

*The Highlights of Homeschooling*  
*History Literature Unit Study*  
*Oklahoma Land Run*



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## INTRODUCTION

This history/literature study guide is created to use in three week sessions.

Each unit contains a historical story, a daily journal question and one other daily activity.

These activities are:

Bible Verse Activities	Map Skills
Vocabulary Skills	Comprehension Skills
Interpretation Skills	Cause and Effect Skills
Sequencing	Encyclopedia Skills
Poetry Skills	Creative Writing
Drawing	Science Activity
Craft Activity	Report Writing

We suggest the student read the story in it's completion before beginning the study guide. One skill area a day will allow the unit to be completed in three weeks. Your children can learn History and Literature skills at the same time. Look ahead, because you may need to collect some items for the Science or Art projects.

## THE LAND RUN

Today was April 22, 1889. Pa had brought Amanda and her Ma out to the Oklahoma territory in their wagon. There was to be a great land run. Two million acres of land were being opened up to white settlers. All they had to do was race onto the territory, find the land that they liked and stick their flag into it.

Pa told Amanda that the Government had decided to open land in Oklahoma that had originally been set aside for Indian Reservations. Since the Indians never used it, the government wanted the white men to make their homesteads there.

“There be land out there marked with stones,” Pa said. “I’m gonna ride out there fast, find us the prettiest land and stick my flag in the ground.”

Amanda looked back at the miles of people lined up at the border of Oklahoma. “What about all these other people?” She asked. “With all of them racing too, it won’t be easy to get our wagon out there quickly.”

“That’s why I brought this extra horse,” Pa said. “I can ride ahead and find the perfect land. You can drive along later when the crowds have thinned out some.”

“Will everyone get land Pa?” Amanda asked.

“No honey. There are two million acres and only about 50,000 settlers will get land. I figure there’s more than that here.”

“ What kind of land do we want?” Amanda asked.

“ We want land near a river so we’ll have plenty of water. We also want some flat land for farming. I’m especially looking for a piece of land with a little hill. I promised your Ma I’d build her a cabin facing west on a little hill.”

Just then Amanda heard men all around laughing and joking. They were all pointing at two men coming towards them. One was a Federal trooper. He was riding his horse and pulling a man along behind him. The man’s hands were tied to a long rope which was hooked onto the troopers saddle.

“ Who is he Pa?” Amanda asked.

Pa shook his head. “ He’s a sooner. Some men have tried to sneak off into Oklahoma and stake their claims before the official starting time. They think if they are already on the land, they’ll get to keep it. We call them Sooners because they are trying to get the land sooner than anyone else.”

“ Will they put him in jail?”

“ No, they’ll just make him get back in line. We all have to have a fair chance at the land. Now you better get going back to the wagon with your Ma.”

As Amanda walked between the wagons she noticed seemed that everyone seemed upset or mad.

“ Why is everyone so angry, Pa?”

“ All these people want to get land of their own. No one knows for sure if they’ll get any land or not. That makes them feel upset. Some of these men might even shoot to get land?”

“ Really Pa?”

“ Honey, men will do just about anything to get land for their families.”

“ You be careful then Pa.” Amanda hugged him.

Pa swooped Amanda up into his arms. “ I will Honey.”

When they reached the wagon, Pa told Ma it was almost noon. “ Let’s pray for God to protect me and to show me a good piece of land,” Pa said.

Amanda bowed her head and listened to the prayer. At the end she whispered, “Lord help Pa to find a nice hill for Ma.”

Pa went and got in line with his horse. At noon a pistol shot rang clear through the whole camp. Men started whooping and riding. Women were crying. They were afraid that their men would get hurt in the stampede of horses racing across the land. Amanda prayed for Pa.

As they started moving, Amanda saw wagons passing by them quickly. Some men did not have extra horses like Pa did. These men had to stay in their own wagons. They whipped the horses into a galloping speed. They drove the wagons so fast that some of their supplies fell out the back.

From time to time Amanda would hear the groaning sound as a wagon wheel broke. That family knew that they had lost their chance to get land. A few families chose the land closest to the border. It may not have been the best land, but they wanted to be sure to get a claim.

Amanda and Ma kept their wagon going slow and steady. They waited for the wagons in a hurry to pass them. After five hours of riding though, Amanda was getting tired.

“Do you think we need to go much further?” Amanda asked Ma.

“I hope not honey. Pa said when he got the flag into his land he’d head back for us.”

Suddenly up ahead they saw a rider.

“Look Ma, it’s Pa!” Amanda shouted.

Pa came riding up. He had a big smile on his face. “I’ve found the perfect place,” He told them and turned his horse around so they could follow him.

About an hour later, Pa stopped and pointed at the lush green land ahead of them. “Here’s our land.”

Amanda jumped down and ran to Pa’s flag. The land was all flat, perfect for farming. There were beautiful Red Bud trees dotting the land. Amanda could see the river on the edge of the land where they would get water.

“ What about the hill for Ma?” Amanda thought, she didn’t say anything though. She looked at Ma. Ma was hugging Pa. They were happy and the land was beautiful. It didn’t matter about the hill.

“ Well Amanda,” Pa said, “ What do you think of our new land?”

“ It’s beautiful Pa!” Amanda told him with a big hug.

“ Look back there at the wagon,” Pa told Ma and Amanda.” God sure knows how to answer prayers.”

Amanda turned and looked at the slope of the land where the wagon stood. She hadn’t noticed when she ran to the flag, but the wagon sat on a nice little hill.

“ For Ma?” Amanda asked.

Pa squeezed her hand, “ for Ma,” he said. They all bowed their heads together and gave thanks to the Lord.

# Daily Journal Questions

Here are journal questions for each day.  
Write the answers on another paper or in a journal book.

1. If you could live anywhere, where would it be and why?
2. If given a choice what kind of land would you have looked for? Why?
3. Would you have liked to have been a land settler and why?
4. Would you have been afraid of Indians if you had lived during this time?
5. Have you ever gotten angry when you didn't get something you wanted?
6. Tell about a time when you had to settle in somewhere new.
7. Do you believe that having a land run was a fair way of giving out the land? Why or why not?
8. Would you rather have traveled in the United States during the year of 1889 or during the time of the Pilgrims? Why?
9. Have you ever been in a competition for a prize when you weren't sure you would win? Tell about it.
10. If you had been one of the first people to race into Oklahoma would you have chosen the closest land or gone on to find something and risked losing?
11. What is the fastest race you have ever participated in?
12. How could winning land in a race like this make the land seem more valuable to a person?
13. Do you think God helped those who believed in him to find good land?
14. What do you think was the most important thing about the Oklahoma Land Run?
15. Why was it so important that there be no Sooners?



# Bible Verse Activity

Land has always been an important thing to mankind. Since the time of Abraham. God gave Abraham land. Perhaps the men who got land in the Oklahoma territory felt the way that Abraham did when God said:

“Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.”  
Genesis 13:14

Copy the Bible verse here in your best handwriting.

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Find other verses in the Bible that tell about when God gave land to people. Write them here.

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# Vocabulary

unassigned   reservation   Sooner   stampede   territory   troopers  
angry   acres   settlers   government   homesteads   claim

Write each word and it's definition:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

# Word Search

D L F V Q C X S W T  
S E Y D L Z T Z N E  
R O N A P A B E W R  
E A I G M U M J E R  
L M C P I N J N C I  
T A E R R S O H G T  
T D X E E O S Q V O  
E Q V S S S F A D R  
S O A N G R Y U N Y  
G S R E P O O R T U

ACRES ANGRY CLAIM  
GOVERNMENT SETTLERS SOONER  
STAMPEDE TERRITORY TROOPERS  
UNASSIGNED

Draw and Color a picture of the Landrun

# Comprehension

1. True or False: Write T if statement is true; write F if it is false.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ The Sooners wanted the best land for themselves.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ The Federal troop men looked away when someone snuck over the line.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ The land was suppose to be used for Indian Reservations.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ The land was marked with flags.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ There was enough land for everyone who wanted some.

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct letter.

\_\_\_\_\_ The land run was held on:

- A. April 20, 1962
- B. April 22, 1989
- C. April 22, 1899
- D. None

\_\_\_\_\_ While waiting the men:

- A. were frightened
- B. were angry
- C. all prayed
- D. all the above

\_\_\_\_\_ The land run was

- A. safe
- B. easy
- C. dangerous
- D. all of the above

\_\_\_\_\_ Federal Troops:

- A. kept the Sooners of the land
- B. made sure everyone had an acre of land
- C. wanted all the land for themselves
- D. stayed at the starting line

\_\_\_\_\_ Pa promised Ma:

- A. a river
- B. a creek
- C. a hill
- D. a tree

3. Fill in the blank with a word from the story.

- a. Everyone wanted land in the Oklahoma \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. The men who tried to sneak out first were called \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. The men had to put a \_\_\_\_\_ in the ground they claimed.
- d. The Indians did not live on a \_\_\_\_\_ in Oklahoma.
- e. The Sooners were caught by the \_\_\_\_\_ troop men.

4. Questions and Answers; Write full sentences.

a. Why did the men have to race quickly during the land run?

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b. What were the Sooners trying to do?

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c. Where was the Landrun held?

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d. Who kept the Sooners from getting the land ahead of time?

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5. Fact or Opinion: Write F or O in the space for the best answer.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ The Sooners were good people.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ There were two million acres available.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ The horses wanted to stampede.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ All Indians were mad about losing the land.

6. Predict the Outcome: Write your answers in a full sentences.

If the land had been used as an Indian Reservation, what effect would that have had on the United States History?

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If the Sooners had been left alone what would have happened?

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If the acres had been divided up into smaller homesteads, who would have benefited from this?

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# Interpretation Skills

The following quotes are from the story. In a sentence tell why this quote was said or what it means.

1. "There be land out there marked with stones."

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2. "He's a Sooner."

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3. "It'll be a stampede when the gun goes off."

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4. "Men will do just about anything to get land for their families."

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5. "Be ready to run at noon."

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# Cause and Effect

Answer the questions by telling what caused the event.

1. Pa wanted them to stay in the wagon because

\_\_\_\_\_

2. They had come to Oklahoma because

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The Sooners snuck out in the land because

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Everyone had to race fast because

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The land had been called Unassigned because

Put the beginning effect that caused the event.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ SO  
the Federal Troops had to catch them.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ SO  
people came to Oklahoma.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ SO  
they whipped the horse into a galloping speed.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ SO  
they knew they had lost their chance to get land.

# Sequence of Events

1. Put these sentences in order from number 1 to 10 as they occurred in the story.

\_\_\_\_\_ Everyone looked upset and angry.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pa told Amanda the man was a Sooner.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Federal man had a man with his hands tied up.

\_\_\_\_\_ Amanda heard men joking.

\_\_\_\_\_ Amanda could see miles of people.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pa found land with a hill for Ma.

\_\_\_\_\_ At noon a pistol shot rang.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pa prayed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pa smiled and swooped Amanda into his arms.

## Drawing Activity

Men rode on horses to get the land they wanted to settle during the Oklahoma Land Run. Draw a picture of a horse on a separate sheet of paper. Draw its legs so that it looks like they are in motion.

# Encyclopedia Skills

1. Look up the following word in the Encyclopedia. Read the information and write a short paragraph to explain the concept.

HOMESTEAD

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2. Look up the word STAMPEDE in the Encyclopedia. Write any information you find about it.

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3. In the library, use the computer or card catalogue to find other books about OKLAHOMA. Write the titles of the books on the following lines.

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# Poetry Form Skills

## ONOMATOPOEIA POETRY:

These poems are written with words that seem to make sounds. There are no pattern or rhymes.

### EXAMPLE:

The land run is today  
Do you hear?  
Horses  
Slish  
Slosh  
Splash  
In the mud.

Do you hear?  
The yell  
Yee haa  
They're off.

Now Write Your Own:

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# Map Skills

1. Find America and color it yellow.

2. Look at a United States map, determine where Oklahoma would be on the map in this book and put an X on the map there.

3. Most settlers came from the East. Draw a line from the East Coast to Oklahoma.

4. What direction did they travel to get to Oklahoma from:

a. New York

b. Florida

c. Virginia

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Draw a compass rose on the map and label it with the abbreviations N. S. E. W.

6. If there were two million acres of land available and 50,000 people settled, how many acres could each family have if it were divided equally?

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7. Is Oklahoma a good place for business? What are the closest water sources for shipping.

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8. Find out what crops are grown in Oklahoma?

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# Science Activity

CONCEPT: Does good soil and a water source make land more valuable.

## ITEMS NEEDED:

four planters  
soil in each pot  
fertilizer  
bean seeds  
water can

## TO DO:

plant a seed in each planter  
planter 1 should have regular dirt and be watered every two days  
planter 2 should have regular dirt and be watered once a week  
planter 3 should have fertilizer mixed in and watered every two days  
planter 4 should have fertilizer mixed in and watered once a week

## TO DISCUSS:

Watch what happens over the next few weeks. Which grew best? Does this prove that having good soil and a good water supply near will help crops to grow better, therefore making the land more valuable?



# Craft Activity

## MAP OF OKLAHOMA

### SUPPLIES:

flour

poster board

pattern of Oklahoma

GREEN and BLUE paint

### TO DO:

1. Trace Oklahoma's shape onto the poster board.
2. Paint Oklahoma GREEN for land and BLUE for lakes rivers etc.
3. Mix the flour with the green and paint with this mixture to represent hills.

### TO DISCUSS:

People wanted land in Oklahoma. The best land would have been green with a source of water near it.



## Answer Key

### COMPREHENSION

1. T, F, T, F, F
2. D, B, C, A, C
3. TERRITORY, SOONERS, FLAG, RESERVATIONS, TROOPERS
4. Answers will vary
5. O, F, O, O
6. Answers will vary.

Sequence of Events. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 9, 8, 7, 6

ALL OTHER ANSWERS VARY

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