

In fact, to help the Johnsons rebuild, the local government declared that Mary didn't have to pay local taxes for the rest of her life!

**Laws Change African Lives**

In her lifetime, Mary saw things change. New laws began to squeeze out free blacks. Some laws said that black farmers could no longer hire white help. There were few free blacks to hire, so those laws limited the size of black-owned farms to the land the family alone could plant and harvest.

Laws also made it illegal for blacks to carry guns. Laws kept blacks from holding office or testifying in court. Laws said blacks could not hit whites, even in self-defense. And still other laws allowed slavery to last for the life of the slave. By the 1660s, laws in Maryland and Virginia let the condition of slavery pass from the slave to the slave's children and to the children's children.

All these new laws meant that few black people had the opportunities Mary Johnson had in the New World. Instead, in the colonies of America, where so many white settlers found great opportunities, most Africans found only a life of slavery.

**Show What You Know**

Think about the lesson you just read. Then, put a 1 by the sentence that describes the first thing that happened to Mary. Put a 2 by the second thing, and so on, until all the sentences, in order, tell the story of Mary's life.

- \_\_\_ Mary and Anthony move to Maryland.
- \_\_\_ Mary is kidnapped and taken to America.
- \_\_\_ Anthony dies.
- \_\_\_ Mary marries Anthony.
- \_\_\_ Mary goes to work on a Virginia farm.
- \_\_\_ Mary is born in Africa.
- \_\_\_ Mary and Anthony start a farm.
- \_\_\_ Mary and Anthony gain their freedom.
- \_\_\_ Mary dies.

Now, use the sentences, in order, to create a storybook of Mary Johnson's life. Draw a picture to illustrate each sentence. Use the sentences as captions for your pictures. Look in other books to see how people dressed during the time Mary lived. After you have finished, use your pictures and captions to tell the story of Mary's life to a family member.

**DANIEL BOONE  
BUILDS A ROAD**

Through the 1600s and into the 1700s, thousands upon thousands of Europeans arrived in America. These people began to fill up the East Coast, clearing and farming land between the Atlantic Ocean and the Appalachian Mountains. Few tried to go farther west.

There are a couple of reasons why most people stayed east of the mountains. One reason is that it was against the law to settle on the other side of the Appalachians. The law was made in 1763 to keep white settlers and Native Americans apart. Another reason is that the mountains themselves made western travel difficult. Any trail across them had to be cut through



Daniel Boone was an important explorer of the land west of the Appalachian Mountains.

great forests. In these forests, some trees reached heights of 150 feet or more. Their trunks were thicker than the average human is tall. In addition, few white settlers had traveled west. So, they knew little of that vast, wild region.

**Daniel Boone  
Runs the  
Gauntlet**

One time Daniel Boone was captured by the Shawnee. They made Daniel run the gauntlet. Many prisoners died running the gauntlet. But Daniel was barely injured. That is because he ran in a zigzag pattern, back and forth, instead of in a straight line. Eventually the chief adopted Daniel, and he became a member of the Shawnee group.

Some called the land west of the Appalachians the "back of beyond."

### Daniel Boone Heads West

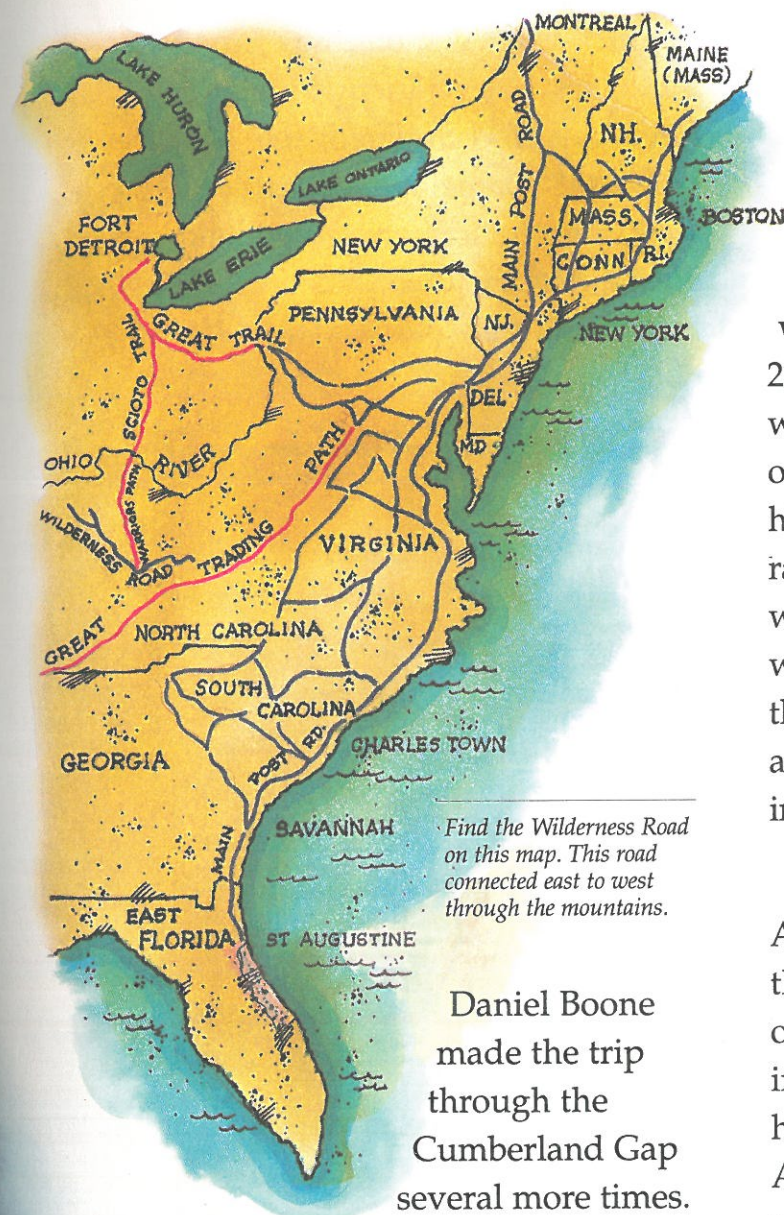
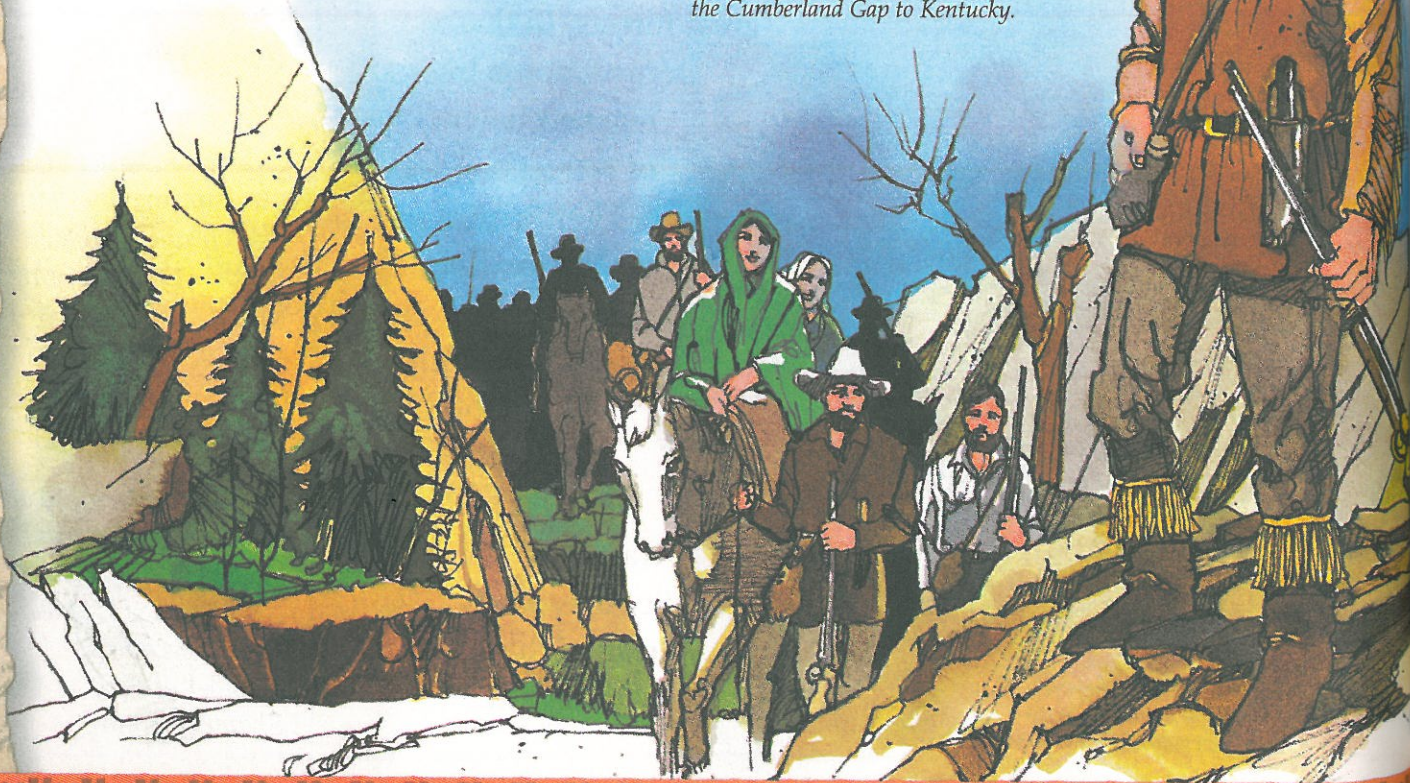
Daniel Boone was one person with a desire to see the West. He had heard of a western land called Kentucky. It was a land that no Native Americans claimed but where many Native Americans hunted. It was a land of great buffalo herds. It was a land where giant flocks of wild turkeys darkened the skies with their flight. It was a land of good soil and sweet, pure water.

For someone like Daniel Boone, Kentucky must have sounded like heaven. That is because Daniel Boone was an adventurer. He had

little school learning. But he learned everything he could about the world around him. He became an expert hunter and trailblazer, that is, he was a man who loved to explore new places.

In 1769, Daniel Boone left his wife and children behind to go on a hunting trip. This trip was different from the many other trips he had taken. On this trip, Daniel followed Native American trails through the Cumberland Gap. The Cumberland Gap is one of just a few natural passageways in the long Appalachian Mountain chain. Daniel used the Cumberland Gap to finally get to Kentucky.

*Daniel Boone leads pioneers through the Cumberland Gap to Kentucky.*



*Find the Wilderness Road on this map. This road connected east to west through the mountains.*

Daniel Boone made the trip through the Cumberland Gap several more times.

Then, a North Carolina judge hired Daniel to build a road to Kentucky. In 1775, he and 30 others started work on what became known as the Wilderness Road. Together, they cut down trees and cut back undergrowth, slowly clearing a path through the Cumberland Gap. When they finished, the Wilderness Road they built connected east to west.

### Dangers on the Wilderness Road

The trip west was a dangerous one, and life in the West was dangerous, too. The Wilderness Road itself was perilous. It really was just a narrow, winding, walking path. (In fact, it would be 20 years before the path was made wide enough for wagons to travel on.) Sometimes, the path climbed high ridges. Other times, it crossed raging waters. In addition, the wolves, panthers, bears, and other wild beasts that filled the forests threatened the small pioneer parties as they traveled through and settled in this untamed land.

It was perhaps Native Americans who were the greatest threat. They often tried to capture or kill the newcomers who were invading their land. Daniel Boone himself was captured by Native Americans three times! Daniel's 13-year-old daughter, Jemima, also was kidnapped by Native Americans. Daniel rescued her by following the bits of torn clothing she and the two friends captured with her left along the trail. In addition, two of Daniel's sons, James and Israel, were killed in conflicts with Native Americans.

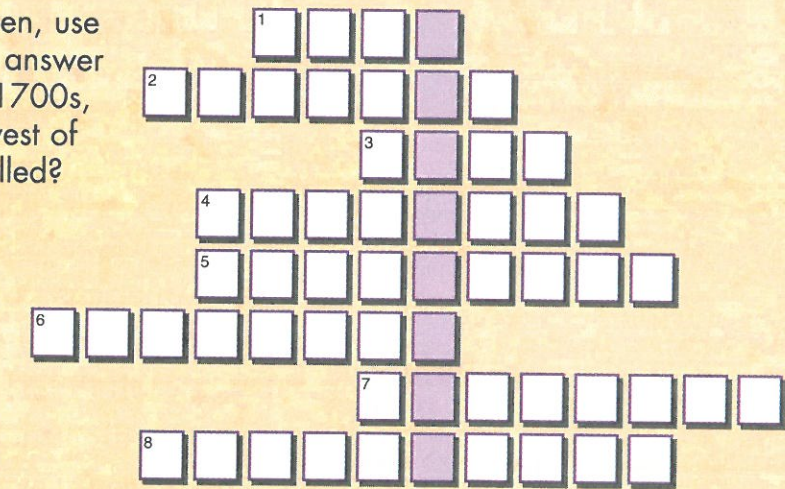
### Kentucky Gets "Too Crowded"

Despite the difficulties and dangers, many Americans decided to make the journey through the Appalachians. By 1800, over 75,000 people had followed the Wilderness Road to a new life in what they thought of as the back of beyond.

Daniel Boone, too, settled in Kentucky. But as thousands joined him there, he eventually found Kentucky "Too crowded! Too crowded!" Daniel moved farther west, into the scarcely settled land of Missouri. He died there in 1820. He was 85 years old.

### Show What You Know

Write the answer to each clue in the boxes. Then, use the shaded boxes to answer this question: In the 1700s, what was the land west of the Appalachians called?



1. An animal that lived in the forests of the Cumberland Gap
2. Daniel Boone loved to \_\_\_\_\_ new places.
3. In 1775, Daniel Boone started building a \_\_\_\_\_ through the Cumberland Gap.
4. Europeans crossed the \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean to get to America.
5. What stands between North Carolina and Kentucky?
6. Where Daniel Boone finally settled
7. Where Daniel Boone always wanted to go
8. By 1800, over 75,000 people had traveled west on the \_\_\_\_\_ Road.