

Silver Packages

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Social Studies

Geography: Appalachian Mountains

Some Appalachian Mountain Information

Discuss what mountains are. A mountain is a very tall high, raised area of land; a natural place on Earth, higher than a hill. If you have hills or mountains where you live, discuss both. This story is set in the Appalachian Mountains.

The Appalachian Mountains extend in a broad belt from Canada to the United States with most of the range located in the U.S. 1,600 miles SW from Canada to the United States. The highest point is Mt. Mitchell in North Carolina's Black Mountains (it's peak is 6,684 ft.).

The Appalachian Mountains can be found in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi.

Locate the Appalachian Mountains on a map. Using a piece of tracing paper, let your student trace the mountain range from one end to the other.

Social Studies: Occupations

What do doctors do? Why do you think Frankie became a doctor?

How does a person become a doctor? *They study hard, attend college and medical school.*

What are other occupations/careers that can help people?

What do you want to be when you grow up? Why? What do you think you will need to do in order to accomplish your goal?

Pray that God leads you into the career he has for you, so you can help and serve others.

Social Studies: History -- The Santa Train

The "Santa Train" been making its annual run in 1943. (For a bonus math lesson, figure out how many years the train has been running.)

Each year it runs from Pikeville, Kentucky to Kingsport, Tennessee and takes 15 tons of gifts, candy, and toys and distributes them to children along a 110-mile trip through Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky. Thousands of people come out for the train.

Language Arts

Language Arts: Comprehension Questions:

Someone helps the man, but won't accept his money in return. Why do you think they wouldn't take the money? Would you? Do you think Jesus would have done?

Look at Frankie and his family, do you think Frankie is rich or poor? Does he have everything he needs? (Notice the ornaments on the tree. Where do you think they came from?)

How does the gift he receives from the train each year help him?

Do you think they had a lot of gifts or few?

Do you think you will receive more gifts this Christmas than Frankie did at Christmas?

How would you feel if you didn't get what you wanted, but got what you needed instead? How would you act?

Does Frankie ever get his wish? (*He becomes a doctor*)

Who is the grown man in the story? (*Frankie*)

What did he become? (*A doctor*)

Do you think Frankie would have become a doctor if his desire for a doctor kit had been fulfilled?

Why does he come back to the mountains? *He feels he owes a debt to others.*

Language Arts: Memory/Recall

Frankie waits for the train every year.

Recall the items that Frankie received each year.

What does he receive the first year? Second year? How does he feel? How does he respond?

Have your child recall past Christmas gifts he or she has received.

Language Arts: Writing Activity

Have your student write to the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce to request information about the Santa Train.

Kingsport Area Chamber of Commerce
ATTN: Santa Train
151 East Main Street
Kingsport TN 37660

Giving Opportunity: Let your child be a "rich man." Help your child to choose a gift (must be new) to send to the above address. Perhaps a doctor's kit? This gift will be handed out to a child on the next run of the Santa Train.

Language Arts: Vocabulary

Choose five or six words from the story that your student may not know. Have him write the words and their meaning on strips (perhaps 2 inches by 6 inches) of brown construction paper.

Make two long strips of aluminum foil or light gray construction paper (about 2 inches by 18 inches, longer if you use more words). Arrange the silver strips vertically and parallel to one another about three inches apart. Attach the brown

word strips horizontally across the two silver strips to make a railroad track of words. Display for the rest of the week you row.

Math

Applied Math: Counting

Count any number of things in the book on the pages. (children standing by train, toys, packages, etc.) Group and count people or things.

Science

Science: Steam

During the 19th century, nearly all trains were powered by steam locomotives. A steam engine requires that water be boiled (often by heating it with coal or wood) to produce steam. The steam is then used to power the train, to make it go. It was the job of the fireman to keep the fire burning. Today's firemen put out fires, but the firemen of the past, on the steam locomotives, had to keep the fire burning at just the right heat by shoveling coal or wood into the firebox.

Steam engines were noisy and produced a thick black smoke. You may wish to discuss pollution. One reason steam locomotives are rarely used now, it because they started powering them with diesel, which is cleaner (less polluting).

Science: Coal and Coal Mining

Many steam engines used coal to heat the water to make steam. Coal is formed from dead plants that have been compacted and changed over time into sedimentary rock. The types of coal are:

Lignite: a soft coal, contains the least amount of carbon.

Sub-bituminous: a medium-soft coal

Bituminous: a medium-hard coal with high heat value.

Anthracite: a hard coal, contains the highest amount of carbon. It burns slowly and is the best kind of coal for heating homes.

Bible

Bible Study: Needs vs. Wants

Does God promise to give us everything we want? Will he give us what we need?

Read Matthew 6:25 together
God supplies our needs.

Make two lists:

1. Needs
2. Wants

Draw, write or cut out pictures and paste them under the appropriate headings
Listing items in the story that Frankie received and/or items you may want vs. what you may need

Bible: The Greatest Gift

Someone did something great for us...It was God-and on Christmas he gave us a great gift...His Son-Jesus to come and die for our sins, so we could live with God forever. The Bible says we were without hope-lost (dead) in our sins. But Jesus came so we could live again.

Do you think we owe a debt to God? *(Yes)* Can we ever repay God? *(No)*
What could we do to show God we appreciate the gift he gave us? *(Share Jesus with others and give of ourselves to others for His Sake.)*

Art

Pretend You live where the train comes every year. What do you wish for?
Draw a picture of it. Cut out a piece of aluminum foil and glue the top of the foil over the picture and decorate the foil to look like a package. (Lift to see the picture.)

Draw a picture of God's greatest gift to us. (Jesus) Glue a decorated aluminum foil piece over the picture-so you can lift it and see Jesus.) Thank God for his gift to us

Then make a picture of your gift to God and put a silver foil over it in the same manner. (*Who we become can be our gift back to God.*)

Just for Fun

Read *The Polar Express*

Watch the movie *The Polar Express* (preview first)

Craft Idea

Hand make ornaments for your tree-similar to those in the book. You could also decorate your Christmas tree by wrapping small silver packages to hang.

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