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# Ordinal Events

Label the events below in their correct story order. Use the ordinal numbers from the box below.

first	second	third	fourth	fifth	sixth
seventh	eighth	ninth	tenth	eleventh	twelfth

\_\_\_\_\_ Ma and Pa both encounter bears in two separate incidences.

\_\_\_\_\_ The relatives gather for a dance at Grandpa's.

\_\_\_\_\_ Charley is attacked by yellow jackets.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pa makes his own bullets for his rifle.

\_\_\_\_\_ Laura fills her pocket with pebbles.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pa plays mad dog with Laura and Mary.

\_\_\_\_\_ Grandpa collects the sap from the maple trees.

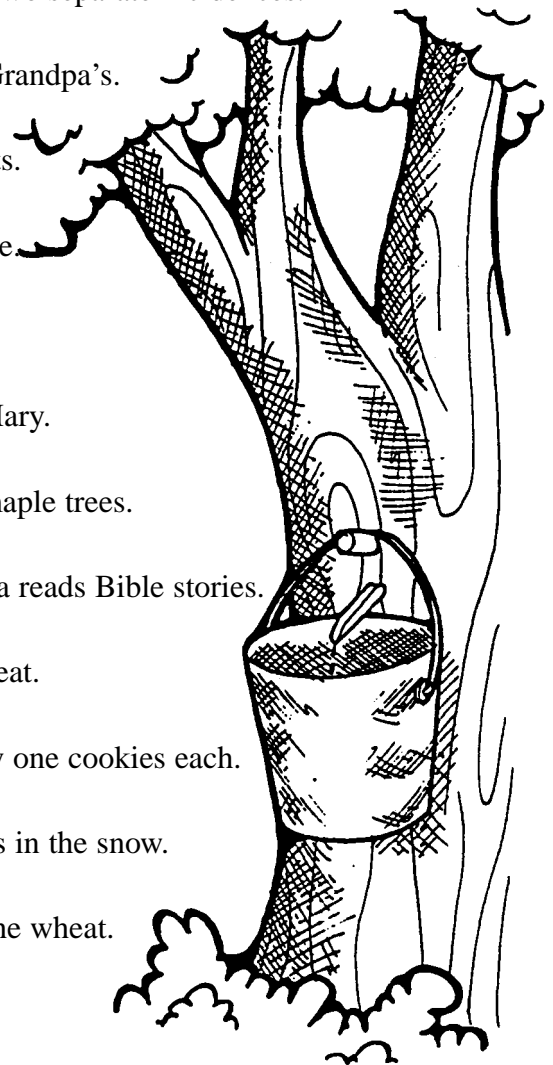
\_\_\_\_\_ Laura and Mary sit quietly while Ma reads Bible stories.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pa explains why there is no fresh meat.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Peterson gives Laura and Mary one cookies each.

\_\_\_\_\_ Laura and her cousins make pictures in the snow.

\_\_\_\_\_ The men use a machine to harvest the wheat.



## Extensions:

- After each statement above write the season in which the event occurred.
- Which story event from the list above do you remember most vividly? Why?
- Write a list of five story events in random order. Trade lists with a partner. Label the events with correct ordinal numbers.

# Experience Pioneer Days

Some students may have difficulty imagining what life was like in Laura Ingalls Wilder's youth. In the one hundred-plus years since those events took place, progress has brought us inventions that weren't even imagined, let alone a reality. Help the students understand and sample pioneer life through any of the activities that follow.

1. Brainstorm a list of all inventions that are common today but weren't even a dream when Laura was a child (TV's, electricity, cars, planes, VCR's, realistic dolls, etc.). Turn off the classroom lights for a day. Challenge students to do their homework by candlelight and not watch TV or play video games for one evening.
2. Bring unshelled nuts—walnuts, almonds, hickory nuts, and hazelnuts—for the students. Their goal is to shell the nuts without the use of nutcrackers or other utensils. Have them work in pairs. Let them compare the nuts' flavor, appearance, texture, etc.
3. Listen to fiddle music. Invite a guest fiddler to play for the class.
4. Cook and eat hasty pudding. An authentic recipe can be found in *The Little House Cookbook* by Barbara M. Walker (Harper and Row, 1979).
5. Learn to square dance. Invite a local square dance group to demonstrate some simple steps to the class.
6. Churn butter. If possible use an old-fashioned churn. Otherwise, follow the recipe for homemade butter found in *The Little House Cookbook*.
7. Bake yeast bread from scratch. If that's not feasible, have the students read a recipe and directions for making yeast bread so they can learn about the process and steps involved. Read a book about bread baking.
8. Sing some of the songs that Laura's family knew. Piano and guitar arrangements for over 50 songs, ballads, and hymns from all eight "Little House" books have been compiled and edited by Eugenia Garson in *The Laura Ingalls Wilder Songbook* (Harper and Row, 1968).
9. Make soap. Pioneers made theirs from grease and wood ashes, but a batch can be made with salad oil and baking soda. Combine  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup each of salad oil, baking soda, and water in a glass pan. Simmer over low heat. Stir with a wooden spoon. After the mixture thickens, heat for a few more minutes. Remove from burner and cool. In a glass jar put one teaspoon of the soap and two cups of hot water. Screw on the lid before shaking. Watch the soap suds appear.

