

EXTENSION LESSON IDEAS

For *A Deer in the Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Food or Cooking Center

Resources

For butter:

- Jar with lid
- Whipping cream
- Bread or crackers

For easy applesauce pies:

- Individual graham cracker crusts (1 per child)
- Cinnamon, applesauce, and whipped cream
- Bowl and spoon

For picnic:

- Bread, butter, cheese, eggs, and cookies
- Brown paper

For tea:

- Hot milk and hot water
- Sugar and dash of tea
- Cups and spoons (1 per child)

Instruction and Activities

1. **Make butter.** Add room-temperature whipping cream to the jar and shake, shake, shake! When butter forms, rinse it well and eat on bread or crackers. See Churning Butter (<http://www.laurasprairiehouse.com/crafts/churnbutter.html>) for more detailed instructions.
2. **Make easy applesauce pies.** Mix applesauce with cinnamon, spoon into crusts, top with whipped cream.
3. **Have a Laura-style picnic!** Put butter on bread, add cheese, then wrap each sandwich carefully in brown paper. Hard boil eggs. Wrap cookies in brown paper. Take a blanket with you and enjoy a picnic.
4. **Make Laura-style tea.** In a teacup, combine milk and water in equal portions. Add a dash of tea and sugar to taste.

School Center

Resources

- Corrugated cardboard (7" x 10") for mounting the hornbook. (1 per child)
- Crayons, scissors, and glue
- Clear acetate sheets (6 ¼" x 7 ½") to cover each hornbook (optional)
- The Hornbook Exercise
(<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mosmd/hornbk.htm>)
- Creative Quotations from Laura Ingalls Wilder
(<http://www.creativequotations.com/one/310.htm>)

Instruction and Activities

1. **Make hornbooks.** Follow the instructions at [The Hornbook Exercise](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mosmd/hornbk.htm) to make the books.
2. **Write quotations in the hornbooks.** Copy the following quotation into the hornbook, using old-fashioned lettering, or find another at [Creative Quotations from Laura Ingalls Wilder](http://www.creativequotations.com/one/310.htm):

“Once you begin being naughty, it is easier to go and on and on, and sooner or later something dreadful will happen.”

Listening Center

Resources

- Headphones
- Computers with Internet access (use lab or small groups at computers in your classroom)
- Pa's Fiddle Music
(<http://webpages.marshall.edu/~irby1/laura/fiddle.html>)
- Songs and Musical Memories of Laura Ingalls Wilder
(<http://www.geocities.com/~prairiehome/>)
- Music from Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House Books
(<http://www.laurasprairiehouse.com/music/index.html>)

Instruction and Activities

1. **Draw a picture.** How does the music make your students feel?
2. **Talk about the songs.** Have students ever heard these songs before? You might ask them to find out from their parents or grandparents if they know the songs.
3. **Pick a class favorite.** What do students like about it?

Toy/Games Center

Resources

For paper dolls:

- Marilee's Paperdolls Page
(<http://marilee.us/paperdolls.html>)
- Card stock
- Colored paper for the clothes
- Scissors

For other games and toys:

- Fort Scott National Historic Site: Toys
(http://www.nps.gov/fosc/child_info1.htm)
- Fort Scott National Historic Site: Games
(http://www.nps.gov/fosc/child_info2.htm)
- What Kids Did on the Western Frontier
(<http://csmonitor.com/cgi-bin/durableRedirect.pl?/durable/1998/02/24/home/home.1.html>)
- Ribbons, marbles, jacks, tops, string, and dolls
- Dominoes, tiddlywinks, pickup sticks, cards, and a thimble

Instruction and Activities

1. **Make paper dolls.** Visit [Marilee's Paperdolls Page](http://marilee.us/paperdolls.html) to find paper dolls you can print out so your students can color and cut out dolls, just like Laura did.
2. **Have students play with toys like the ones Laura and Mary might have played with.** Examples of toys/games from Laura's days can be found at [Fort Scott National Historic Site: Toys](http://www.nps.gov/fosc/child_info1.htm). They include:
 - Jacob's Ladder
 - Marbles
 - Jacks
 - Tops
 - Dolls
3. **Teach your class some of the games Laura and Mary may have played.** Find games described at the [Fort Scott National Historic Site: Games](http://www.nps.gov/fosc/child_info2.htm) and [What Kids Did on the Western Frontier](http://csmonitor.com/cgi-bin/durableRedirect.pl?/durable/1998/02/24/home/home.1.html) webpages. They include:
 - Playing in the parlor
 - Dominoes
 - Tiddlywinks
 - Pickup sticks
 - Cards
 - Hide the Thimble

Reading/Writing Center

Resources

- *A Little House Birthday* (HarperTrophy, 1998)
- *Christmas in the Big Woods* (HarperTrophy, 1997)
- *County Fair* (HarperTrophy, 1997)
- *Dance at Grandpa's* (HarperTrophy, 1994)
- *Going West* (HarperTrophy, 1996)
- *Prairie Day* (HarperTrophy, 1998)
- *Sugar Snow* (HarperTrophy, 1999)
- *Summertime in the Big Woods* (HarperTrophy, 1996)
- *The Deer in the Wood* (HarperTrophy, 1995)
- *Winter Days in the Big Woods* (HarperTrophy, 1994)
- *Winter on the Farm* (HarperTrophy, 1997)
- Letter-writing materials
- Computers with Internet access
- Addresses for Laura Ingalls Wilder Historical Sites
(<http://www.laurasprairiehouse.com/sites/addresses.html>)

Instruction and Activities

1. **Have students write a letter asking questions about life during Laura's time.** [Addresses for Laura Ingalls Wilder Historical Sites](#) lists addresses for the homes Laura lived in that are now museums and societies your students can join.
2. **Read more books by Laura Ingalls Wilder.** You can read these aloud to the class or place them in your classroom library.

Internet Center

Resources

- Computers with Internet access
- Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Home and Museum
(<http://www.lauraingallswilderhome.com/>)
- Laura Ingalls Wilder, Frontier Girl
(<http://webpages.marshall.edu/~irby1/laura/frames.html>)
- Laura Ingalls Wilder and her Little House Books
(<http://www.purplehousepress.com/liw.htm>)
- Laura Ingalls Wilder: Teacher Resource File
(<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/wilder.htm>)
- Songs and Musical Memories of Laura Ingalls Wilder
(<http://www.geocities.com/~prairiehome/>)
- Laura Ingalls Wilder (<http://www.dahoudek.com/LIW/>)
- Creative Quotations from Laura Ingalls Wilder
(<http://www.creativequotations.com/one/310.htm>)
- Laura Ingalls Wilder Pictures (<http://www.purplehousepress.com/liw/laurapic.htm>)

Instruction and Activities

Learn more about Laura online. There are many Laura Ingalls Wilder websites. Have students explore several of them.