way to travel in the snow. It was fun, but skiers had a problem. They needed an easy way to get back up to the top once they got down.

Robert and Elizabeth Royce owned an inn near **Woodstock**, Vermont. In 1934 they decided to work on a solution to this skiing problem. They rented a former sheep pasture. They purchased pulleys, a Model T Ford engine, and a rope that was 1,800 feet long. They set up a tow rope with one pulley at the top of the hill and another at the bottom.

The Royces' first ski season with their new tow rope was a success. The engine kept the rope moving between the pulleys—except when it broke down, which happened often. Still, skiers loved it. They paid \$1 each for a day of skiing on the slope. Once they reached the bottom, they grabbed onto the tow rope and held on tight as it pulled them back to the top. Now they could ski down again . . . and again!



Skier on a tow rope around 1940



Chair lift in Vermont

The tow rope idea caught on across New England. Farmers installed them and set up places where visitors could stay on their farms. It was a new way to earn money during the long Vermont winters.

As skiing became more popular, people continued to think of new ways to get skiers back up the hill. One person tried attaching shovel handles to an overhead cable that ran up the mountainside. Someone else rigged up a harness attached to a rope that a horse pulled up the hill.

Over time people developed the chair lift style that skiers use today. One early lift designer got his ideas from a machine he had created to move bales of bananas in Honduras. The machine lifted the bananas off loading docks and loaded them onto boats. With chairs instead of banana hooks, the machine worked great for skiers.

Today millions of people from around the world hit the slopes of Vermont each year to ski—and then catch an easy ride back to the top in a chair lift.

God thunders with His voice wondrously,
Doing great things which we cannot comprehend.
For to the snow He says, "Fall on the earth,"
And to the downpour and the rain, "Be strong."
He seals the hand of every man,
That all men may know His work.

Job 37:5-7



Vintage skis

Activities

- Complete the map activities for Vermont in the Atlas Workbook (page 9).
- Read chapter 6 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Skiers have been using chair lifts for many years. It's time for a new invention. Come up with a new idea for how skiers can get back to the top of the mountain. Use your imagination (your invention doesn't have to be practical or realistic). If you are keeping a creative writing notebook, write a detailed description of your invention.

Lesson 7: Massachusetts



A stone tower stands on the top of **Mount Greylock**, the highest point in Massachusetts. The tower opened in 1934 to honor Massachusetts veterans. A spiral staircase inside the tower takes visitors to the observation level, where they can look out and see five states. Mount Greylock is in the Berkshire Hills, which are part of the Appalachian Mountains. Find Massachusetts on the map at the beginning of this book.



Mount Greylock

Bash Bish Falls

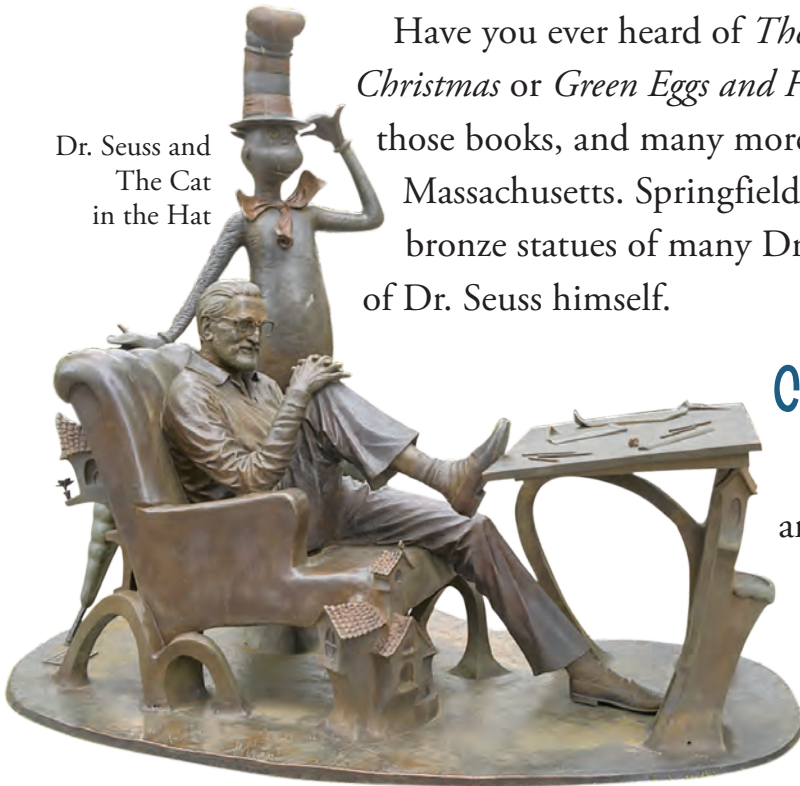
Bash Bish Falls tumbles down the Berkshire Hills into Bash Bish Brook. (Can you say that ten times fast?) As the water flows down, it hits a large triangular rock. Here the water divides and crashes down both sides of the rock into the brook below. The story goes that the falls and brook got their name from a Mohican woman named Bash Bish.



Bash Bish Falls

Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden

Dr. Seuss and
The Cat
in the Hat



Have you ever heard of *The Cat in the Hat* or *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* or *Green Eggs and Ham*? Dr. Seuss wrote and illustrated those books, and many more. Dr. Seuss was born in **Springfield**, Massachusetts. Springfield has a delightful sculpture garden with bronze statues of many Dr. Seuss characters. There is also a statue of Dr. Seuss himself.

Capital: Boston

Boston is the capital of Massachusetts and the largest city in New England. This city has been around since 1630, long before the United States even became a country.

Boston Common is the oldest public park in the United States. The Freedom Trail winds through Boston and leads visitors to sites that were important in the early days of our country. The state government has met in the Massachusetts State House in Boston since 1798.

Robert Paget began offering swan boat rides in Boston's Public Garden in 1877. His descendants still offer swan boat rides today. The boat drivers use their feet to pedal the boats along. Large swan figures hide the boats' pedals. The swan boats have become a beloved symbol of Boston.



Swan boats in Boston

Plimoth Plantation

Plimoth Plantation in **Plymouth** shows what life was like for the Pilgrims who landed here in 1620. Men, women, and children wearing Pilgrim costumes work in the gardens, tend the livestock, and cook meals over fires. Near the recreated village stands a Wampanoag homesite where visitors learn about the lives of the Pilgrims' neighbors.



Plimoth Plantation

Martha's Vineyard

When English settlers first came to Plymouth, the Wampanoag helped them learn how to survive here. Today some of the descendants of those Wampanoag live on **Martha's Vineyard**, an island off the coast of Massachusetts. Their town of Aquinnah is near the towering clay cliffs on the southern coast of Martha's Vineyard. The Wampanoag work together to preserve their tribe's history and culture through singing, dancing, storytelling, and traditional crafts.



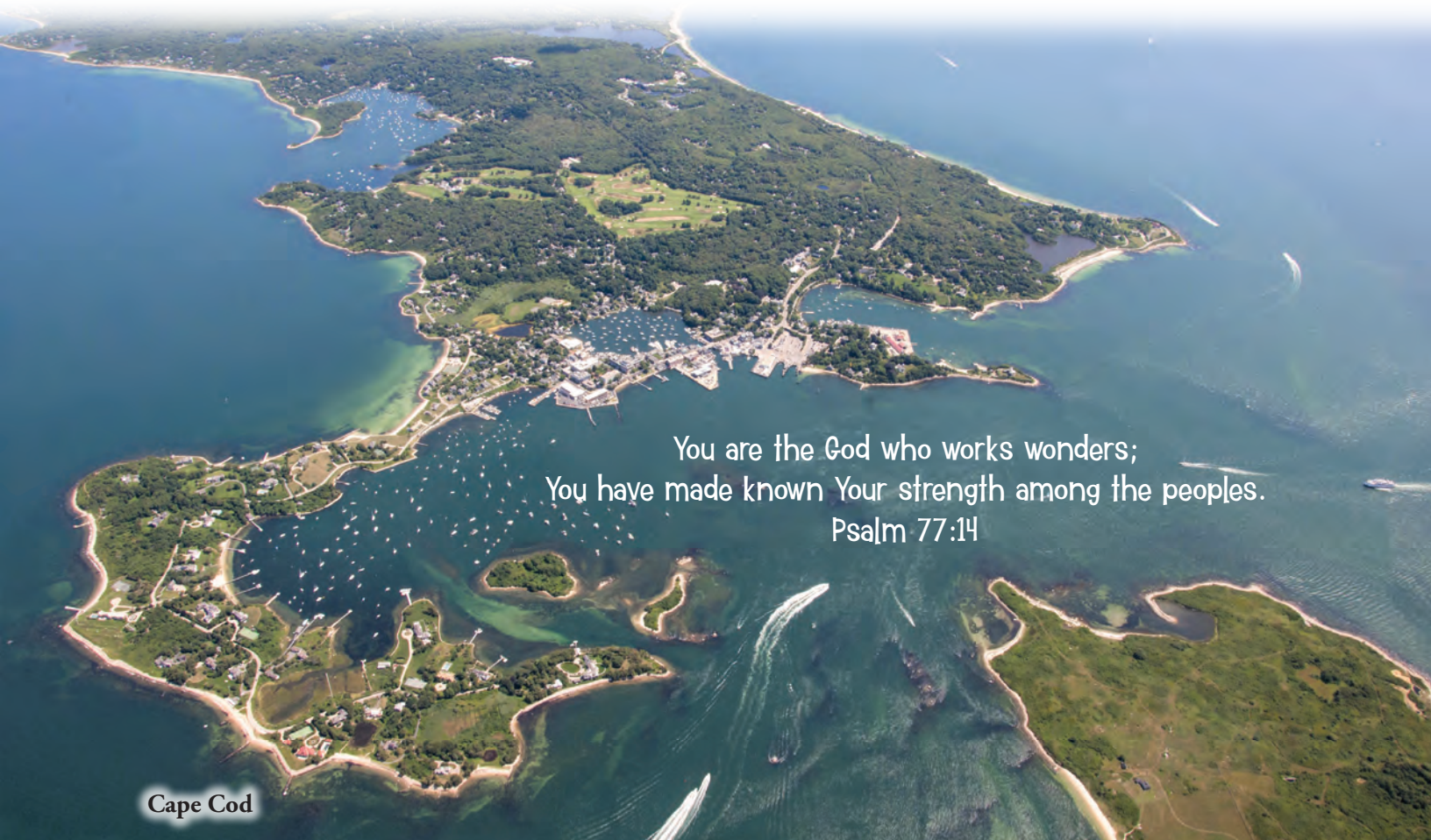
Martha's Vineyard

Visitors to Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard love to stroll down the street and see the rows of brightly-colored cottages from the 1800s. Many cottages are decorated with fancy woodwork called gingerbread. The Oak Bluffs community began as a site for summertime camp meetings for Christians.

Cape Cod and Stellwagen Bank

Cape Cod extends east from the mainland of Massachusetts into the Atlantic Ocean around **Cape Cod Bay**. A cape is a narrow strip of land that juts into a body of water.

Cape Cod is near **Stellwagen Bank**, one of the best places in the world to go whale watching. An ocean bank is an area of water that is more shallow than the waters around it. Stellwagen Bank is teeming with life. Porpoises, seals, and dolphins love to play in these waters. Whales come here to feast on creatures such as sand eels. Fishermen come to catch cod, flounder, and tuna. The spectacular beauty and the abundant sea life here remind us of the mighty God who made it all.



You are the God who works wonders;
You have made known Your strength among the peoples.
Psalm 77:14

Cape Cod

Activities

- Illustrate the geographic term for Massachusetts in the Atlas Workbook (page 10).
- If you are using the Lesson Review, answer the questions for Massachusetts (page 2).
- Read chapter 7 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Hands-On Idea: If you have any Dr. Seuss books at your house, look closely at the illustrations. Draw your own whimsical picture in the style of Dr. Seuss.

Lesson 8: A Song and Story of Massachusetts

The Popcorn Man

Edward King was a Massachusetts poet. While living in Springfield in the late 1800s he wrote a poem about George S. Page, the town's well-known Popcorn Man. (Track 3)

Hobble, hobble, up and down
Thro' the streets of Springfield Town;
Round the corner, up the street,
Caring naught for cold or heat,
Caring naught for passing jeer
Goes the jolly popcorn man,
Crying loudly as he can
"Sugared, fresh, and salt popcorn!
POPcorn!"

Careful goes he on his way
All the long and weary day;
In his basket huge supply
Of his shapely bundles lie.
Parchen corn in paper bags;
And his courage never flags
While, with voice like dinner horn,
Cries he lustily, "Popcorn!
Sugared, fresh, and salt popcorn!
POPcorn!"

When to lecture or to ball
Crowds approach the City Hall,
By the stairs the old man stands,
With a parcel in his hands
And his basket at his feet,
While these words he doth repeat—
"Here's your corn—your nice popcorn!
Sugared, fresh, and salt popcorn!
POPcorn!"

Morn and eve and eve and morn
Loud the old man cries "Popcorn!"
Long and joyful be his life
Free from care and weary strife.
Courage! old friend! Never fret!
You may be the mayor yet;
Stranger things have chanced before;
Courage! Hobble, work and roar
"Sugared, fresh and salt popcorn!
POPcorn!"

Cranberries



Cranberry Family



James, Jarrod, and Patrick Rhodes grew up surrounded by cranberries. Their parents, Matthew and Cindy, have owned cranberry bogs for as long as the boys can remember. The ground in a bog is wet and muddy. Bogs are a great place for growing cranberries. They are also a great place for kids to catch turtles, tadpoles, and frogs. A cranberry farm was a great place for the boys to grow up. Their cousins liked to join in the fun, too. James, Jarrod, and Patrick loved to ride with their dad as he drove the tractor around the bogs. Some days, when they were very young, their mom planted cranberries while carrying one of the boys in a carrier on her back.

As James, Jarrod, and Patrick grew up, they learned how to care for cranberries. They learned that sometimes their parents had to stay up all night to protect the berries from frost. If it got too cold, their parents had to turn on sprinklers to protect the plants. They learned that one frost can ruin a whole crop.

The Rhodes boys learned how to harvest cranberries with the dry method, using a machine that looks like a lawn mower.

They watched their dad walk behind the machine as it combed the berries into bags. They learned to manage the machine themselves. They also learned how to harvest cranberries using the wet picking method. As their parents flooded the bogs with water, the boys watched a machine knock the cranberries off the vines. They watched as one by one all the little red berries floated to the top of the water. They saw the floating berries get pumped from the bogs into a waiting truck.



Patrick harvesting cranberries in 2007



Now James, Jarrod, and Patrick Rhodes are grown up. They are the fourth generation in their family to work as cranberry farmers. They work with their parents at Edgewood Bogs, their family's cranberry operation in **Carver**, Massachusetts.



Edgewood Bogs after a frosty night

During harvest time, the Rhodes hires around fifty people to help bring in the crop. They even hire a helicopter to lift huge bins full of cranberries off the bogs. Sometimes members of the family get to go for a ride in the helicopter. Employees and customers enjoy taking a turn in the helicopter, too. Everyone loves to see the spectacular view of the cranberry bogs from the air. Edgewood Bogs produces between four and five million pounds of cranberries every year!

Some people think cranberries are just to eat at Thanksgiving, but the Rhodes family doesn't agree. Over 4,000 grocery stores across the country carry their Cape Cod Select frozen cranberries. The Rhodes want people to be able to enjoy cranberries all year long.

Cindy Rhodes loves to cook with cranberries. She puts cranberries in bread and oatmeal. Her cranberry turkey chili won a first place award in a contest on the nearby



Edgewood Bogs full of cranberries

island of Martha's Vineyard. In the Rhodes family, cranberries go with pasta, shrimp, and even Brussels sprouts. Their cranberry squares are a delicious dessert. In the Rhodes family, cranberries make their way into a breakfast smoothie almost every morning.



Harvesting cranberries

Edgewood Bogs is all about cranberries. It is also all about family. Cindy Rhodes says that, “Family is about love and respect for one another. It is also about supporting each other when times call for it. Farming can be a lot of fun, but it can also be very stressful when something goes wrong in the field or in the processing plant. Watching my boys work together and also with non-family employees to solve problems brings me special joy. I also love to see their excitement during harvest season as they work twelve-hour days, seven days per week, to get the crop in!”

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!
Psalm 133:1

Activities

- Complete the map activities for Massachusetts in the Atlas Workbook (page 11).
- Read chapter 8 in *Rabbit Hill*.
- Imagine that you are riding in a helicopter over a cranberry bog. Look closely at the pictures in this lesson. Notice little details. If you are keeping a creative writing notebook, write a description of what you might see from a helicopter window. How do you feel being in the helicopter? Do you see any animals? What are the people below doing? If you are not keeping a notebook, pretend a couch or a couple chairs is your helicopter. Climb in with a family member and describe the view of the cranberry bog below.

Family Activity: Autumn in New England

Autumn in New England is especially beautiful. Every autumn, leaf peepers come to New England to drive through the countryside and enjoy the spectacular colors. (“Leaf peepers” is just a fun term for people who like to peep at leaves.) Follow these instructions to create a beautiful painting of autumn in New England.

Supplies:

- cardstock or other heavy paper
- pencil
- acrylic paints (blue, white, red, yellow, orange, green)
- paper plate
- artist sponge and/or wide circular paintbrush with coarse bristles
- water for cleaning the sponge or paintbrush
- paper towels for drying the sponge or paintbrush

Directions:

- Use a pencil to draw a faint line across your paper about 1/3 of the way up from the bottom. Now draw faint hills above the line.
- Squirt some blue paint on the paper plate. Paint the sky blue and let it dry.
- If you would like to add clouds after the blue is dry, squirt some white paint on the paper plate. Use a clean and dry sponge or paintbrush to dab wispy clouds in the sky.
- Squirt some red, yellow, and orange paint on the paper plate. Do not mix the colors. Use a clean and dry sponge or paintbrush to lightly dab small amounts of autumn colors on the hills. You do not need to clean your brush or sponge between colors. Dab the colors here and there on the hills to cover them with autumn trees.
- Squirt some green paint on the paper plate. Use a clean paintbrush to apply the green to your painting using short, upward strokes to look like grass.





Unit 8
South:
Kentucky and Tennessee

Above: Horse farm in Kentucky

Lesson 29: Kentucky



Kentucky horse farm

Horses, strong and sleek, munch and nibble the bluegrass across Kentucky, the Bluegrass State. Bluegrass is green like other grass until it grows tall. Then it produces blue seed heads that give fields a blueish tint. The limestone under Kentucky makes the grass extra nutritious for the horses.

Horse Capital of the World

The city of **Lexington** is the Horse Capital of the World. Hundreds of horse farms surround the city. Many people in Kentucky earn money from horses. They raise horses to sell. They participate in horse shows and horse races. Some people pay millions of dollars for the perfect Kentucky horse.

The most famous horse race in the United States is the Kentucky Derby. Kentuckians have held this race at Churchill Downs every year since 1875. Churchill Downs is a racetrack in Louisville.



Outside Churchill Downs



Louisville

Louisville is Kentucky's largest city. Beneath the city lies Mega Cavern. A cavern is a large cave. This man-made cavern used to be a limestone mine. The mine closed many years ago. Now Mega Cavern is a storage facility and an underground adventure playground where people walk, bike, ride trams, and take zipline rides. Much of the Louisville Zoo sits on top of the Mega Cavern, but don't worry. The lion cage doesn't go that deep!

Capital: Frankfort

After Kentucky became a state, the government had to choose a capital city. Andrew Holmes lived in **Frankfort**. He offered to donate land and stone for a capitol building. He said he would provide ten boxes of glass, locks, hinges, and 1,500 pounds of nails. Andrew Holmes said the government could use his sawmill carriage, wagon, and two good horses. He said they could cut down any trees they needed from his land. Eight other men offered to donate three thousand dollars each if the government chose Frankfort.

The government could not refuse this generous offer and decided that Frankfort would be the capital city. The state of Kentucky has had four capitol buildings. The state legislature has met in the current building since 1910.



Kentucky capitol

Kentucky Bend

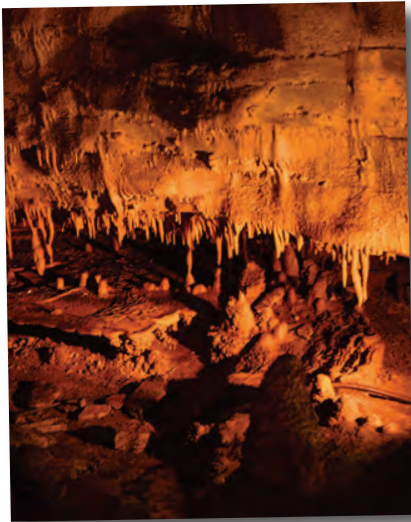
Look closely at the map of Kentucky and find the **Kentucky Bend**. It's the tiny bubble that stands alone on the far western end of the state. The Mississippi River cuts off this part of Kentucky from the rest of the state. No one knows for sure how the Kentucky state line ended up this way.



Barges on the
Mississippi River
at the Kentucky Bend

Tennessee and Kentucky argued for years over who really owned the land. Some people who lived on the Bend wanted to be Kentuckians. Others wanted to be part of Tennessee. A church built a building on the state line. Every Sunday the members loyal to Kentucky sat on one side and the members loyal to Tennessee sat on the other.

Tennessee finally gave up trying to claim the area as its own. Hundreds of people once lived on the Bend, but today only a handful remain.



Mammoth Cave

Mammoth Cave

A mining company created Mega Cavern, but God created an abundance of caves throughout Kentucky. When God put limestone under Kentucky, He created a caving wonderland. When surface water seeps below the ground, it erodes (or wears away) the limestone. This creates caves. Kentucky's **Mammoth Cave** is the largest known cave system in the world. People have mapped out over four hundred miles of the cave, and there is still more left to discover.

Kentucky Fried Chicken

During the 1930s, Colonel Harland Sanders owned a gas station in **North Corbin**, Kentucky. He sold meals to people traveling through the area. At first he served the meals from his own dining table. He only had room for six people to eat at a time. Soon he opened a restaurant with room to serve 142 customers at a time.

Colonel Sanders developed a recipe for fried chicken that people loved. He scratched his secret recipe on the back of the door in his kitchen. He soon started a restaurant chain. His Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) restaurants opened in cities across the country and around the world. Today you can find them in about 140 different countries.



KFC in China

Cumberland Falls

Niagara Falls in New York is the largest waterfall in the United States. People call **Cumberland Falls** in Kentucky the Little Niagara and the Niagara of the South. When the moon is full and the sky is clear, visitors to Cumberland Falls see something very special. As the water crashes over the falls, mist rises up from the water. When the light of a full moon shines into the mist just right, a moonbow appears. Cumberland Falls is the only place on our side of the world where moonbows appear regularly.

In the Bible, the prophet Ezekiel described a vision he saw of the glory of the Lord. He compared it to the beauty of a rainbow.

As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day,
so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance.
Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. . . .
Ezekiel 1:28



Activities

- Illustrate the geographic term for Kentucky in the Atlas Workbook (page 32).
- If you are using the Lesson Review, answer the questions for Kentucky (page 8).
- Read the chapter titled “The Doll” in *Soft Rain*.
- Hands-On Idea: Pretend you own a restaurant. Perhaps some of your family members will be your customers. What secret recipe does your restaurant offer?

Lesson 30: A Story and Song of Kentucky

My Old Kentucky Home

Stephen Foster wrote the original version of this song in 1852. It became the official state song of Kentucky in 1928. Each year at the Kentucky Derby, thousands of fans sing the song together as the horses parade by before the race. (Track 15)

The sun shines bright on my old Kentucky home,
Tis summer, the flowers are gay;
The corn-top's ripe and the meadow's in the bloom
While the birds make music all the day.

Chorus:

Weep no more my lady.
Oh! Weep no more today!
We will sing one song
For my old Kentucky home
For the old Kentucky home, far away.

The young folks roll on the little cabin floor
All merry, all happy and bright;
By 'n by hard times comes a-knocking at the door
Then my old Kentucky home, Good-night!

Chorus

Kentucky horse farm

Pack Horse Librarians

*The **Appalachian Mountains** run through the eastern part of Kentucky. Long ago the mountains kept the families who lived there isolated from the outside world. Many mountain families lived in poverty. During the 1930s, hardworking Kentucky women and horses stepped up to change lives in the mountains.*

Nan Milan mounted Sunny Jim, the trusty horse she had ridden so many times before. She prepared to travel again up a lonely mountain path. She joked that Sunny Jim had shorter legs on one side than the other. That's how he kept from sliding down the steep mountainsides. Her bags were loaded with things to read. People from wealthier communities had donated books, old magazines, and Sunday school material. Nan Milan distributed the reading material among the mountain homes. She usually visited each place twice a month. Each time she brought new items to read and picked up what she had left the time before. In this way, the books and magazines circulated among the mountain families.



Pack horse librarian

Nan Milan was a pack horse librarian. The United States government paid Nan and the other librarians to ride horses and mules along rugged trails. These librarians distributed reading materials to families and communities nestled among the Appalachians.

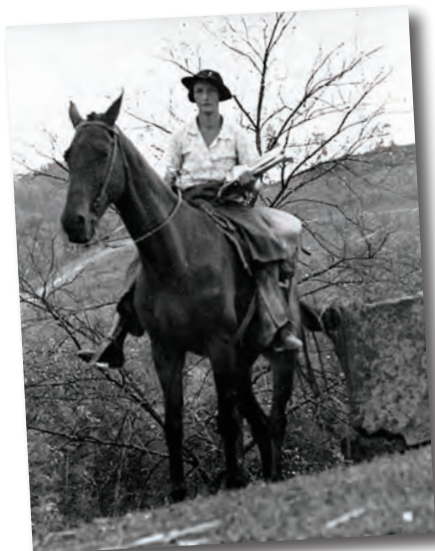
They knew the books could make a big difference in the lives of the mountaineers, by lifting their spirits and perhaps even helping to lift them out of poverty.

Sometimes the librarians' winter routes took them through icy mountain streams. Sometimes they rode 120 miles in a week. There wasn't much that could stop these librarians from getting books to the people they served.

Sometimes the children in a mountain family were the only ones who could read. Their parents had never been to school. Children read aloud to their parents from the books the librarians brought. They liked books with pictures the best.



Pack horse librarian visiting a bed-ridden man



Pack horse librarians

When the books wore out, the librarians knew they were too precious to throw away. They took stories and pictures from the books that were falling apart and pasted them into scrapbooks. People also made scrapbooks with recipes and quilt patterns to share among neighboring communities.

The pack horse librarians served thousands of families. At first some of the mountaineers didn't like the idea of strangers bringing in strange ideas. Some librarians earned the people's trust by reading aloud to them from the Bible. Many of the mountain people had heard of Noah and Moses and Jesus, but to have someone read about these people from a printed page was something new. They realized that if the librarians were bringing Bible stories, maybe the other things they brought were okay after all.

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Colossians 3:17



Pack horse librarian at a mountain cabin

Activities

- Complete the map activities for Kentucky in the Atlas Workbook (page 33).
- Read the chapter titled "To the Stockade" in *Soft Rain*.
- Imagine that you are a child living in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky in the 1930s. You are so excited about the books the pack horse librarian brings to your family. In your creative writing notebook, write about one of her visits. What does she look like? What color is her horse? What does she bring you to read? **or** Act out a visit from a pack horse librarian with others in your family.
- Family Activity: Make a Pack Horse Scrapbook (instructions on page 144).

Lesson 31: Tennessee



After a large number of Tennesseans volunteered to be soldiers when the U.S. fought the War of 1812, Tennessee became the Volunteer State. The University of Tennessee's football team is the Vols. Find Tennessee on the map at the beginning of this book.

Great Smoky Mountains

The United States has sixty-two national parks. More people visit **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** than any other. The Great Smoky Mountains are part of the Appalachian Mountains. They lie along the border between North Carolina and Tennessee. These mountains are also called the Smokies. The mountains don't really smoke, but they do sometimes have a blue-colored haze or mist on their peaks. The Cherokee people who first settled among these mountains called them *Shaconage*, which means "place of blue smoke."

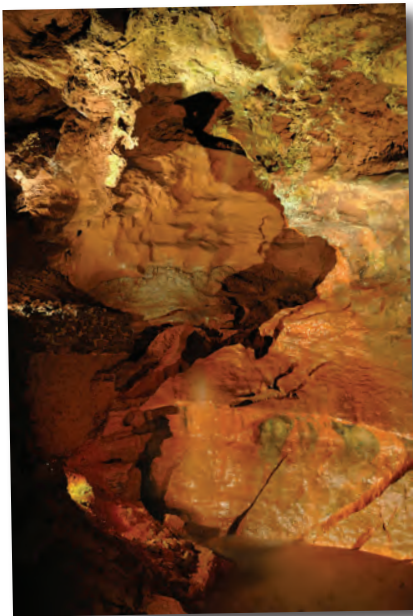
Do you ever catch fireflies or lightning bugs in the summertime? The synchronous fireflies in the Smokies put on an impressive light show every summer. *Synchronous* means they light up in sync, or at the same time. For about two weeks, the male fireflies light up the mountains as they flash their lights at the same time, instead of randomly as most fireflies do. Only our God knows exactly why these fireflies do this. Even though we don't understand why, we can certainly marvel at our Creator's amazing design.

Bristol

In the early 1900s, most musicians recorded their music in big cities such as Atlanta and New York City. In 1927 music recorder Ralph Peer brought recording equipment to **Bristol**, Tennessee, to record old time mountain music in a mountain region. The recordings he captured of the Carter family and Jimmie Rodgers became popular all over the country. In 1998 the United States Congress officially named Bristol, Tennessee, as the Birthplace of Country Music.



The Carter family



The Lost Sea

Lost Sea

In 1905 Ben Sands squeezed through a tiny opening in **Craighead Caverns** in southeast Tennessee. He ended up in a huge cave room. The room had water in it, but he couldn't tell how much. He picked up a ball of mud and threw it hard. He heard it splash. He picked up more mud and threw it in a different direction. It splashed as well. He kept throwing mud and kept hearing more splashes. Could it be that the entire cave room was filled with water? Yes. Ben Sands had discovered the largest underground lake in America, now called the Lost Sea.

Capital: Nashville

Nashville, the capital of Tennessee, is nicknamed Music City. Many country and gospel musicians have recorded songs in the recording studios along Nashville's Music Row. Nashville's Grand Ole Opry is the longest-running radio show in the history of America. Country music stars have performed on this show since 1925.





Goo Goo Clusters

Howell Campbell Sr. loved sweets. He was particular about his sweets, though, and wanted them to taste just right. He started the Standard Candy Company in Nashville in 1901. A few years later he and his factory supervisor came up with a new candy recipe. Up until that time, most people sold either chocolate candy, caramel candy, or taffy candy. Howard Campbell wanted to combine different types of candies into a completely new kind of candy bar. The result was the Goo Goo Cluster—a delicious blend of caramel, marshmallow nougat, peanuts, and milk chocolate. The company advertised the treat as “A Nourishing Lunch for a Nickel.” (Do you think your mom would consider a candy bar a “nourishing lunch”?) For many years the Standard Candy Company sponsored the Grand Ole Opry radio show. Performers advertised the company’s famous candy by saying, “Go get a Goo Goo . . . it’s gooooood!”

Today the Standard Candy Company factory in Nashville can produce 20,000 Goo Goos in a single hour!

Mule Capital of the World

A mule is an animal whose father is a donkey and whose mother is a horse. Farmers have bred mules since ancient times. Mules are strong. They are similar to horses, but they are able to work longer. They also eat less than horses and are often more gentle.

Before farmers had tractors, they used mules to plow their fields. During the 1840s, **Columbia**, Tennessee, began to host Breeder’s Day every April. Area farmers and breeders brought their livestock to this event to buy, sell, and trade.

People do not use mules as much as they used to, but Columbia still celebrates the animal every April. Breeder’s Day eventually became Mule Day. The event now includes a parade and fun contests, including a contest to see which team of mules can pull the heaviest load. Columbia is the Mule Capital of the World.



Memphis

Many farmers in west Tennessee grow cotton. Farmers once brought their cotton to **Memphis** to sell it to cotton traders. The traders sold the cotton to manufacturers around the world. Boats and barges carried the cotton away from Memphis on the **Mississippi River**. Memphis was the Cotton Capital of the World.

Today people call Memphis the Home of the Blues and the Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll. The blues and rock 'n' roll are two styles of music. Elvis Presley was a famous rock 'n' roll star who lived in Memphis. His Graceland home in Memphis is the second most visited home in the United States. Only the White House is more popular!

From Bristol in the east to Memphis in the west, Tennessee is truly a musical state. Our Father in heaven loves to hear music that honors and glorifies His name.



Elvis sign in Memphis

Be exalted, O Lord, in Your strength;
We will sing and praise Your power.
Psalm 21:13



Memphis and the Mississippi River

Activities

- Illustrate the geographic term for Tennessee in the Atlas Workbook (page 34).
- If you are using the Lesson Review, answer the questions for Tennessee (page 8).
- Read the chapter titled “In the Pen” in *Soft Rain*.
- Hands-On Idea: Put on a simple Grand Ole Opry show with your family.

Lesson 32: A Story and Song of Tennessee

Wabash Cannonball

This folk song is about a train called the Wabash Cannonball. It mentions Daddy Cleton, but it is unclear who Daddy Cleton was. This is one of the many tunes the Carter family played. (Track 16)

Out from the wide Pacific to the broad Atlantic shore,
She climbs the flowery mountains, o'er hills and by the shore.
Although she's tall and handsome and she's known quite well by all,
She's a regular combination of the Wabash Cannonball.
Oh, the eastern states are dandy, so the western people say:
Chicago, Rock Island, St. Louis by the way.
To the lakes of Minnesota, where the rippling waters fall,
No changes to be taken on the Wabash Cannonball.

Chorus:

Oh, listen to the jingle, the rumble, and the roar,
As she glides along the woodlands, over hills and by the shore.
She climbs the flowery mountains, hear the merry hobo squall,
She glides along the woodlands, the Wabash Cannonball.

Oh, here's old Daddy Cleton, let his name forever be,
And long be he remembered in the courts of Tennessee,
For he is a good old rounder, till the curtain round him fall,
He'll be carried back to victory on the Wabash Cannonball.
I have rode the I.C. Limited, also the Royal Blue
Across the eastern countries, on mail car number two.
I have rode those highball trains from coast to coast, that's all,
But I have found no equal to the Wabash Cannonball.

Chorus



Ella and Her Music

Ella Sheppard was three years old. She lived on The Hermitage, a plantation near **Nashville**, Tennessee, where her mother Sarah was enslaved. Ella's father was a free man, but since her mother was enslaved, Ella was enslaved, too. Former President Andrew Jackson had owned The Hermitage until he died just a few years before Ella was born. Now the President's adopted son owned the plantation.

One day Sarah Sheppard found out that her master was selling her to a new owner. She was heartbroken at the thought of leaving her little girl behind to grow up enslaved without a mother. A wise older enslaved woman gave Sarah hope when she told her, "God's got a great work for this baby to do. She's going to stand before kings and queens."



Cabin of an enslaved family at The Hermitage



Cincinnati, Ohio, 1855

Sarah Sheppard's master sold her in 1854. Ella's father was able to buy his little girl's freedom. Ella's father moved his family to a new home in Cincinnati, Ohio.

People around Ella noticed the girl's talent for music. Her father bought a piano for her. At that time, most music teachers would not give lessons to black people. A music teacher in Cincinnati agreed to give Ella lessons, but only if the lessons stayed a secret. Ella had to enter the teacher's house

by the back door. She could only come when it was dark so that others wouldn't see her.

America's Civil War began when Ella was about ten years old. During the war, President Abraham Lincoln declared that all slaves in the South were free. After the war was over, Ella traveled to Nashville where she was reunited with her mother. Ella spent three months with her mother and then went back to her home in Cincinnati.

The next year, when Ella was fifteen, her father died suddenly. Ella had to work hard to earn a living. She took in washing and ironing. She gave music lessons to a few students, but they didn't pay her very much. She soon moved back to Tennessee and became a teacher.

After Ella saved up enough money, she decided to go to college. She enrolled at Fisk College, a new school for blacks in Nashville. (The school is now a university). Ella continued to give music lessons. She also became the music teacher at the college. She was the school's first black teacher.



Fisk University





Fisk Jubilee Singers around 1872 (Ella is fourth from the right)

Ella Sheppard began playing the piano and singing with the college choir. This musical group became the Fisk Jubilee Singers. They sang in concerts across America. The group could sing fine classical pieces, but the songs their audiences loved most were traditional black spirituals, such as “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” and “Steal Away to Jesus.”

The Fisk Jubilee Singers became popular. Their concerts often had standing room only. Their success helped Nashville become known as a musical city.

Ella Sheppard and the other singers traveled to Europe, and the words spoken to Ella’s mother years before came true. The enslaved woman had told Sarah Sheppard that her daughter would stand before kings and queens. While on tour, the Fisk Jubilee Singers sang before European royalty, including Queen Victoria of England.

Therefore I will give thanks to You among the nations, O Lord,
And I will sing praises to Your name.
Psalm 18:49

Activities

- Complete the map activities for Tennessee in the Atlas Workbook (page 35).
- Read the chapter titled “The Coughing Disease” in *Soft Rain*.
- In your creative writing notebook, write a journal entry from the perspective of one of the Fisk Jubilee Singers who has just performed for a king or queen. What was it like? How did you feel? *or* Use small toy figures to set up a scene of the Fisk Jubilee Singers performing at a European palace.

Family Activity: Pack Horse Scrapbook

Supplies:

- heavy paper
- catalogs, magazines, newspapers (that are approved by a parent)
- old pictures printed from a computer (optional)
- scissors
- glue
- pencils, crayons, markers
- stapler or hole punch and string (for binding)

The pack horse librarians made scrapbooks to share articles, stories, poems, recipes, quilt patterns, and more with people in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky. Make your own pack horse scrapbook. Cut pictures, articles, and recipes out of magazines and catalogs (as long as no one minds if you cut them up!). With parental supervision you can also print old pictures off a computer to include. You can handwrite your own recipes, stories, and poems as well. You can draw pictures. Be creative and include things you think might interest your friends and neighbors, just as the pack horse librarians did. Glue your items onto heavy paper. Bind the pages together using staples or by punching holes and binding them together with string.

