

EARLY SETTLER VOCABULARY

ARTIFACT: An object used or made by humans in history

ABACUS: A frame with wooden beads on metal rods or wire, which settler children used to help them learn arithmetic

BARTER SYSTEM: A system of trading goods and services without using money

BEE: A small gathering of people who got together to complete a task such as quilting, or building a house or a barn; used as a social gathering as well

CELLAR: A cool underground room used for storage

CHAMBER POT: A metal or ceramic pot used as a toilet

CHORES: A small job, such as washing dishes or feeding chickens, usually assigned to a child

CORNHUSK DOLL: A doll made from dried corn husks

EMIGRANT: A person who leaves his or her home to live in another place

EPIDEMIC: The sudden spread of disease among many people

GENERAL STORE: A store selling a wide range of items such as food, cloth, clothing, hardware, tools, and household goods

GRISTMILL: A building with machinery that ground grain into flour

HEARTH: A fireplace floor made of brick or stone

IMMIGRANT: A person who comes to live in a place that is far from where he or she was born

MILL: A building with machines, such as a sawmill, turns raw materials into a finished product

OUTHOUSE: An outdoor toilet; also called a privy

PANTRY: A small, cool room where food and dishes are stored

PARLOUR: The most formal room in a home, used for entertaining; also called the drawing room or salon

PESTLE: A wooden or stone stick used to crush grain or spices in a mortar

PIONEER: A person who leads the way for others; is the first to enter a region or settle an area

PLOW: A tool used to break up and turn over the soil before planting crops

PRIMER: A book containing the alphabet, numbers, and poems used by children learning to read

QUILL PEN: A pen made from a feather

QUILT: A blanket composed of a quilt top (often fabrics pieced together), a layer of batting, and a layer of fabric for backing, all sewn together

RESERVATION: An area of land set aside by the government, on which Native Canadians live

SCYTHE: A tool with a curved blade and wooden handle, used for cutting down grain crops and grass

SETTLEMENT: A small, fairly new community or village

SLATE: A rectangular piece of slate in a frame on which schoolchildren wrote their lessons

STAKE: A post used to mark an area of land, a claim to the use of land

SURVEY: To measure the land for size, shape, and positions of boundaries

TALLOW: Melted animal fat that is used to make candles and soap

TRAIL: A very rough, rugged path worn through the trees and grass, used by horses, wagons, and people.